

HUMAN RIGHTS YEARBOOK 2000



BURMA
(MYANMAR)

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BURMA
(Myanmar)

-2000-

**Violations against the dignity, livelihood
and fundamental rights of people in
Burma perpetrated by the military
dictatorship of Rangoon**

II

This book is dedicated to the countless citizens of Burma who have sacrificed their homes, their freedom, and their lives to lifting the veil of terror that shrouds the truth in Burma today.

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Preface

By

H.E. Dr. Sein Win

Prime Minister

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The military takeover in 1962 ended civilian rule and ushered in an era of military regimes in Burma. Together with authoritarian rule came forced labor practices, torture, extrajudicial killings, and other forms of human rights violations. Before 1988, these abuses went unreported, mainly because the country was kept isolated by successive xenophobic regimes. But, things changed after 1988, when the military brutally reacted and gunned down hundreds of protestors on the streets to counter massive nationwide protests for democratic reforms. Burma has been in the news since then, and all for the wrong reasons.

The most glaring example has been the International Labor Organization's (ILO) unprecedented call on governments to review their relations with the Burmese military junta for doing "too little, too late" to end its forced labor practices in the country. On behalf of the democracy movement we have expressed our support for the ILO. The generals have for far too long been acting with impunity and it is about time they are held responsible for their crimes.

The 2000-01 Human Rights Yearbook has, therefore, given greater focus on forced labor issues to show that not all is well in Burma yet. If forced labor practices in Burma are to end with the help of the international community, the generals must be made aware that their crimes are known to the world and that they will be held responsible for them.

Having said that, we do not see the generals giving up the fight easily. The military has for decades been using forced labor to work on military projects and to carry arms, ammunition, and military supplies to frontline areas. If the generals are willing, forced labor practices could easily end in Burma, but there are no signs of that today. There have been reports of the generals taking systematic steps to fend off ILO action against them.

With that backdrop in mind, it becomes apparent that international efforts to end forced labor practices in Burma will not be an easy task. Today, Burma unwittingly has become a test case to see how far the international community is willing to go to end human rights abuses in the world. The suffering of the people in Burma and elsewhere can only end when there is global resolve to do so.



Acknowledgements

If Burma is to be judged on the basis of human rights norms and human rights abuses internationally, it must be considered as one of the worst violators of human rights particularly in the deployment of forced labor, which is continuing unabated today. The international community has condemned Burma for it and has also initiated programs of action to end that practice. The International Labor Organization (ILO) has passed resolutions and introduced action against Burma to end forced labor and its noteworthy endeavors have contributed to the improvement of human rights. Forced labor practices, however, continue to thrive under different forms today.

A change of administration—from military to civilian— through elections was hoped for, but the incumbent military regime is continuing to hold on to power until today. It is ignoring the wish of the people expressed through the 1990 elections. Although some political prisoners, including elected parliamentarians, have been released from detention, the military regime continues to keep a firm grip on administrative, legislative, and judicial powers. The regime has started talks with political leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi but fundamental reforms needed to make democracy and human rights flourish have yet to be undertaken. In fact, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi herself remains under house arrest. The military regime also continues to restrict the movement and organizational activities of political parties.

Under pressure, the military regime has permitted the International Committee for Red Cross, the ILO, and the United Nations Human Rights Special Rapporteur to enter Burma to monitor the human rights situation and the visits have contributed to a slight improvement in human rights conditions. This, however, cannot be considered as a long-term solution to the human rights problem in Burma. While exploiting the visits to improve its image internationally, the military regime continues to ban the establishment of independent democratic institutions which are essential to long-term development of democracy. The situation has resulted in a mass exodus of refugees, particularly ethnic nationalities, to neighboring countries. Unfortunately, the military regime continues to ignore and even deny these problems and is refusing to make any effort to establish a secure environment for the refugees to return home. Many people in non-Burman ethnic areas who did not flee the country have also become internally displaced while trying to escape various forms of human rights abuses under military rule.

Human rights conditions in Burma will improve when the military regime starts working with genuine good will to bring about results instead of only aiming to ease international sanctions through half-hearted efforts.

In documenting human rights violations this year, the Human Rights Documentation Unit (HRDU) has focused its attention on forced labor practices in Burma. Like in previous years, this book is also the product of the efforts of many individuals and organizations. I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the members of the Norwegian Burma Council for their unwavering support in making this book possible. In addition, I would like to thank all the non-Burman ethnic organizations and the many individuals who supported this project. Sincere thanks also to all those who helped prepare this book for publication, and many individuals whose names cannot be mentioned but whose contribution cannot go unnoticed. The very existence of the HRDU would not have been possible without the assistance of these friends of Burma. The emergence of the HRDU has given me a greatly satisfying opportunity to work closely with organizations that are noble and just and have a profound sympathy for the people of Burma.

I wish to put on record my profound gratitude to the KHRG, KIC, HURFOM, SHRF, SHAN, CHRO, KNAHR, BWU, MICB, CIDKP, AAPP, BLSO, THRF, TIR and the YOMA-3 for their enthusiastic assistance and cooperation for the publication of this book. I would also like to express my thanks to Andrea and Christina who have contributed much of their precious time to publish the book.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my profound sadness over the passing away of Mr. Hallvard K. Kuloy, former chairman of the Norwegian Burma Council, who was not only instrumental in establishing the HRDU but who continued to help develop it until his very last days. We will always remain indebted.

Thein Oo

Minister for Human Rights Affairs (NCGUB) and

Coordinator

Human Rights Documentation Unit



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AASYC	All Arakanese Students and Youth Congress
AAPP	Association for Assistance of Political Prisoners
ABSDF:	All Burma Students' Democratic Front
ABSDF/WB:	All Burma Students' Democratic Front - Western Burma
ABFSU:	All Burma Federation of Students Union
ABFSU/FA:	All Burma Federation of Students Union (Foreign Affairs)
ABSL:	All Burma Students' League
ABYMU:	All Burma Young Monks Union
ALTSEAN:	Alternative Asean Network on Burma
aka:	also known as
ALP:	Arakan Liberation Party
approx:	approximately
ASC:	Arakanese Students' Congress
BAD:	Border Area Development Program
B.E.:	Burmese Era
Brig :	Brigadier
BI:	Burma Issues
BIG:	Burma Information Group
BPP:	Border Patrol Police (Thailand)
BRC:	Burmese Relief Center
BSPP:	Burma Socialist Program Party
Capt:	Captain
CEC:	Central Executive Committee
CHRO:	Chin Human Rights Organization
CNF:	Chin National Front
Comdr:	Commander
Col:	Colonel
Cpl:	Corporal
CPPSM:	Campaign for the Publicity of the People's Struggle in Monland
CRPP:	The Committee Representing the People's Parliament
DDSI:	Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence
DKBA:	Democratic Kayin (Karen) Buddhist Army
DKBO:	Democratic Kayin Buddhist Organization
DPA:	Democratic Patriotic Army
DPNS:	Democratic Party for New Society
DVB:	Democratic Voice of Burma
FEC:	Foreign Exchange Certificate (See "Measurements")
ft:	feet
FTUB:	Federation of Trade Unions, Burma
Gen:	General
HRDU:	Human Rights Documentation Unit
HRV:	Human Rights Violations

Acronyms and Abbreviations

HURFOM:	Human Rights Foundation of Monland
IA:	Images Asia
IB:	Infantry Battalion
IDC:	Immigration Detention Center (Thailand)
IDP:	Internally Displaced Persons
ILO:	International Labor Organization
Ind:	Independent
Lt:	Lieutenant
kg:	Kilogram
km:	Kilometer
KHRG:	Karen Human Rights Group
KIA:	Kachin Independence Army
KIC:	Karen Information Center
KIO:	Kachin Independence Organization
KNAHR:	Karenni News Agency for Human Rights
KNDA:	Karenni National Democratic Army
KNLA:	Karen National Liberation Army
KNPLF:	Karenni Nationality Peoples' Liberation Front
KNPP:	Karenni National Progressive Party
KNU:	Karen National Union
LIB:	Light Infantry Battalion
LID:	Light Infantry Division
MAMD:	Mon Army, Mergui District
Maj:	Major
Ma Wa Ta:	Township-level SLORC authorities
MI:	Military Inteligance
MIS:	Military Intelligence Services (aka DDSI)
MIS:	Mon Information Service
m:	meter
mm:	millimeter
MNRC:	Mon National Relief Committee
MOGE:	Myanmar Oil & Gas Enterprise
MOI:	Ministry of Interior (Thailand)
MPs:	Members of Parliament
MSC:	Military Strategic Command
MTA:	Mong Tai Army
n.a.:	not available
Na Wa Ta:	State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC)
NBC:	Norwegian Burma Council
NCGUB:	National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma

NCO:	Non-commissioned officer
NGO:	Non-governmental organization
NLD:	National League for Democracy
NLD (LA):	National League for Democracy (Liberated Area)
NLM:	The New Light of Myanmar (SPDC-controlled newspaper)
NMSP:	New Mon State Party
PDC:	Peace and Development Council
PSB:	Press Scrutiny Broad
RFA:	Radio Free Asia
SAIN:	Southeast Asia Information Network
Sd.:	Signed with signature
Sgt:	Sergeant
SHRF:	Shan Human Rights Foundation
S.H.A.N.:	Shan Herald Agency for News
SLORC:	State Law and Order Restoration Council
SPDC:	State Peace and Development Council
sq:	square
SSA:	Shan State Army
SSIA:	Shan State Independence Army
SUA:	Shan United Army
SURA:	Shan United Revolutionary Army
TOC:	Tactical Operations Command
THRF:	Tavoyan Human Rights Foundation
UN:	United Nations
UNDP:	United Nations Development Program
USDA:	Union Solidarity and Development Association

TERMS

baht:	monetary unit of Thailand (see “Measurements”).
Bo:	military commander.
Daw:	an honorific used to address an adult female
furlong:	(see “Measurements”)
Kawthoolei:	Karen name for the Karen nation.
Khun:	polite form of address in the Thai language
Ko:	Burmese form of address to a young male
kyat:	monetary unit in Burma
longyi:	Burmese word for sarong
Ma:	Burmese form of address to a young female
Mahn:	Burmese form of address to a Karen male
Maung:	Burmese form of address to a young male
Mehm/Min:	form of address to a young Mon male
Mi:	form of address to a Mon female
Nai:	Burmese form of address to an adult Mon male
Naw:	Burmese form of address to a Karen female

Acronyms and Abbreviations

plah:	Karen measurement of distance, from elbow to fingertip (1 plah is under 2 feet)
pya:	100 pyas = 1 kyats
pyi:	eight-condensed-milk tin
Sai:	Burmese form of address to a young Shan male
Sangha:	Buddhist order of monks
Sao:	male of Shan royal descent
Saw:	form of address to a Karen male
Sayadaw:	presiding monk of a Buddhist monastery
Shwedagon:	The Great Pagoda in Rangoon
Tatmadaw:	Burmese Army
Thakin:	master; lord (used to address the British colonial rulers; later politicized by the Burmese independence movement in the 1930s)
tickle:	(see “Measurements”)
tin:	(see “Measurements”)
tract (village):	area consisting of 4-6 villages
U:	an honorific used to address an adult male in Burma
viss:	(see “Measurements”)

MEASUREMENTS

acre:	1 acre = 4,840 sq. yards = 0.407 hectare 2.471 acres = 11,960 sq. yards = 1 hectare 640 acres = 1 sq. mile = 2.590 sq. kilometers
baht:	1 baht = 100 satang 38 baht = US\$ 1 (April, 2000)
FEC:	1 FEC = US\$1 = kyat 6.5 (official) 1 FEC = Kyats 750 (unofficial)
furlong:	1 furlong = 220 yards (1/8) mile = 201 meters
lakh:	1 lakh = 100,000
tin:	1 tin = 16 pyi 1 pyi (rice/condensed milk) = approx. 250 ml
viss:	1 viss = 3.6 lbs = 1.633 kg 622.22 viss = 1 long ton (2,240 lbs) = 1.016 metric tons

NOTE ABOUT SPELLINGS:

Since there are no standardized transcriptions in the Roman alphabet for Burmese, Mon, and other ethnic languages, words are spelled variously, according to different spelling conventions or by how they sound (the spelling of Halockhani refugee camp is a classic example of this, by Westerners as well as Thais and locals). In addition, spellings have further been confused by the ruling junta’s

official Burmanization of well-known English terminology (e.g. Myanmar for Burma).

In order to avoid confusion and politicization, this report will restrict its use of language to the established and more widely-accepted anglicized spellings, since this report to written in English.

A list of alternative spellings from various sources are provided as follows:

Ayeyarwady:	Irrawaddy
Bagan:	Pagan
Bago:	Pegu
Bamar:	Burman
Dawei:	Tavoy
Hinthada:	Henzada
Hpa-an:	Pa-an
Kayah:	Karenni
Kayin:	Karen
Kyaing Don:	Kengtung
Magway:	Magwe
Mawlamyine:	Moulmein
Muang Tai:	Mong Tai
Myeit:	Mergui
Myanmar:	Burma
Patheingyi:	Bassein
Pyaw:	Prome
Sittoung:	Sittaung
Sittwe, Sittway:	Akyab
Tanintharyi:	Tenasserim
Thandwai:	Sandoway
Thanlwin:	Salween River
Taungtha:	Moei River
Taungtha:	Taungtha
Yangon:	Rangoon

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BURMA AT A GLANCE: FACTS AND FIGURES

Country name:	Union of Burma (1948), Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma (1974), Union of Myanmar (1989)
Area:	261,000 sq miles
Coastline:	1,600 miles
Population:	48.9 million
Population growth rate:	1.61%
Refugees:	approximately 300,000 in Thailand, 12,000 in China and India, 2,000 in Bangladesh
Internally displaced people:	approximately two million people
Birth rate:	28.48 births/1,000 population
Death rate:	12.39 deaths/1,000 population
Life expectancy:	60 years
1,000 people per TV:	7
People per doctor:	12,500
Languages:	Arakanese, Burmese, Chin, Kachin, Karen, Karenni, Mon, Shan, Wa, English and more than 100 minority dialects
Religions:	Buddhist (85%), Animist (5%), Christian (4.5%), Muslim (4%), Hindu (1.5%)
Burmese Border Refugees:	Karenni camps- 18,218 Karen camps - 93,937 Mon-Resettlement Sites- 122,777 Maneelay Student Center- 1,767
Inflation CPI:	11.5%
Foreign debt:	US\$ 5.1 billion
GDP spending:	3. 1 % on military (non-SPDC figures: over 50%), 2.2% education, 0.8% health.
LDC status:	since 1987
Natural resources:	tin, plutonium, zinc, copper, cobalt, gold, rubies, jade, teak (80% of world’s reserves), fish (704 metric ton/year), gas, oil, rice, sesame, groundnuts
Agriculture:	68% of workforce employed in agriculture; 15% of arable land; less than 50% of potentially productive land under cultivation
Rice exports:	3.5 million tons (1,930); 2 million tons (1962); 20,000 tons (1988)
Opium production:	1,300 tons (1988), 2,800 tons (1997), 18,00 tons (1998) (70% of US market)
Administrative areas:	Seven States (Arakan, Chin, Mon, Kachin, Karen, Kayah, Shan); Seven Divisions (Irrawaddy, Magwe, Mandalay, Pegu, Rangoon, Sagaing, Tenasserim)
Last election:	May 27, 1990; NLD won more than 82% of legislative seats

MAP OF BURMA



Historical Background

Constitutional period (1947-62)

On January 4, 1947, Burma gained its independence from the British who, in the nineteenth century, had fought three wars against the Burman Empire and finally conquered it in 1886. On the eve of the Second World War, the Japanese secretly promised to help Burma recover its freedom by training 30 Burmese youths led by Aung San who then formed the nucleus of a national army. During the war, the Japanese drove the British out of Burma and governed the country directly under military rule until August 1, 1943, when it was granted independence under its protection.

The Burmese army, on March 27, 1945, revolted against the Japanese and joined the Allies. Also during the war period, the leaders of the new Burmese army, together with an underground civilian group, formed a broad anti-Japanese coalition, "the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League" (AFPFL). The AFPFL and the army were led by General Aung San. On July 19, 1947, General Aung San and some of his colleagues were assassinated while the assembly writing a new constitution was in recess. U Nu, a civilian, was able to lead Burma to gain its independence on January 4, 1948. A parliamentary federal union system was practiced after independence.

Independence did not bring peace and progress to Burma. Within three months of independence, the Communists revolted, taking two army battalions with them. In January 1949, following growing hostility between the Karens and Burmans, the Karens also revolted. Several other ethnic and political groups also took up arms against the state. The multiple insurgencies nearly caused the Union of Burma to collapse. Prime Minister U Nu managed to keep his government in power; it gradually recovered control of the people and territories, though it was unable to bring the wars to an end.

During this tumultuous period, democracy took root and began to grow. However, in 1958, unity among the leaders of the ruling AFPFL dissolved. Prime Minister U Nu proposed that the parliament decide which group should govern the country. U Nu won by such a small margin that within a few months he resigned and recommended that General Ne Win, the head of the army, replace him and conduct new elections.

General Ne Win's caretaker government, comprising senior military officers, was short-lived; it lasted only 16 months. When the promised elections were held, an U Nu-led faction won. After he resumed leadership, U Nu called a meeting for February 1962; he planned to convene all minority leaders to find a solution to their grievances through peaceful and frank discussions. However, before U Nu could announce his own recommendations for peace, the military, led by General Ne Win, seized power on March 2, 1962. General Ne Win established a Revolutionary Council comprised of 17 senior officers, effectively ending the constitutional period.

Military rule (1962-74)

The Revolutionary Council established a military dictatorship, replacing the parliamentary federal system of the previous constitution. In July 1962, the Revolutionary Council created its own party, the "Burma Socialist Program Party" (BSPP), after having failed to win the backing of the established political parties. The Revolutionary Council published its first ideological statement entitled, "The Burmese Way to Socialism," at the end of

April 1962. A year later, it moved to a policy of rapid nationalization and assumed direct control of the economy. In 1971, the BSPP transformed itself into a civilian government, though it retained the same military rulers, many of whom had retired from the armed forces. In 1974, a new constitution was adopted with additional centralized powers and further entrenched BSPP's position as the only legal political party in the country.

Military rule (1974-1988)

The second constitution of independent Burma differed markedly from its predecessor. The highest level of government was the *Pyithu Hluttaw* or People's Assembly, a single chamber legislature. Under the new laws, U Ne Win was selected as President of the country and head of the BSPP. During this period of military rule, the government faced popular unrest with workers staging violent strikes in 1974 and 1975. Students also protested throughout this period; the most serious protest, in 1974, resulted from a struggle between the students and the government over the proper burial of the remains of U Thant, the third Secretary General of the United Nations. Civil wars continued with the military launching regular campaigns against the forces of the ethnic minorities and the Burma Communist Party. Freedom of association, press, and assembly were severely repressed under the one-party government. In 1981, Ne Win abdicated the presidency, but continued to head the BSPP.

In 1987, Ne Win suddenly began criticizing government reporting and management and called for economic reforms. A few weeks later, the government, without warning, demonetized three currency bank-notes and offered no reimbursement. Nearly 70 percent of the currency in circulation became worthless.

In March 1988, students and local people were involved in a fracas at a tea shop; a major brawl ensued. The intervention of riot police led to the death of a student from the Rangoon Institute of Technology (RIT). RIT students began protesting daily. The protest spread to other universities. After twelve days of violent conflicts with police, causing many deaths, the government closed the universities and promised to investigate the student deaths. When the students returned to the universities in June, they demanded an account of the still-missing students and called for the arrest of those responsible for student deaths and injuries. Again, the police and military responded to the student protests with force, killing at least 20 students and arresting hundreds of others. And once again, the universities were closed. The wave of social unrest spread; the resistance movement became stronger as the people called for political change. The military declared martial law.

On July 23, 1988, the BSPP appointed General Sein Lwin as the new party head and later president. A general strike took place on August 8, 1988 and in response to it, the police and army attacked the demonstrators, killing an unknown number, estimated in thousands.

On August 12, 1988, U Sein Lwin resigned and was replaced by a civilian lawyer, Dr. Maung Maung. During this period, the jails were opened and criminals released, causing fear as crime rose. Rumors were also spread by government agents that the water supply was poisoned and that other heinous acts were being committed.

Peaceful student-led demonstrations were snuffed out on September 18, 1988, as the military staged a bloody coup and established a new dictatorship under martial law, called the "State Law and Order Restoration Council" (SLORC). It brutally put down the popular movement resulting in thousands of deaths and arrests. Many students left the cities and their homes and fled to border areas. The SLORC suspended the 1974 constitution.

SLORC's military rule (1988-1997)

On September 23, 1988, having established himself as Burma's leader, General Saw Maung, head of the SLORC, assured the public that the sole aim of his military intervention was to restore law and order, improve the economic condition of the people, and organize multiparty elections as soon as possible. He insisted that it was not his intention to "cling to State power for long."

Within months, parties began to register while a new election law was drawn up. The National League for Democracy (NLD) quickly emerged as the leading opposition party led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of the national hero General Aung San. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi traveled widely and attracted large crowds, despite the SLORC decrees that public gatherings be limited to four persons. As she gained an ever wider following, the military tried to discredit her for not having "pure" motives, being the wife of a European. SLORC announced that she was being manipulated by Communist members in her party, and that she considered herself above the law when she called meetings in violation of the SLORC decree against public gatherings. Indeed, on July 1989, SLORC placed Daw Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest and disqualified her from participating in the elections. In spite of these tactics, the NLD achieved a stunning victory in the elections, held on May 27, 1990, winning 392 of the 485 seats contested.

Having been rejected at the elections, SLORC began systematically to eliminate its opposition. It refused to allow the Pyithu Hluttaw (parliament) to convene; it then said that the actual purpose of the election was to form a constituent assembly. On July 27, 1990, SLORC promulgated Declaration 1/90 which said, among other things, that "[the SLORC] is not an organization that observes any constitution; it is an organization that is governing the nation under Martial Law." Following this announcement, SLORC began to arrest and intimidate NLD members as well as members of other opposition parties.

Meanwhile, SLORC continued waging war against the minorities. Having won Thailand's support by granting timber and fishing concessions in the border area and the along the Tenasserim coast, SLORC was able to mount a major campaign against the Karens and Mons with new weapons purchased from Singapore, China, and Pakistan. The SLORC even crossed the river frontier and launched attacks from Thai territory. During the offensive, the army forced innocent villagers to serve as porters in the war zones and killed many who collapsed from exhaustion or injury.

In 1989, the army achieved an unplanned victory of sorts in the north, along the Burma-China border. A minority group turned against the Burma Communist Party (BCP), driving its leaders across the border and declaring themselves free and independent of their former BCP leaders. The SLORC quickly entered into agreements with the leaders of the minority BCP cadres in Kokang and the Wa State, promising to allow their former enemies to keep their weapons, retain power in their traditional areas, and pursue local trade (mostly in opium) in exchange for ending their wars against the SLORC and even fighting on SLORC's side against other minorities.

As time progressed, the SLORC persistently refused to allow the newly elected NLD-led parliament to assemble. Some elected MPs fled to liberated areas on the Thai-Burma border. In December 1990, the Parliament met secretly and elected the "National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma" (NCGUB) with the support of all major ethnic groups struggling to assert themselves within Burma.

On April 24, 1992, two years after the elections, SLORC issued Order No. 11/92 entitled "Convening of a National Convention." It indicated that a national convention would be convened "in order to lay down basic principles to draft a firm constitution." In January 1993, the convention finally assembled with 702 delegates, of whom only 106 were elected representatives. The remaining delegates were either hand-picked by the SLORC to "represent" workers, peasants, intellectuals, national races, and service personnel, or were "specially invited persons." The SLORC stated that the convention would only be drawing up the "principles" of a new constitution, and the final draft would still be written, as promised, by the elected representatives. Moreover, SLORC stated, the principles discussed by the delegates had to conform with the "objectives" of the convention, as defined by SLORC, which included the "participation of the *Tatmadaw* (armed forces) in the national political leadership role of the State in the future." Despite repeated calls in UN resolutions for the SLORC to give a timetable for the convention, there is no sign that the convention is near any conclusion.

On July 10, 1995, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was released from almost six years under house arrest. Although her release initially raised hopes for an improvement in the human rights situation in Burma, nothing has changed. Indeed, the pace of political arrests and persecution has accelerated dramatically since November 1995 when the NLD withdrew from the SLORC-controlled national convention due to its undemocratic processes. SLORC responded to the NLD withdrawal by expelling the NLD permanently from the Convention. A call from the NLD to begin a dialogue with the SLORC in order to start a process of national reconciliation has been refused by the SLORC.

Political turmoil in Burma has increased significantly since the NLD announced that it would hold a meeting in late May 1996 to commemorate the sixth anniversary of its 1990 election victory. The SLORC reacted by arresting hundreds of NLD MPs and other supporters in an effort to prevent the meeting. In addition, on June 7, 1996, SLORC issued Law No. 5/96, the sweeping provisions of which allow for up to 20 years imprisonment for anyone who expresses political views publicly.

On November 9, 1996, a group of about 200 young men attacked Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's motorcade with iron bars and sticks. The men were thought to be members of the "Union Solidarity Development Association" (USDA), a SLORC sponsored group. In December 1996, more than 2,000 people, including hundreds of students, involved in peaceful student demonstrations, were arrested for calling for human rights reforms. Public gatherings on weekends in front of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's home have been banned since the end of 1996. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is repeatedly refused permission to leave her compound, and has been effectively confined to her house for long periods.

Since 1989, the SLORC has sought a military cease-fire with some of the ethnic forces, bringing a kind of peace to the areas under their control. In December 1994, a renewed offensive against the Karen National Union (KNU) was launched following a split within the KNU and the formation of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), which was supported by the SLORC. In February 1995, the KNU retreated from its headquarters in Manerplaw. Since then the offensive has taken a new turn as DKBA and SLORC troops launched the first of several raids into refugee camps in Thailand. DKBA and SLORC troops have had easy access to refugees in Thailand. The raids, which were intended to terrify the refugees into returning to Burma, have continued. The KNU has made several

offers to the SLORC to engage in ceasefire talks. However, while there have been meetings between the two sides, there is no sign of any progress.

In the Karenni State, the Karenni Nationalities Progressive Party (KNPP) signed a ceasefire agreement at a ceremony in Loikaw in March 1995. In June, the KNPP issued a statement claiming that the SLORC had broken the terms of the agreement. Intermittent fighting continues between the SLORC troops and the KNPP in Karenni State. SLORC undertook massive relocation operations in Karenni State, Shan State, and Tenasserim division during 1995 and 1996, causing a mass influx of refugees into Thailand.

In mid-February 1997, SLORC launched two new major offensives against the KNU. SLORC's 1997 offensive against the KNU has resulted in more than 7,000 new refugees entering Thailand.

SPDC's military rule (1997-Present)

In November 15, 1997, the SLORC was renamed the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). Although the three most senior members of the regime retained their posts in the SPDC, 14 former members – all senior military officers – were moved to a four - member advisory group. In late November three members of this advisory group were placed under house arrest. The three were former tourism minister, Lieutenant-General Kyaw Ba; the ex-commerce minister, Lieutenant-General Tun Kyi; and the former agriculture minister, Lieutenant-General Myint Aung. A number of their aides and staff at other ministries were also placed under investigation. Following the detention, the advisory group was dissolved on December 10, 1997, less than one month after its formation. Officials said the members of the advisory group no longer held their military posts. The changes did not stop there. On December 20, there was an unexpected reshuffle of the second tier of the military regime, the cabinet. Another eight posts in the cabinet were reshuffled and one new member was added to the cabinet.

Although the main impetus behind recent changes has been to improve the regime's image, many see the moves as cosmetic attempts to quell international criticism. On December 12, 1997, five members of the NLD Central Executive Committee met the SLORC Minister for Home Affairs, Colonel Tin Hlaing, at the invitation of the regime. Colonel Tin Hlaing asked the NLD to stop issuing statements and to discontinue party organizational activities, such as efforts by Aung San Suu Kyi to attend party meetings in order to reorganize the youth wing of the party. Later, the official press of the regime reported that, unless these demands were met, moves towards a dialogue would slow even further. In a statement issued after the meeting, the NLD said that, as a legal political party, it was entitled to continue with such activities.

The Committee Representing the People's Parliament (CRPP) was announced on 16 September 1998 in response to the military regime's failure to meet a legal demand to convene parliament. The demand was initiated by the NLD following a party congress held on 27 May 1988. As the call to convene parliament was ignored, the NLD and cooperating parties formed the CRPP with the stated purpose of functioning on behalf of Parliament only until Parliament is actually convened. In calling for parliament to be convened, the NLD acted in accordance with the currently valid 1989 Pyithu Hluttaw (People's Parliament) Election Law. Two hundred fifty-one (or 54.6 %) of the elected MPs empowered the NLD to act on their behalf, thus enabling the party to requisition a session of Parliament. This exceeds the legally required number. It held its first meeting on 16 September 1998.

Facts on Human Rights Violations in Burma in 2000

1. Forced Portering and Labor

1.1 Background

Throughout the year 2000, the military junta continued its blatant use of unpaid civilian forced labor in virtually all their undertakings, including economic activities, military operations, building and maintaining infrastructures such as roads, bridges and military facilities, cultivating crops for the military, and, in many cases, even in their daily personal matters. Carts, mini-tractors, trucks, cars and other vehicles of the people were frequently forced to serve the military without compensation or responsibility for any damage done to the vehicles. Civilians in rural and ethnic areas in Burma were called for 'wontan' ('servants'), which usually means porters or military camp labor, or 'loh ah pay' (translated here as 'voluntary labor'); SPDC's term for forced labor.

Laws which permitted the use of forced labor in Burma were promulgated by the colonial rulers. Following independence in 1948, successive Burmese governments have continued the practice of forced labor, citing legal authority as the "Village Act of 1908" and the "Town Act of 1907". The two laws require that laborers be a) otherwise not employed, b) physically fit, and c) paid a reasonable fixed wage that is agreed upon beforehand.

Yet the SPDC denies allegations of all forms of forced labor. It has responded a number of times that there is a tradition in Burma going back centuries, according to which people voluntarily contribute labor in the belief that it is a noble deed. On some occasions, the SPDC has described this as a Buddhist cultural tradition. The SPDC reported in 1993 that for the previous years, local people had been voluntarily contributing their labor for the construction of roads and bridges, and that there is no coercion involved. These voluntary contributions, according to the SPDC, should nor be considered as forced labor. The SPDC-controlled newspaper has reported that *"the people of Myanmar are always aware of these development projects and welcome them wholeheartedly, and they are willing to take part in them whether they benefit from it directly or not."*

The labor the SPDC calls voluntary is degrading, backbreaking, and inhumane. Villagers used as porters must carry packs for the military that amount to half the villagers' weight. In conflict areas, they are sent ahead of troops to act as human mine sweepers or human bullet shields. Often the SPDC sends children ahead to sweep for mines to deter neighboring villagers from supporting oppositions of the SPDC. This work is done without compensation. The porters are meagerly fed and sometimes not fed at all. If they get sick from disease, malnutrition, or exhaustion from their work they are offered no medical assistance and are often beaten and even killed.

Forced labor on roads, railways, and other infrastructure projects is becoming even more prevalent as the SPDC pushes forward with its "development" agenda. For these projects, the SPDC usually sends written orders to villagers demanding a quota of one or more laborers per household for shifts of one or two weeks; usually a family's turn will occur once per month on each project in their area (this is in addition to all other forced labor

Forced Labor

requirement such as porters and work at military camps). The villagers must perform forced labor and their parents must stay home to work the fields to provide some food for the family. Meanwhile, local battalions sap community finances and food where they are stationed.

No excuses are accepted for evading SPDC's labor requirements. If adults in the household are sick or if the household consists only of a grandmother caring for her orphaned grandchildren, the SPDC still requires that someone from the family go to the labor site; alternatively, the family must hire a substitute, the fee for which has increased dramatically over the past year. Sometimes, people can bribe a soldier by paying heavy fines or "porter taxes", but usually the only option is to send a labor or flee the area and risk being captured and beaten. On some projects, the military assigns each village or family a specific work task; in these situations, parents often take their children with them so they can finish their work assignment as quickly as possible and return home.

It is abundantly clear that these laborers are not working voluntarily; coercion and force are used to make people work on these labor activities. The "system" for recruiting labor is well established. Typically, a local SPDC commander contacts a village headman, or in urban area, a council chairman, by written order. The order describes the number of laborers needed by a certain date for a particular infrastructure project. The consequences for not fulfilling such an order are not explicitly stated, rather they are intimidated through the enclosure of a bullet, chili, or a piece of charcoal that often accompanies an order. The enclosures are meant to be symbolic of the consequences that await those who will be follow SPDC's orders; bullets mean that they will be shot and killed; a chili means they will be in "hot water" or that their animals will be cooked; and charcoal means that their village will be burnt down. The village headman or council chairman then has to select families to work on a rotating basis. Sometimes, village headmen intercede or try to reduce the demands put on their communities, despite the implicit threats, but this can be fatal for them, especially in ethnic areas where on failure to cooperate with the military, the headmen would probably be accused of aiding ethnic armed groups.

Forced portering and forced labor as practiced in Burma are in contradiction with international standards on forced labor. The 1930 Convention concerning forced Labor (ILO Convention No. 29) requires the suppression of the use of forced labor or compulsory labor in all its forms. The Convention defines forced or compulsory labor as *"all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily."*

Since 1964, ILO Committee of Experts for the Application of Conventions and Recommendations has addressed the practice of forced labor in Burma. On March 27, 1997, the ILO established a Commission of Inquiry chaired by Sir William Douglas (Barbados), to investigate a complaint brought by workers' delegates to the 1996 ILO Conference. The Complaint addressed SPDC's continued and active use of forced labor in Burma and its apparently unwillingness to repeal legislation allowing the use of forced labor. The commission's mandate is to consider whether, and to what extent, the alleged violations exists or existed and to make any recommendations it deems appropriate. The Commission held its first meeting in June 1997 to establish its rules of procedure. In September 1996, following an investigation of the forced labor practices in Burma, the European Union Commission revoked benefits under the Generalized System Preferences. Summaries of the testimony given by these witnesses, including women and children who had fled from forced labor, are appended to the Commission's report. SPDC

abstained from attending the hearings and did not authorize a visit by the Commission of Inquiry to Burma arguing that *"such as visit would not contribute much towards resolving the case"* and *"would interfere in the internal affairs of the country."*

As was noted by the Commission of Inquiry, its report *"reveals a saga of untold misery and suffering, oppression and exploitation of large sections of the population inhabiting Myanmar by the Government, military and other public officers. It is a story of gross denial of human rights to which the people of Myanmar have been subjected particularly since 1988 and from which they find no escape except fleeing from the country."*

In its conclusion on the substance of the case, the Commission stated *"there is abundant evidence before the Commission showing the pervasive use of forced labor imposed on the civilian population throughout Myanmar by the authorities and the military for portering, the construction, maintenance and servicing of military camps, other works in support of the military, working on agriculture, logging and other production projects undertaken by the authorities or the military, sometimes for the profit of private individuals, the construction and maintenance of roads, railways and bridges, other infrastructure work and a range of other tasks."*

On June 17, 1999, the ILO Conference suspended Burma from receiving ILO technical assistance or attending ILO meetings due to the SPDC's "flagrant and persistent failure to comply" with Convention 29 on forced labor. The same day, the SPDC Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release stating that the SPDC would *"cease participation in activities connected with Convention 29."*

The SPDC had also released Order No. 1/99, in which officials at township and village levels were ordered not to *"exercise powers under certain provisions of the Towns Act, 1907, and the Village Act, 1908"*

Yet forced labor continued unabated and in the year 2000 it came to the forefront in the ILO. In June 2000, the ILO gave the regime four months to show its willingness to stop forced labor. In October an ILO delegation visited the country, and reported that while Burma had made progress in improving its laws on the issue, it was unclear what is actually being done to stop the use of forced labor. On November 16, 2000, at the meeting of the ILO governing body, the members of the ILO voted overwhelmingly to call for unprecedented sanctions against the military regime for its failure to comply with the ILO convention on forced labor.

The regime strongly denounced this move, insisting that it had "concrete and detailed legislative, executive and administrative measures (...) in accordance with the ILO Convention No. 29 on forced labor." The SPDC authorities issued the "Supplementary Order to Order 1/99" on November 1 2000. This "Supplementary Order" was sent by SPDC spokesman Lt. Col. Hla Min to the ILO and the foreign media. Deputy Foreign Minister Khin Maung Win has also said that *"The Order has been circulated right down to the village level and posted in every police station. ... It states that all responsible persons including the armed forces, ... should not requisition forced labor"*. Inside sources in Burma have also reported that an order was issued on October 27, 2000 by SPDC's Ministry of Interior (MOI) to stop the practice of all types of conscription of forced labor, and that the order had been issued to all township, village tracts, village level administrations and military battalions. The continuing practice of forcing civilians to labor is therefore not only against international labor standards, but also against SPDC's own laws.

1.2 Forced Portering

The most notorious form of forced labor is front-line porterage, whereby the military raids villages and towns for porters to carry its supply and ammunition for offensive in the border regions.

Given the lack of good roads and other infrastructure throughout Burma and the ruggedness of much of the terrain, the SPDC military, very often moves its troops and supplies on foot. Civilian forced labor is always used to do this. Even in many cases where mules or trucks could be used, the SPDC troops are in the habit of using civilians because it saves trouble and expense. Porters are conscripted in a variety of ways depending on the circumstances. The best known form is "operation porterage", which occurs when SPDC mounts a major military operation. These operations involve up to 2,000 troops at a time, and on average two to five porters are required for each soldier in order to carry all the required ammunition, rations, heavy weaponry and other supplies. To capture the required number of civilians, SPDC troops, police, local authorities and sometimes even the fire department begin surrounding public places, such as crowded markets, railway stations and video cinema halls, rounding up all able-bodied men and piling them on trucks to be taken to holding cells in local police and military detentions, from where they are combined with other captured groups and sent on to frontline units. Local town authorities swoop on houses in the middle of the night using any excuse, such as an unpaid local tax or an unregistered houseguest, to arrest all the occupants and send them off as porters. Troops surround rural villages and storm them to capture anyone who will be able to carry a load. People are often sent to be porters halfway across the country from where they have been captured. Families of those captured are not notified in any way. Local authorities are assigned a numeric quota of how many porters they have to round up, and in their desperation to get the number they often take women, small children and people as old as 70. They often take two or three times as many people as required, make money by accepting bribes to release all those they do not need.

People in the villages and relocation sites have to regularly do many kinds of forced labor as ordered by the military units throughout the area. One of the most common and feared forms of forced labor is porterage, which involves both carrying rations and supplies to outlying military camps and carrying munitions, equipment and rations with SPDC patrols heading into the hills to "mop up" the villagers living in hiding there. Porterage assignments to carry supplies between military camps usually last a few days to a week; villagers have to take their own food, and are not usually treated too brutally as long as they are not kept beyond the originally specified period. However, it takes them away from their farm work and there is always the risk of being beaten or killed, so people try to pay instead of going if they can. Porterage with SPDC patrols heading into the hills can last for months, and people avoid going at all costs because many never return from this brutal form of forced labor. These porters are forced to carry 20 to 40 kilogram loads of shells and rations through the hills, barely fed and left behind or beaten to death if they can no longer carry.

Doing work for the military not only prevents people from being able to do what little work they can to support their own families, but it also puts people in harm's way. The villagers doing forced labor are routinely beaten if they haven't finished their work, have been taking a short rest or simply don't do a "good enough" job. If villagers are found hiding in the jungle and are lucky enough not to be killed on the spot, they are often forced

to work and porter for the military as well, and people caught in this manner are treated particularly brutally. Porters, drawn both from the relocation sites and the jungle, are expendable to the military. If they are suffering from one or more of the many ailments that plague the area or are not able to carry their load they are subjected to abuse and are either killed outright or beaten and left to die in the jungle. With no medicine to speak of and no help, it doesn't take long to die when left alone in the jungle.

Once at the frontline, operation porters are assigned to units and given a load to carry over the mountains. The soldiers generally carry nothing except their personal weapon and a small personal kitbag, while each porter is forced to carry 30 to 50 kilogram loads in woven bamboo baskets which rip the flesh off their shoulders and backs. They generally have only the clothing in which they were captured. They are given little or no food, often just one or two handfuls of rice per day, and are often forbidden to drink water en route because they soldiers say it will slow them down. They are not paid in any way. They are often sent in front of the column as human minesweepers and used as human shields; in some cases they are even forced to switch clothing with the soldiers in order to draw enemy fire. In battle, they are forced to stay with the soldiers, and many are wounded or killed. Those who are wounded or fall sick are generally not treated but simply left behind. Medicines are reserved for the soldiers. While carrying loads, if porters are slow they are usually kicked, prodded with bayonets or beaten to keep them moving, and if they collapse and cannot continue they are left behind, often after being beaten unconscious. In especially sensitive areas, they will be executed by cutting their throats, kicking them down a mountainside or tying them and throwing them in river in order to prevent them from giving information if found by resistance groups. Soldiers open fire on any porters trying to escape, and if captured after escaping they are tortured or executed in front of the others as an example. They are usually kept as porters for the duration of the operation, which can be three months or longer. Many escaped operation porters testify that by the time they escaped, half of the original porters had died. Even if the operation ends, they are just told they are free to go and given no assistance to get home, even if it is halfway across the country. They generally have no money for the trip, and even if they go they face re-arrest along the way for having no travel papers, so many end up as internally displaced people far from homes or as refugees.

The Burma Army used to use two kinds of forced portering. One is call 'Won Htan' (villagers) and 'Won Hsaung Taat Tha' (prisoner).

A villager from Yale village, who had experience with porter service reported to HURFOM that, *"In the first week of July, when the Burmese soldiers from LIB No. 703 passed near our village, I was arrested as a porter. They took me for about 7 days and the soldiers forced me to carry about 25 viss (40 kilograms) of ammunition or sometimes, food supplies or even their boots for the whole journey. Another about 60 porters had to carry all loads together and the soldiers made us walk with heavy loads for 12-14 hours a day. If we had difficulty walking, or if we walked slowly, we were kicked. One porter was kicked mercilessly and beaten by soldiers in front of me, after a failed escape attempt. "Later, while I was at my farm, my daughter, Naw Nu (19 years old) was also arrested by Burmese soldiers from another battalion (which he did not know). That battalion took her and another five women from our village for 5 days. They also had to carry heavy loads for soldiers."*

1.3 Forced Labor for military bases

In areas where there is full SPDC control and no resistance threat, the local people are placed completely at the disposal of the SPDC military. Villagers are regularly summoned to do one or more days of forced labor at the military camps. Whenever the new battalion moves into an area, the nearby villages are forced to collect and provide most of the building materials for the camps. At least one person per household is required to perform forced labor building the barracks and bunkers, digging trenches and erecting fences. They also have to act as messengers, build and maintain the camp buildings and surrounding fences and defenses, clear the ground around the camps and do other servant work for the troops. People are forced to go on a rotating basis for '*gkin*' ['*patrol*'], which means forced labor standing sentry and delivering order documents to villages and messages or packages between military camps. Demands for these kinds of labor as well as portering and the payment of fees are often dictated at regular meetings which are called by the Battalion officers and must be attended by village heads and sometimes by the leader of each household in the village.

Village heads are sometimes ordered to provide absurdly comprehensive and detailed registration lists of everyone and everything in their villages. These lists are then used to assess paddy quotas, quotas for forced labor, fees and extortion money, demands for carts, vehicles, and other equipment, and to closely monitor the movement of villagers and the arrival of anyone new in the village. People found to be unregistered are usually arrested, accused of being 'insurgents', and detained under torture. The registration lists are also a major tool for intimidation, making the villagers believe that the SPDC knows everything about them and making them afraid to do anything out of the ordinary. The intention is to make every civilian feel intimidated and afraid at every moment.

Each village also has to send several people on rotating shifts of three to five days to each military camp in their area for miscellaneous forced labor, which is sometimes referred to as '*patrol*'. This labor routinely includes clearing scrub and grass in and around the camp, maintaining barracks, digging and maintaining trenches and bunkers, building fences and man-traps, cutting firewood, carrying water, cooking, cleaning, and delivering messages to other military camps and order letters to local villages.

In areas where there is any possible of conflict, villagers must undertake sentry duty at military camps; often most or all the soldiers sleep, leaving only unarmed villagers as sentries with orders to wake them up if anything happens. Villagers must also clear roadsides of scrubs and trees for anywhere from five to 100 meters on each side of military supply roads in order to decrease the chance of ambushes. They also have to do unarmed sentry duty, both outside military camps and along vehicle roads which are used by the military. If anyone is seen on the road, they are supposed to send a signal up the line by beating on bamboo sticks. Villagers in northern Mone Township, Karen State report that they now have to do nightly sentry duty along the roads from Kyauk Kyi to Mone and northward to Toungoo. Three villagers have to man each sentry post, which are closely spaced along the road, for rotating 24-hour shifts, and are supposed to report any strangers on the road to the local military. It costs 150 kyat to avoid one 24-hour shift, and villagers are also punished if they are not seen at their post during the shift.

1.4 Forced Labor for the army's 'Income generation' projects

In some rural areas, thousands acres of land are confiscated and the villagers must perform forced labor on a variety of projects undertaken by the SPDC military. These projects include cultivation of rice and other food crops, cash crops such as rubber, shrimp farms, kilns for producing bricks and logging activities. These projects are often promoted in the media as "local income generating projects", but all proceeds go the military. In forest areas, villagers are also regularly ordered to cut and haul prime quality hardwood logs to local military camps or sawmills, where other villagers or sawmill owners are then forced to cut the logs into timber without compensation. The timber then disappeared into market with all profit going to local military officers, while orders are issued forbidding the villagers to cut any trees for the own use. Also many military officers nationwide have also established brick-baking kilns at battalion camps. The villagers are forced to cut and deliver all the wood required to bake the bricks, while the rank-and-file soldiers are forced to bake bricks for eight to ten hours a day in addition to their normal military duties. The officers then sell the bricks on the market for their own benefit and pay no compensation to anyone.

1.5 Infrastructure Development and Maintenance

Civilians are used in the infrastructure and "development" projects such as construction and maintenance of the roads, railways, bridges, airports, hydroelectric schemes and tourist-oriented places. The SPDC has claimed that the infrastructure projects in the remote regions are part of its Border Areas Development Program and that will improve access to markets, schools, and health care. However, there has been little indication that road construction has facilitated social development, and the existing schools and hospitals in the region remain woefully understaffed and under-equipped. The SPDC frequently claims these projects are being undertaken for the villagers' benefit, admonishing villagers to uphold their responsibilities to their district and the nation by participating in them. In fact, as these infrastructure projects are implemented almost entirely with forced labor, rather than improving their living conditions, they cause greater hardship for local people. People might have to travel considerable distances to work sites, particularly for more extensive projects requiring large numbers of laborers. Civilians had to work several hours to reach a work site. When a village, household or individual is required to complete a given amount of work, people are not able to leave until that work is completed. Often a time period is specified within which the work has to be completed. If the work is not completed to the satisfaction of the soldiers supervising the work, that village, household or individual would not be allowed to return home, and those involved might be beaten or otherwise punished. People always have to bring their own food and necessary tools. If they become sick, they are not treated, and usually have to pay a fine or arrange a replacement to enable them to return to their village to seek medicine attention.

1.6 Prison Labor

After the military coup in 1988, the number of prisoners has drastically increased. Before 1988, there were approximately 40,000 prisoners in Burmese prisons. After 1988, the number rose to about 60,000 with an additional 20,000 in labor camps for a total of 80,000. Of the entire prison population, over 2,500 are political prisoners. There are 36 prisons in Burma and over 20 of them detain political prisoners. In all prisons, numerous violations of human dignity and brutal harassment occur. However, the worst situation for laborers is in labor camps and military bases where prisoners are forced to work.

Prison labor camps have been established all over Burma, particularly in the ethnic nationality areas. Convicts are regularly used for unpaid labor as porters, on major infrastructure projects and at rock quarries. They included both criminal convicts and political prisoners. Convicts doing forced labor are generally treated much more brutally than ordinary civilians are routinely used in very dangerous or inhuman work, such as blowing up rock faces, digging at cliff-sites, plowing fields in the place of animals and carrying loads far too heavy in the front lines. Uncountable, but high numbers of prison laborers have died from the dangerous work conditions, physical abuse, lack of food and medical care, and overwork. The SPDC authorities have thanked prison departments for this participation in so-called national projects.

Prison labor is not new to Burma, and it has been with prison labor that numerous infrastructure and tourism projects have been built. Today more and more prisoners are being used on infrastructure and tourism projects, being treated little better than animals. However, this has not reduced the demands for forced labor placed on the civilian population; instead, forced labor is on the rise throughout rural Burma. The SPDC has simply expanded its forced labor pool to include more convicts along with the civilians. This allows the regime to extend its control by implementing more and bigger infrastructure projects, and to support its ever-expanding Army.

Prison Labor Camps

According to AAPP, there are over 21 labor camps, such as: Kabaw valley (Western Burma), Taungzun/ Motplin Quarry (Mon state), Tuntay camp (near Rangoon), and Bokpyin camp (Tenasserim Division).

Prison Labor Camps in Arakan State

The SPDC has established several labor camps in Arakan, where the convicts or prisoners are subjected to too heavy and exhaustive work. They are routinely tortured and beaten by prison police and officers. Among the prison labor camps, the followings have notoriety.

- 1) Leyant Tanug prison labor camp, situated on the Lemro riverbank in Mrauk U township.
- 2) Kyigan Bin (Kawarbil) prison labor camp, 5 miles north of Maungdaw town.
- 3) Thabra prison labor camp, in Pauktaw township.
- 4) Taung Gri prison labor camp, in Buthidaung township.
- 5) Nantat Island prison labor camp, in south Pauktaw township.
- 6) Ann prison labor camp situated between Ann and Roma Mountain Pass in Ann township.
- 7) Sinedin prison labor camp, about 10 miles southeast of Buthidaung town.
- 8) Zaghine prison labor camp, in Rathedaung township.

Recently, two largest notorious Sinedin and Zaghine prison labor camps were closed down by the authorities due to exposure of killing, criminal atrocities and torture done in them. More than 1000 prisoners or convicts worked in each camp.

Prisoners are kept on chains. Some of the prisoners are chained-up with four to five chains. The prison authorities treat them as animals and they do not allow anyone to visit them. Food, essential items or presents carried by visitors are taken up by the prison police for their own use. In 2000, the prisoners in the prison labor camps of Thabra, Nantat Island, and Leyant Taung have been engaged in extra slave labor, in addition to their routine works in brickfields and shrimp projects for the monetary benefit of the prisons authorities. Particularly, the prisoners of Leyant Taung are engaged in working the rock quarries. Although the Western Command ordered that 10 prisoners be used to dive into the water to carry out large pieces of rock, the prison authorities force only 4 prisoners to do the same dangerous job. This way the prison authorities are able to exploit an extra 6 prisoners for other work. These large rocks are sold to government contractors who use them in constructing the Akyab-Kyauktaw-Mrauk-U- Min Bya motor road. The prisoners are gradually exterminated. The prisoners are also forced to cut and carry firewood for the personal brickfields of the prison authorities. The prison authorities are getting richer through the slave labor of the prisoners. Everyday the prisoners receive injuries in the course of forced labor, yet they receive no proper treatment and sometimes no treatment at all. The prisoners subjected to this slave labor suffer from over work, torture, beatings, malnutrition and other deficiency diseases, and have become "walking skeletons." Many die daily. There are also numerous incidents of prisoners who are killed under the accusation of attempting to flee. (Source: ARNO)

Prison Labor Camps in Central Burma

There were some work camps in central Burma, which demanded prisoners to work there. Those camps were under the prison department.

1. Taw Pone Gyi work camp. Railroad construction site between Gan Gaw- Pahukku. At Taw Pone Gyi camp, prisoners had to dig and crush stones. Escaped prison laborers interviewed by FTUB reported that if 200 prisoners were sent there, only 50 would be returned and the rest would die there because of hard work.
2. Five Pagodas stone crushing work camp: Near Thar Se, prisoners had to crush stones for Thar Se-Taunggyi road.
3. Kabaw valley development work camp: Rice plantation camp in Sagaing Division. Also there was a rail road construction, Kale-Gan Gaw-Pahukku. Rice plantation duty was very hard because, prisoners had to prepare rice fields with hoes, (without using machines or bullocks). A prisoner from Pahukku who was once there explained that Kabaw work camp was the worst and in 1997, 100 prisoners from Pahukku were sent there and only 8 prisoners arrived alive. He said he was alive because he grew and sold flowers for prison officers. Prisoners who work at rice fields died within a 6 month period. (Source: FTUB)

Reported Incidents of Prison Labor

On March 25 2000, 3 Muslim prisoners 1) Moulvi Hafiz Sayeed, age 25, 2) Maung Nyo, age 26, and 3) Tin Twe, age 35 died of exhaustion doing hard labor. They had been imprisoned in a jail near Pinneygon village, Kawkereik township, Karen State and had been used in the place of animals to plow land belonging to the jail authorities. The 2 previous days, a total of 9 other prisoners (names unknown) had also died in the same prison labor site. (Source: MICB)

In November 2000 SPDC Field Engineering Battalion No. 918 surveyed a part of Bongti-Tavoy highway in the eastern Tavoy area between Myitta and Aingwaing, Tenasserim Division and made a plan to lay stone over the road. To accomplish the project, the Engineering Battalion reported to the commander of the Operation Commanding HQ No. 2 that they needed workers for the road construction. On November 24, the commander of OC HQ NO.2 ordered that 140 prisoners from Theyetchaung township be sent to the camp of Field Engineering Battalion No. 918.

More than 300 prisoners were then forced to work daily, breaking stone at the construction site. They had to work from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, were fed very poorly and had only the clothing on their bodies and old thin blankets to protect them from the cold night weather. They were made to sleep on the ground in groups without roofing. (Source: TIR)

In late 2000, 200 convicts in 8 ten-wheelers were dispatched to Mongton Township to build roads along with 5 macros (tractors and bulldozers), following expansion of Wa troops to areas west of Mongton-BP1 highway. Construction had begun in November 2000 and was expected to continue to Mongtaw-Monghta area in the west during the dry season, (November-April.) Many convicts working along the road are not only those punished for drug addictions but also for desertions, according to local people in Mongton. (Source: S.H.A.N.)

‘Won Saung’ or Military Porter Recruitment Camps

Formerly, the prisoners were taken out of the prisons and handed directly to the Army units, but since 1996 the SLORC/SPDC has created the ‘Won Saung’ to formalize and institutionalize this process. Sometimes translated into English as ‘porter battalions’ or ‘service camps’, ‘Won Saung’ actually translates more closely as ‘carrying service’. The Won Saung come under the Prison Authority and function as holding centers for the convicts before they are taken to porter at the frontline by the Army. The prisoners are drawn from various prisons around Burma, and according to their testimonies it appears that there are quotas which each prison must provide to the Won Saung camps on a regular basis. To fill these quotas the prison authorities lie to the prisoners, telling them that their sentences will be reduced or that they will be released after a short shift of portering, and if this is not enough they even send elderly and disabled prisoners, those under treatment in the prison hospital, and those whose sentences are about to end. The convicts are usually given loads much heavier than what civilian porters are forced to carry; sometimes the loads are so heavy that they cannot get to their feet without help from the soldiers. While carrying for the Army, the porters are constantly subjected to verbal and physical abuse from the soldiers when they have difficulty carrying their loads. Porters who fall out of line from exhaustion are beaten and kicked until they rejoin the column. When porters just cannot continue, they are left behind and sometimes kicked down the mountainside to an almost certain death. The straps from the baskets cut into the porters’ shoulders and backs and result in painful wounds.

Despite their requests for medicine, the porters are never given any, even when they have seen the medics treating the soldiers. Food generally consists of a starvation diet of rice and fish paste, while the soldiers eat dried shrimp, chicken and vegetables. The food and belongings which soldiers loot from villages are thrown on top of the porters’ loads, as are the soldiers’ personal packs and boots. In many cases civilian porters are taken along with the convict porters. The porters are forced to walk between the soldiers, partly to prevent them running away and partly in the hope that resistance groups won’t ambush the column

if they see civilians. Contrary to claims made internationally by the SPDC, the use of convict porters on operations and at the frontline camps in no way lessens the forced labor burden of the villagers. Rather than being seen as an alternative to civilian forced labor, the use of convicts for portering and other forced labor in Burma should be seen for what it is: an additional, unnecessary, and particularly brutal form of human rights abuse. (Source: KHRG)

The three won saung camps known to the AAPP are located in the southeastern military regional command: in Hpa-an, capital of the Karen State; Myaine Ka lay township, Karen State; and Loikaw, capital of Karenni State.

Reported Instances of Prisoner Porters

During the period of May 18-20, 2000, about 200 prisoners from Mandalay were sent directly to Myaing Kalay Service Camp (2), located opposite of Pa-an, Karen state. Prisoners from Yamethin, Pahukku and Myingyan were gathered at Meikhtila and then sent to Service Camp (2).

Before going, the prison authorities set cuffs and steel bars on legs of all prisoners who were going to Service Camp (2). Each army truck transported Twenty five to thirty prisoners. There were six armed soldiers who guarded the prisoners in each truck. The trucks were covered not to be seen from outside. The journey was around 18 hours. Meals were issued with plastic bags on trucks. The prisoners were not allowed to go outside the cars. When they wanted toilet, they used plastic bags issued for food in the trucks. Some prisoners used their prison shirt for toilet purpose. On the truck, water was distributed only three times with army water can for all 25 prisoners.

When they arrived Service Camp (2), they were divided into two groups and each group was sent into a building made of wood and were locked. Food provided there was bean soup, salt and rice. They had to stay there for 2 days. There were about 30 prisoners already at Service Camp (2) and they worked for the Cement Factory in Myaing Galay.

At last, rivets from their legs were removed and then sent to respective battalions. The persons interviewed by FTUB served for LIB 202 and IB 81. Both battalions were under division 22. The army personnel and the prisoners went together to Hlaing Bwe. Then, the prisoner porters started carry loads and walked to Mae La Po Hta area where the IB 81 burnt down several villages two years ago.

The soldiers separated by companies and then marched. Each company had around 10-25 porters. There were some villager porters including women together with them. However, when their group reached a village, villager porters were released and then changed with new villagers from that village.

On the second day of the trip, the soldiers from IB 81 were ambushed and 12 soldiers including a major and a warrant officer were killed. The interviewees heard that 4 porters were killed also. However, porters were ordered not to look the wounded so they did not know villager porters or prisoner porters were killed. Prisoners who went with the LIB 202 said the column burnt down a small village on the second day.

On the way, prisoners were given bean soup and a small amount of rice two times a day. Water was not provided but when the group crossed a stream, porters were allowed to drink water. Soldiers ate chicken and other canned food. When the group reached a village,

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soldiers stole chicken from villagers and let the porters cook. But the curry was not given to porters. Villagers said nothing to soldiers or to porters. They sat silently and looked at the soldiers.

On the way, when porters could not carry, they were beaten with rifle butts. The porters had to carry more loads as soldiers put their equipment and food. So, most of the porters left their blankets, plates and spare clothes on the way.

The interviewee (B) described the death of a porter, " *We were with the company number 4 of the LIB 202. In the evening of the second day, Nandar Min Htet 19 years old from Seik Pyu township, Magwe division who was jailed for theft case and trying to escape from cell case, became very exhausted. At that time, we started climbing hills. Soldiers beat him and scolded to continue to carry the loads. He could not stand any more. Then the soldiers beat him severely with rifle butts and when he could not move, he was thrown to the bottom of a hill.*"

The interviewee (C) also explained that while climbing the Kalamar mountain, a Muslim called Kheamar (about 35 years old) from Mandalay prison, (native of Letpan village, Kyaukse township, Mandalay division) who carried a 81 mm mortar barrel and 10 mortar shells could not carry anymore and begged to have a rest. But he was also beaten to death.

The soldiers were quite young but rude. On the other hand, porters witnessed that a young soldier from LIB (202) cried on the way because of heavy equipment and tough journey and he disappeared at a village. The army sent some soldiers to search for him and he was seen sleeping under a tree along the path. The officer of his unit gave him some candies and told him to continue, and warned that Karen guerrillas would cut his throat if he were seen alone.

On the third day, the group reached a big village, there, left some ammunitions and supplies at a monastery of the village. The monks were not friendly to soldiers but soldiers did not care and dug the ground and laid ammunitions in the compound.

Porters went with IB (81) said on the third day, the column met an old man and two children (about 5 and 6 years old) working at the rice farm. The soldiers ordered the old man and forced him to serve as a porter. The old man pointed the children and explained something in Karen language. Then the soldiers pointed guns to his head and then he agreed to carry a basket.

On the fourth day, the group reached an army camp on a hill. It was the end of the trip. The prisoners had been told from the beginning of the trip that they would be released when the journey was finished. However, the new orders were given to prisoners to dig the ground for bunkers and ditches, to cut bamboo and trees, to build buildings and to make fences. That camp was preparing for the Strategic Commander's HQ of the division (22). Interviewees (D), (E) and (F) said the porters were taken to an hour walk where there were some rice barns. Those porters were ordered to take un-husked rice from rice barns to the camp. Soldiers said that rice was donated to the army by villagers. However, porters thought the soldiers stole rice from villagers.

The soldiers said that the porters would be released when their frontline duties was due. The porters explained that the work was also heavy and no proper treatment for the porters. Many porters had wounds on shoulders and waists but when they asked soldiers for treatment, soldiers said no medicines for convicts. In actual fact, there were medicines, and

porters seen that soldiers were given two tablets every day (porters guessed the tablets would be anti-malaria). Food provided was the worst the prisoners had ever had. A cup of boiled rice was given two times a day.

The SPDC soldiers informed prisoners that there were plenty of landmines planted along that area and warned there was no way to survive if the prisoners tried to escape. Moreover, Karen guerrillas were around there and if they catch prisoners, they would be executed by getting their throats cut with a piece of sharpened bamboo.

The prisoners' wounds were getting worse. All of them were physically weak and realized that they would die if they continue to stay in that camp. Firstly, ex-soldier prisoners who deserted from the service managed to escape. Then the interviewees also looked ways to escape and at last they separately managed to escape and reached a village. The villagers handed to the KNU and a KNLA officer gave treatment, food and protection to them. (Source: FTUB)

On June 15, 2000, SPDC authorities sent 350 prisoners from Insein jail to Shwe Gwan Porter-recruiting camp, in Pa-an district of Karen state. These prisoners are being used as porters in the front lines by regional army Battalions No. 210 and No.202. According to a porter, U Twe Han from Rangoon, who escaped with three others to the Thai-Burma border, two porters from his 8 man-group were killed in the mine explosion and the other three were shot dead when re-arrested by the SPDC soldiers. U Twe Han said that SPDC authorities arrested him in Rangoon on January, 2, 2000 when he was returning home from cinema and was sentenced to three years imprisonment for the so-called involvement in anti-SPDC activities, but he said that he did not know any anti-SPDC party. (Source: MICB)

On June 26 2000, 3 prisoner porters died of exhaustion at the foot of Daw Na Mt., in the front lines in Karen State. The 3 porters were among the 400 prisoners who had been brought from Myingyin Prison to the Myaing Kalay porter recruiting camp near Myawaddy, and the dozen porters which had been taken by IB 339 from the camp to the front lines. The porters were: Win Myint, age 30 from Katha City, U Yusoof, age 20 from Htee Gyaik, and Khin Win, age 26 from Monywa. (Source: MICB)

As of July 17, 2000, 700 prisoners had been recruited to the Myaing Kalay porter-recruiting camp in Pa-an district of Karen state. Among them, 200 prisoners from Mandalay jail, 300 from Pakokku jail and 200 from Sagaing jail. The porters are being used in the front lines by Captain Aung Kyaw Moe of Battalion No.81 and Major Myo Nyunt of Battalion No. 85. Both Battalions are under Brigade No.22. According to an escapee, U Tha Tun (24 years) from Pyinmana, 15 porters were killed in the mine-explosion and seven porters died of ill-treatments, malnutrition and other diseases during his stay in the front lines. (Source: MICB)

On July 26 2000, U Tun Than, age 40 and U Nyunt Maung, age 45 were shot dead by Sgt. Win Maung of LIB 204 after he accused them of trying to flee their porter duty. The 2 Muslim men had been brought to the Myaing Kalay porter recruiting camp from O Bo Prison in Mandalay and then had been forced to serve as porters for LIB 204. The 2 men had lived near Juan Mosque in Mandalay. (Source: MICB)

On August 20, 2000, the ruling SPDC authorities sent 250 prisoners as porters to the front lines of Karen state. The prisoners were from Yin Kyin porter-recruiting camps in Apong township, Mon state of Burma. According to a Mon prisoner-porter, some of the porters

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were distributed to brigade No.66 in Bilin township and some were to Brigade No. 44 in Pa-an township through Major Zaw Tun. (Source: MICB)

1.7 Death of Forced Laborers

Due to the severe conditions under which people are forced to labor in Burma, there were several reported incidents of death that resulted either as a direct result of the labor conditions, or from military brutality during the forced labor duty.

Between January 15 and February 25, Nine villagers died from the heavy work load and lack of food while being forced to labor at Taung Kalay, a place between Pa-an and Hlaing-Bwe townships, Karen State. The 9 villagers were among thousands being forced by IB 22 to build a jail at Taung Kalay. The following were the laborers who died:

Name	Age	Home Town	Date of death
Ayab	22	Kawkereik, Pa-an District, Karen State	Jan 15, 2000
Maung Maung	30	Moulmein, Mon State	Jan 15, 2000
Tu Tu Moe	35	Kaw Yint, Pa-an District, Karen State	Jan 18, 2000
Myint Khaing	26	Thayagon, Pa-an District, Karen State	Jan 18, 2000
Saw Myint Khaing	29	Nabu, Hliang-Bwe Township, Karen State	Jan 18, 2000
U Har Tin	38	Kyauk Taung, Hliang-Bwe Township, Karen State	Jan 18, 2000
U Ar Zi Gyee	40	Bilin, Bilin Township, Mon State	Feb 21, 2000
Ya Nau Lay	23	Thaton, Thaton District, Karen State	Feb 21, 2000
Mon Soe Min	31	Kaw Yint, Pa-an Township	Feb 25, 2000

(Source: MICB)

On January 22, 2000, a patrol of 50-60 SPDC troops from IB246, led by Capt. Aung Moe, traveling with 14 civilian porters, came to a rice farm at Nawng Hai, about 3 miles from Kun-Hing town, where a man and his 2 children were threshing rice. The villagers arrested the villagers, tied them up and eventually killed all three of them. During the incident, one of the civilian porters, Zaai Wi-La-Sa, a nephew of the victim, saw what was happening to his uncle and his family, and tried to intervene by begging the SPDC captain not to kill them. Capt. Aung Moe, however, hit the porter hard on the head with his pistol, making his head bleed and rendering him unconscious for about 30 minutes. After about 3 hours, Zaai Wi-La-Sa was fully conscious again and after about 4 hours, he was forced to continue carrying his load. When Zaai Wi-La-Sa was released and came back home, he was so shocked and mentally disturbed he could not talk sensibly with other villagers and died 20 days later. (Source: SHRF)

On January 27, 2000, Capt. Aye Thauang, commander of Co.3 of LIB520 of the SPDC, shot dead Sai Ku (m), aged 35, in the jungle in Murng-Pan township. The victim had been seized in the center of Murng-Pan town on January 24, 2000 by a column of about 60 SPDC troops, accompanied by 15 civilian porters, to be used as a guide. The porters were released after the troops returned to Murng-Pan town. (Source: SHRF)

In early February 2000, SPDC troops from LIB330 shot dead 3 Palaung villagers in Wan Pek village, Murng Lung tract, Murng-Sart township. The villagers were shot after a column of about 60 SPDC troops came to the village on January 30, 2000 and conscripted the 3 to serve as guides in their search for SSA-E soldiers. When the search proved unsuccessful the victims were accused of keeping information from the troops and misleading them. They were shot in front of the other villagers from Wan Pek. (Source: SHRF)

On March 12 2000, Daw Nhin Mya, age 48, the wife of U Tun Aung Kyaw, died of exhaustion and weakness while serving as a forced laborer at a work site in Kyauk Taw township, Arakan State under the control of IB 374 led by Major Zaw Khaing. The woman was from Kabu village, Kyauk Taw township, and had not been able to afford any medical treatment. (Source: MICB)

On March 25 2000, 3 Muslim prisoners 1) Moulvi Hafiz Sayeed, age 25, 2) Maung Nyo, age 26, and 3) Tin Twe, age 35 died of exhaustion doing hard labor. They had been imprisoned in a jail near Pinneygon village, Kawkereik township, Karen State and had been used in the place of animals to plow land belonging to the jail authorities. The 2 previous days, a total of 9 other prisoners (names unknown) had also died in the same prison labor site. (Source: MICB)

In the first week of April 2000, during the time of the attack on the Mae Lah Po Hta refugee camp in by SPDC Battalions 7,8, 107 and 108, 2 Muslim porters, Mr. Habibullah and Mr. Hassan were shot dead as a warning to other porters not to attempt to flee. (Source: MICB)

On April, 11, 2000, five porters, two of them Muslims were killed when they were used as mine-sweepers while fighting took place between SPDC and KNU soldiers, on hill No. 6, near Shan Ywa Thit village in Hlaing Bwe township, Karen State. The deceased were (1) Hashim, age 30, from Kaw kata/ Thaya gong village and (2) Younus, age 22 from Zathabin/ Kaw Ri village. Both of the villages are in Hlaing Bwe township of Karen state. (Source: MICB)

Between April 27, 2000 to July 20, 2000, fourteen porters died of ill treatment, exhaustion and malnutrition under SPDC troops in Karen state of Burma. The porters were from among an estimated 400 prisoners of Mandalay jail and on April, 26, 2000, they were handed over to the porter-recruiting camps of Myaing Kalay, Hlaing Bwe township of Karen state. Myaing Kalay porter-recruiting camps are under the command of Light Infantry Battalion No.28. On June, 10, 2000, some SPDC soldiers forced two porters to eat amphetamine tablets and the two died of exhaustion. The soldiers of Light Infantry Battalion 81 under brigade 22 forced them to take the tablets in order to enable them to carry more heavy loads on the long journey. After five hours of portering, one of the porters died of exhaustion on the top of the mountain and another died after about six hours. The two porters were Ko San Win (28 years) and U Aye Oo Naing (31 years) of Myittila, Mandalay division. (Source: MICB)

In early May 2000, a column of about 80 SPDC troops of Company No.5 from LIB 514 led by Capt. Hla Myint conscripted 24 civilian porters for 51 days during which they killed at least 4 porters and wounded or killed many others while on patrol in the rural areas of Murng-Kerng township, Shan State. Most of the civilian porters were originally from Kung Yom village in Ham Ngaai tract, Murng-Kerng township, who had been forcibly relocated to a relocation site in the outskirts of Murng-Kerng town by the SLORC/SPDC troops a few years ago. After having to carry heavy loads for 37 days with inadequate rest and food, 4 of the porters became so weak that they had to stop at every 20-30 yards, but the troops thought they were just feigning and angrily beat them until they all died. A few days after that, 3-4 other porters who had become too weak to go on were also beaten and left lying along the way, without any care whether they were dead or not. Since they have not returned until the time of this report, they are presumably dead. Many other porters were also beaten along the way. On June 23, the rest of the porters were released after serving the military

for 51 days without pay or any other kind of compensation. As of July 2000, out of 24 civilian ports that had been conscripted, only 13 had returned home. (Source: SHRF)

From May 21 to 31 2000, at least 10 porters died while portering for LIB 206 led by Maj. Myo Myint Oo. The Battalion had conscripted 50 porters along the Papun-Bilin Highway, and according to a porter who escaped from this troop, the porters were made to carry such heavy loads that many were falling down from the weight, or from exhaustion and lack of adequate food. The porters who fell angered the soldiers, who then beat them. (Source: MICB)

On May 25 2000, eight porters who had been used as human mine sweepers and pushed in front of the troops died in fighting. They had been portering for IB 55, led by Capt. Nyunt Wei, under the control of Brigade 33 when fighting broke out with the KNU. The killed porters were: Thet Kaing Oo, age 28 from Rangoon, U Kala Gyi, age 40 from Moulmein, Sin Pyu, age 30 from Pegu, Kyaw Thet Oo, age 29 from Pegu, Min Naing Win, age 31 from Kyaik Kaw, U Yusoof, age 45, from Kya Ein Seik Kyi, U Ha Shin, age 30 from Rangoon, and Tun Than, age 33 from Bassein. (Source: MICB)

On May 25 2000, a group of SPDC troops from LIB 28 led by Lt. Hla Myint tied a primary school teacher to a tree and executed him by firing squad in the presence of dozens of porters in Karen state of Burma. According to a porter who escaped to the Thai border, the teacher U Myint Win Aung (40 years) criticized the ill treatment of SPDC soldiers during portering. The teacher who lived in No. 85/35 street, Mandalay had been arrested during 9-9-99 anti-SPDC activities with the allegation that he was involved in the activities and was put into Mandalay jail. He as one of the prisoners brought to the Karen State by the SPDC authorities. (Source: MICB)

In June 2000, troops from SPDC IB 8 ordered villagers to watch the gas pipeline in Thaton district, Karen State, day and night. On June 23, 2000, Ka-law-kher villager, Naw Mee 45, F, was knocked down and killed by a truck on the road while performing this duty. (Source: KIC)

On June 20 2000, 4 slave laborers were killed at a work site at Buthidaung Township according to a relative of a victim. It is reported that the Burmese army had engaged about 120 Rohingya Muslims from surrounding villages of Buthidaung township to construct barracks for newly established LIB-566 Regiment. On the fateful day, 4 Rohingya forced laborers namely Ezhar Meah son of Sayed Ahmad 52 years, Kalu son of Basa Meah 48 years, Mahbub Karim son of Mohammed Akbar, 50 years and Mohammad Nasim son of Sayed Omar 47, fell down from the mountain top while they were carrying timber under the heavy rain. The commander supervising the construction did not allow rescuing the victims and instead shouted at the laborers to continue their work. Due to flash flood conditions, the people could not trace the body and the victims died. (Source: RSO)

On June 21, 2000 at about 16:45 hours, troops from SPDC LIB 208 shot to death a woman who had been forced to serve as their guide in Kler-kyo-kaw-hti, near Saw-kho village, Toun-goo District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On June 25, 2000, No. 10 unit of Command Area No. 4 of Na Sa Ka (Border Security forces) ruthlessly rounded up 50 villagers from Dumbai village, northern Maungdaw Township, Arakan State for use as slave laborers. 3 Burmese soldiers of Kying Chaung village out-post, while taking away the 50 Rohingya slave laborers by boat, mercilessly

beat and abused the laborers on the way and at one stage bayoneted Rashid Alam, age 23, the son of Abdul Mubin, of Dumbai village. The victim fell into the creek but the SPDC forces prevented the others from rescuing him and he later died as a result of the injury. (Source: RSO)

On June 26 2000, 3 prisoner porters died of exhaustion at the foot of Daw Na Mt. , in the front lines in Karen State. The 3 porters were among the 400 prisoners who had been brought from Myingyin Prison to the Myaing Kalay porter recruiting camp near Myawaddy, and the dozen porters which had been taken by IB 339 from the camp to the front lines. The porters were: Win Myint, age 30 from Katha City, U Yusoof, age 20 from Htee Gyaik, and Khin Win, age 26 from Monywa. (Source: MICB)

On July 14, when troops from LIB No. 703 move from Three Pagoda Pass area to Apalon village along the motor road, the soldiers also arrested two women and one men who they met on the road near Tadein village. These women and men were working in their farms and raising their cows, they were 2 Karen women: Naw Phar Tu Klaing (age 31), Naw Swe Nyunt (age 30) and a Mon man, Nai Ah Maung (age 34). The soldiers brought them as porters and made them carry food supplies that they had looted from other villages. That evening, the group was ambushed by KNLA troops, and the soldiers pushed the porters to the front. Naw Phar Tu Klaing was shot, but after the fighting ceases, the soldiers did not take her on to the village, but left her behind. She died that night. (Source: HURFOM)

On July 26 2000, U Tun Than, age 40 and U Nyunt Maung, age 45 were shot dead by Sgt. Win Maung of LIB 204 after he accused them of trying to flee their porter duty. The 2 Muslim men had been brought to the Myaing Kalay porter recruiting camp from O Bo Prison in Mandalay and then had been forced to serve as porters for LIB 204. The 2 men had lived near Juan Mosque in Mandalay. (Source: MICB)

On July 27 2000, U Ya Sin, age 41, Ko Min Aung, age 28, and U Ahamed, age 34 were shot dead by soldiers from LIB 28, under Brigade 22 based in Hliang Bwe Township. The 3 Muslim men had been brought to Myaing Kalay porter-recruiting camp on April 15 2000, from Mandalay Prison and had been serving as porters for 3 continuous months when they were shot for becoming too weak to carry their heavy loads. (Source: MICB)

On July 28 2000, U Khin Tun, age 40 and U Than Oo, age 36 were shot dead by troops from IB 339 during their service a prisoner porters. They had been brought to the Myaing Kalay porter recruiting camp from Insein Prison, and were shot after being accused of attempting to flee. (Source: MICB)

Since at the beginning of 2000 until now (reported in August 2000) , the SPDC has been conducting operations against the MDUF (Maik - Davoy United Front) and ABSDF, which moves around in Tenasserim, Pu-Law, and Maik Townships, Tenasserim Division. The SPDC has captured many porters during this time. In addition to porter duties, the porters are used by the SPDC troops as human mine sweepers. If porters don't do as they are ordered, they are killed. Three Tavoyan porters, U Tun Kyi, 55 years, Ko Aung Tan, 28 years, and Ko Win Than, 20 years, were killed in this way. They were killed because they weren't able to carry the food supplies and equipment as the troops had ordered. The SPDC troops are killing many porters in other places in a similar manner. (Source: THRF)

On August 16, 2000, about 320 Rohingya were seized to provide forced labor at the army battalion No. 264, under Western Area Command No. 9. The battalion was established near the village of Khinsama Palaydaung, 3 miles north of Buthidaung. One of the forced laborers named Moktul Hussain son of Ali Akbar, 47, of the same village of Khinsama Palaydaung felt sick with high fever as a result of hard work. While he was taking rest under a tree an armed guard came and struck at his neck with a stick. As a result, the victim felt unconscious with his arteries cut off and died on the way to Buthidaung General Hospital. But without formal examination the doctor of the hospital, under the influence of the administration, declared that the victim had died of malaria. (Source: ARNO)

On October 16, 2000, a patrol of about 30 SPDC troops from Kun-Hing-based LIB524, led by Capt. Win Maung, conscripted 18 civilian porters, including young and old men, from villages in Kaeng Tawng area in Murng-Nai township and forced them to carry their things as they patrolled the area. 2 of the porters who were quite old became too weak and tired to continue carrying the load, which was 20 viss for each (about 35 kilos). They could not go any further and could not speak properly. Thinking that they were pretending, the troops beat and kicked both of them, causing them to fall down on the ground. Since the 2 men could not get up, some of the soldiers took away the load and told them to stand up. When they could not do that, some troops pulled them up by the hands and told them to walk along with the patrol. The 2 old men, however, were too weak and were so badly kicked and beaten up by the troops earlier that they were unable even to walk slowly on. The commander of the troops then became very angry and said that the 2 men were defying orders and did not want to even walk slowly without having to carry anything and ordered his troops to shoot them. The 2 porters were shot dead and left on the road. They were Lung Nyaa, aged 61, from Kun Kawk village, and Lung Saw-Na, aged 57, from Kun Kawk village. The remaining 16 porters had to continue until they reached the base of LIB524 in Kung-Hing township where they were released. (Source: SHRF)

On November 4, 2000, about 45 SPDC troops from Pang-Long-based Company No. 5 of LIB513, led by commander Hla Thaung, gang-raped 2 women and shot dead 6 civilian porters at a remote rice farm in Loi-Lem township. All the 45 troops or so raped the women. When the civilian porters saw the conditions of the women, one of them murmured in Shan to the other about how cruel the SPDC soldiers were towards the Shan women and that he would take his wife and children and flee when they had grown old enough. One of the SPDC troops, who understood Shan, overheard this and reported it to their commander who immediately called the porter over to him and shot him dead. After a while, the troops took their things from the porters and shot all of them dead. Before leaving the farm, the troops told the 2 women that all the porters they had just killed were rebels who deserved death, and that the women should leave the farm as soon as they could. (Source: SHRF)

On November 6, 2000, Battalion commander Aung Htun of SPDC LIB (104) forced a sick villager, Saw Pah Boe of Twe-thee-eu village, Pa-pun District, Karen State, to carry rice sacks. He later died from exhaustion. (Source: KIC)

1.8 Situation of forced labor in Arakan State

On July 16, 2000, the authorities called a meeting at the Maungdaw township PDC office. It was attended by all village PDC chairmen and secretaries of Maungdaw township. The authorities discussed the forced labor and portering situation in Arakan, and then forced the participants to sign a written document stating that forced labor and portering are not extracted from the Muslims and that Muslims are paid due wages for the labor they have provided. The following day, that is on 7/7/200, when the authorities again asked the villagers for forced labor, the villagers did not comply with the order whereupon, all the village chairmen and secretaries under Maungdaw township, were called to Maungdaw PDC office and were mercilessly beaten. The authorities asked them, " why did not you all flee to Bangladesh although we forced you many times to do so?" This is why we beat you all'. On that day a big notice board was erected in front of the Maungdaw PDC office by township PDC officer Capt. Hla Pu. It has been stated on the board that, 'All the rural & urban Muslims inhabitants are not bound to provide forced labor and portering. Due wages would be paid to anyone who provide labor.' (Source: ARNO)

Infrastructure and Development Projects

Attwang Ngathe to PalayTaung Road, Arakan State

On May 9 2000, the Commander of the Dabru Chaung Brigade No. 6 of Buthidaung, Brigadier Soe Naing Tut, in a meeting with the Chairman and secretaries of the Village PDC, explained that more roads would be built in North Arakan for military and communication purposes, with the (so-called) contribution of the people. He ordered the following villagers to build an 8 mile long road, with their labor and money, linking Attwang Ngathe village with Palay Taung Regiment 264. The order further stipulated that the road be completed by 2001. The villages were: (1) Kyithama Palaytaung Rwa (2) San Yin Way Rwa (3) Kwandine Rwa (4) Nanragun Rwa (5) Tharakamanu Rwa (6) Dabru Chaung Rwa (7) U Hla Pe Rwa (8) Rwa Ngyotaung Rwa (9) Attwan Ngatthe Rwa and (10) Kindaung Rwa. (Rwa means village) (Source: ARNO)

Buthidaung Highway, Arakan State

The UNHCR stationed in Arakan has approved an amount of kyat 20 million for the enlargement and metal carpeting work of Buthidaung highway up to the jetty. However the chief of MI 18, Maj. Win Myint, who is supervising the project, used the local Rohingya as forced laborers to carry out the project without paying any money. Hundreds of Rohingya belonging to Nanragone, Maunggyitaung, Alaygyaung and Seinyaung Wai village tracts have been to forced labor daily and are forced to put signatures on blank papers stating receipt of money. In this way the army major and his associates are misappropriating the money of the poor Rohingya. (Source: ARNO)

Dabru Chaung Army Camp Road

A road 1.6 km long, linking the main street in Dabru Chaung with the Dabru Chaung army camp, was built with the forced labor exacted from seven villages namely: U Hla Pe, Thak Manu, Nara Goon, Sin Yant Way, Rwat Nyu Taung, Kyin Daung and Dabru Chaung. The road was completed by November 4, 2000 as scheduled. But, on November 6, 2000, about 250 armed forces that included captains, colonels, and even Brig. Gen. Ohn Tin suddenly appeared at a construction site of the said road, while holding hoes, brand hoes and baskets,

and then videoed for TV programme in an effort or pretension to show the world that the SPDC soldiers were volunteering in construction works in development projects. (Source: ARNO)

Muslim Villagers forced to build new 'model village'

On April 4, 2000, the Rathedaung Township PDC has ordered the Rohingya villagers to build without paying 258 more houses

for new Burman Buddhist settlers being invited from Burma proper as follows:

- (1) Upper Lay Rwa — 33 houses
- (2) KyaukpaRwa — 60 houses
- (3) Sangana Rwa — 54 houses
- (4) Sabodu Rwa — 55 houses
- (5) Shan Rwa — 56 houses

The Rohingya have to provide 3 acres of arable land to each household of the above settlers. (Source: ARNO)

Following an order on April 10, 2000, given by the district chairman of the Maungdaw PDC, northern Arakan State that 65 acres of farmland from Quzirbal, Kaindapara and Hitalia villages was to be confiscated to make room for new model villages, the authorities conscripted forced labor from the evicted Muslim villagers. Approximately 200 villagers from nearby Muslim villagers were conscripted to build the model villages. (Source: RSO)

On October 30 2000, military authorities issued an order requiring nine villages in Buthidaung township to build 25 houses for a new "model village" for Burman settlers who were relocated from Burma proper to Arakan State. The village was established near a Rohingya village called "Pya Bin" by the military authorities. The villagers from the 9 villages had to cut the wooden pillars, bamboo and other house-building materials from the forest, and complete the project by November 10, 2000. The military threatened non-compliance with punishment. The nine villages that were ordered to build 25 houses for the new Burman settlers are: U Hla Pe 2.houses, Rwat Nyu Tang 3 houses, Khyin Daung 3 houses, Nara Goon 3 houses, Thank Manu 3 houses, Sinyant Way 3 houses, Atwen Chang 4 houses, Dabru Chaung 2 houses, Sein Khine 2 houses — total 25 houses. (Source: ARNO)

Forced Labor for the army

Demand for firewood for army brick factory in Minpya Township

In Minpya township, military units such as 379, 380 and 541, have been stationed in the area since 1990 (in 1988 there was only 40 soldiers stationed). These Burmese army regiments have been consistently demanding firewood from the villagers for baking bricks for military funds. Six times a year, each family from the 260 villages in the 64 village groups in Minpya town has to send 100 pieces of firewood (length 2 half-yard and 3 spans rounded) to the army. Due to this, there is vast deforestation around the region of Minpya township, especially the 4 mile-long kyatsin mountain range between Minpya town and

Myepon town, the 8 mile-long Taung Saing Kam mountain range, the 8 mile-long Taw Tan mountain range and the 15-mile-long Hpungta Chaung mountain range. The villagers who live around these mountain ranges must walk at least four hours to get to the forest for firewood. If they have to continue to serve the Burmese army in this way, the villagers will later have to use hay, bull shit and dried grass instead of firewood. (Source: Mizzima News Group)

Appeal for relief of forced labor for army in Minbya Township

In the beginning of the year 2000, some people belonging to Minbya township of Arakan state sent an appeal secretly to the regional military command headquarters at Akyab (Sittwe), capital of Arakan state, to relieve them from the harsh forced labor duties. The appeal stated that Army regiment No. 379, 380 and 541 stationed at Minbya township have engaged forced laborers for digging latrines, road construction, agricultural farming, construction of sheds for army personnel and forced to provide wood, thatch and other household equipment. Persons who are said to have not fulfilled the duty had been inhumanly beaten and penalized by the military personnel of the said regiments. The appeal further stated that many people got sick as a result of severe conditions under which the forced laborers have to work. However, there has been no response from the commander and employing forced laborers every week is in continuation. (Source: ARNO)

Forced Labor for Army, Buthidaung Township

The officers of the armed forces are establishing various business projects in Arakan for their own monetary interest, such as brickfields, rice farms, paddy, fishponds and poultry farms. The local people have to provide forced labor, required lands, seeds, and firewood for brickfields. Almost all the farmlands belonging to Rohingya around the army camps have been confiscated. In addition, the Rohingya villagers are forced to provide the military cash money and fowls for the poultry farms. In mid-2000 Military intelligence No. 18 ordered all the Rohingya villages in Western Area Command No. 9 of Buthidaung township to supply them 20 hens and 5 cocks per village ward and established a large poultry farm at Taung Bazaar, 12 miles north of Buthidaung town. The poultry farm has been maintained entirely with the forced labor and so-called monetary contribution of the local Rohingya. (Source: ARNO)

Labor for military prawn breeding farm in Patin Kyun

In mid 2000, Taungkok-based IB 544 and 346 forced the villagers of Nat Maw and Kalain Pyin to dig ponds for the military-owned prawn breeding business in Zeepinyin and Kalain Taung village. The villagers were not given any wages. Since then, rich people from the nine villages of Patin Kyun have been widely working with this profitable brine-prawn breeding business. Although the suffering villagers repeatedly reported these problems to the concerned township authorities, there was no concrete action taken. In addition, people are facing a drinking water shortage due to the salty water the brine-prawn breeding ponds in the township makes, that seeps into the wells of the town. The villagers from Kan Pyin village in Patin Kyun were therefore planning to migrate to other villages.

From September to November 2000, Ngamun Daing-based SPDC units in Patin Kyun, Arakan State forced villagers from nine villages to dig ponds for their military-owned prawn breeding business. They provided no wages for the over two months of labor, and forced the villagers to sign a document stating that their work was voluntary. There are over 20,000 prawn breeding farms in Arakan State, the most in Burma. (Source: Mizzima News Group, and Inside Source)

Forced to grow crops for the army

In late 2000 the NaSaKa (Western Area Command) HQs of Maungdaw delivered seeds of various kinds of peas, chilies and nuts to the villagers of north Maungdaw with an order to surrender all their farm produce to the NaSaKa HQs after six months in March 2001. It was warned that serious punishment would be meted out to those villagers who do not comply with the order. In fact, the villagers had received the seeds in great reluctance and under duress. (Source: ARNO)

Porter Duty

In the month of January 2000 Rohingya who were seized from Mingla Nyunt village north of Maungdaw township by Maj. Aung Sein Naing of Army regiment 263 have been released after 15 days of portering duties. 50 of them fell seriously ill because of ill treatment. (Source: ARNO)

1.9 Situation of Forced Labor in Chin State

Forced labor for Infrastructure and Development Projects

The military extract forced labor from the Christian community of the township of Haka in Chin State to build pagodas for the Buddhists. The forced labor situation in the area is intense from 24th March 2000. (Source: ARNO)

In late 2000, SPDC troops led by Major Aye Kyaw, Column 2 from IB 274 Base in Hyi Kaw village, Dun Zan township in Chin State, issued orders to demand timber from local villagers for the construction of a monastery. Villages with more than 200 households were ordered to give 100 cubic feet of timber, villages with between 100 and 200 households had to provide 70 cubic feet of timber, and villages with between 100 and 50 households were required to give 50 cubic feet of timber. (Source: IB)

In 2000, the SPDC Agriculture Department ordered the implementation of a project to grow 9,000 acres of tea in Chin State. SPDC troops forced people to clear soil from large areas in Wa Gain Dain Township, then this land was divided between groups of people, who were given the responsibility to plant it, without pay. People living in that area are facing many difficulties as they have no time to work and earn money for their families. (Source: IB)

Forced labor for the army

On August 1 2000, the Tangtalan Township PDC chairman, U Maung Maung Myint invited the village tract PDC clerks to a meeting. As soon as they arrived, he made them weed a plot of his plantation with their own tools and without payment for 12 days. After weeding the whole plot, they were sent back home without holding any meeting. (Source: CHRO)

On August 7, 2000 two patches of thatch were ordered from each household and they were forced to construct a military base for 3 days. In cases of failure, houses were fined 200 kyat each. SPDC troops led by Commander Oo Aung from IB 269 forced people from Dee Dain to contribute labor every year. (Source: IB)

Construction of Lai Va Military Base Camp, Tantalán Township

On August 7, 2000, 2nd warrant officer Mya Win and police Lt. Myint Maung ordered that (50) persons from Thlangzar of (60) households; (30) persons from Taal village of (30) households, (80) persons from Rulbu village of (80) households, (33) persons from Rulbu village of (33) households, (25) persons from Hrianghnang village of (25) households, and the (VPDC) chairman and his team from Thlangzarh village, Falam township were to go without fail to build the Lai Va military base camp. All the forced laborers were made to put up at "Thlangzarh" village, where they were guarded by the soldiers and were told that only bullets would be sent after any one who should escape. Different jobs were assigned to different villages saying that no one would be allowed to go back until the job as completed. They had to start at 5:00 am in the morning and as they wanted to finish the task as early as possible, they worked on without break for rest or for bath till it got dark. They had to live on their own provision from home such as rice, fish paste, chilies etc.. They even had to use their own tools for the work. Nothing but the order was provided for them. They had to build camps at three places with three layers of bamboo walling. For the week that they had to work for the military base, no compensation was given to them. This was the harvest time, (to collect corn and potatoes from the fields) but as they could not attend to their farm work, the crops were eaten by the wild pigs. On August 18, 2000, 2nd warrant officer Mya Win of LIB (268) at Lai Va Army Base ordered (12) villagers to work at the camp construction site. Those that were forced to labor from Tlangte village were Tum Cung, Za Kap, BilHmung, Thuang Hnin, PhunHup, MaiChaiCuai, Mai Ngun Nawi, Bawi Al. They were sent back to their village on August 18, after their shift had been completed. On August 19, Sang Hu, BawiLian, Mai Hlawn Vang, Mai Cer Tial, Mai Ding Cem had to go and work and were sent home on August 21. On August 21, (4) persons with (2) chicken, and (100) bamboo poles were sent for. (Source: CHRO)

*To see the written orders sent to the village chairman, see **Appendix # 1 and #2***

On August 21 and 22, 2000 a group of MI officers, led by Corporal Soe Thein under control of MI # 269, forced the citizens of Don Zan Town, in Chin State to contribute labor twice a week for working in the MI's plantations. 200 people were forced to clear the land and scrub from the fields to prepare the land for planting. There was no treatment for injuries or payment for labor. (Source: IB)

In October 2000, Platoon commander Kyaw Kyaw Oo of LIB 538 ordered each block of Pathiantlang (Upper and Lower), Sia Oo, Hemate and Hemapi villages, Paletwa area, southern Chin State, to supply 75-150 cubic feet of wood each. The defaulter Hemapi had to pay the fine of Ks. 60000 to Major Zaw Tun, the battalion commander of LIB 538, who had issued a further order that each of the 18 blocks in the surrounding area must saw the wood and send to him at Sin-Let-Wa camp. Major Zaw Tun then sold the wood to traders in ThuraAi for 1000 kyats per cubic feet for his own pocket. The villagers were cheated because they had been told the wood would be used for building boats for the convenience of the public In remote areas such as this, not every village has people able to fall the wood, and there is a shortage of tools. Therefore, some villages had to hire loggers at 500 kyat per day.

In addition, troops temporarily camped in Seletwa, Sinowa and Puahhmung demanded 2 persons from each village block to serve in the camp. The villagers serve in the camp as slave laborers, doing whatever they were told including night sentry. (Source: CHRO, ARNO)

Forced Sentry Duty

Night Watch Duty By Civilian Persists In Thantlang

Since mid 1997, civilians in northern Chin State's Thantlang town have been regularly forced by the SPDC Army to do night watch duty. The duty does not spare even lone widows, according to information received from Thantlang

The civilian sentry duty was enforced in 1997 by the Army in the wake of the National Student Sport Festival in Hakha to ensure security in the urban areas. Thantlang town is divided into seven blocks in which one sentry post is built in each block where four civilians from each block have to do the sentry duty every night. This duty goes on a rotating basis and lone widows who can not perform the duty by themselves have to hire one able person for kyat 80 per night. A mandatory fine of money is imposed on those who fail to do the duty, said xxxxxx (name omitted for security reason) who is a student in Thantlang. The duty starts as soon as it is dark and lasts until dawn. The soldiers are conducting a regular and surprise check during the night to ensure people are doing their duty carefully. If they found out that someone is dozing off while on duty, the soldiers severely beat and punish that person.

Households who can afford to pay kyat 10,000 to the Block PDC are exempted from the duty for one year. Block PDC members themselves are required to do separate duty every night at each Block PDC Office. Though the citizens of Thantlang are greatly disappointed over the forcible duty imposed on them, they are left with no choice but to continue to perform the duty as they are afraid of the army authorities (Source: CHRO)

SPDC uses Buddhist monks to recruit forced labor in Karen State

According to reliable sources, military authorities in Karen State have been turning to local Buddhist abbots to recruit villagers for road-building and other construction projects. Sizeable donations were being offered to senior monks in exchange for their cooperation. In one recent case, authorities made an offering of one million Kyat (US\$2,400) to the abbot of a monastery in the village of Mae La Ma, Kawkareik Township, following a request for his assistance in recruiting laborers for the 24-km long road Mae La Ma road being built about 32km from the Thai-Burma border. According to one villager from the area, local people complained after the abbot called on them to work on the road. "People from Mae La Ma and the five neighboring villages were very upset about being called on by the abbot to do road construction at the expense of their daily work," he said.

Although the SPDC has often claimed that workers "donate" their labor on construction sites as an act of religious merit making, it is unusual for the military regime to actually seek the cooperation of abbots in carrying out such projects. This latest development may be part of a move to lend more credence to its claims that villagers are volunteering their labor. So far, however, the results have been disappointing for the regime: resistance from villagers, as well as security concerns, have delayed construction on the Mae La Ma road, which Karen rebels claim is being built for military purposes. (Source: Irrawaddy)

1.10 Situation of Forced Labor in Karen State

Forced Labor for Infrastructure and Development Projects

Repairs of Kaw Thay Der to Bu Sah Kee Road

The road to Bu Sah Kee was constructed between 1995 and 1998 in order to improve military access to the southeastern part of the district. It was built entirely with the forced labor of villagers in the area, and once completed SPDC Army camps were set up all along its winding length of at least 45 km. Although completed 2 years ago, it cannot be used in the rainy season. There are no bridges along its route and sections of it are washed away by the rains, so every dry season (November to May) the villagers are forced to rebuild the road. During the dry season, civilian vehicle owners from Kler Lah and Than Daung Gyi are forced to haul supplies to the camps along the road, and in rainy season the villagers are forced to haul the supplies on their backs from Kaw Thay Der. (Source: KHRG)

Kler Lah to Mawchi Road

In 1998 the SPDC began work rebuilding this old colonial-era road, and construction is also reportedly being done from the Mawchi end to connect. Mawchi is about 50 km east of Klay Soe Kee, though the road will be 2 or 3 times that length because of the difficult terrain it passes through. Work began in 1998 and by the end of the dry season in June 2000 the road had reached Sho Ser village, almost at the Karenni State border, but is also not passable in the rainy season. To secure the area, the Army has stationed two full battalions, IBs #232 and 53 and built heavily fortified camps along the road at Koh Day, Tha Aye Hta and Wah Baw Day. The heavy military presence and forced labor demands that came with the two road projects have displaced all of the villagers in the area, so the villagers from the relocation site at Kler Lah have been forced to come and work on the road on a rotating

basis. The road is being dug with bulldozers, but the villagers have to clear the route and dig out big stones as well as carry rice for the soldiers. The villagers are given no salaries or food and have to sleep on the road since it is too far from Kler Lah to go back in the evening. The villagers have also been forced to give money to pay for 'hiring the bulldozers' to come to dig the road, though it is almost certain that the SPDC is providing the bulldozer and the local SPDC officers are simply pocketing this money. Civilian vehicle owners in Kler Lah and Than Daung Gyi are also being forced to haul construction supplies to the worksites on a rotating basis. (Source: KHRG) Please see **Appendix # 3**

Repairs of Pa Leh Wah to Klaw Mi Der Road

From Pa Leh Wah village there is a rough dirt road that goes south to the SPDC Army's "Yay Dta Gone" camp at Klaw Mi Der village. Though this rough track is not very passable to vehicles, villagers still receive orders to maintain the road surface and bridges on a regular basis. (Source: KHRG)

Pa Leh Wah Dam Project

A new dam is to be built on the Day Loh River at Pa Leh Wah. Three Japanese engineers reportedly did the planning in early 2000, and many villagers have already been demanded to work on the project. (Source: KHRG)

Than Daung Gyi to Ker Weh Road, part of Than Daung Gyi tourist project

In Than Daung township, a new road is also being built from Than Daung Gyi to the village of Ker Weh. While this road will be for military access, it will also be used to get to the hot spring at Ker Weh, which is to be a part of the new tourism project at Than Daung Gyi. There is also a plan to build a car road from Kler Lah to Than Daung Gyi. There is an old car road there already which was built during the 1950's, but it has fallen into disrepair and is unusable. If this project is carried out, it will mean more forced labor for the villagers in Kler Lah and the Than Daung area. (Source: KHRG)

Repairs on the Toungoo to Kler Lah Road

This main road needs constant maintenance, bridges need to be repaired, and the SPDC orders fields cut clear along both sides of the road. To see the translation of an order demanding unpaid labor to repair the Pa Leh Wah-Kler Lah car road, see **Appendix # 4**.

Bu Sah Kee to Ma La Daw Road

In February of 2000 a new road was begun from Bu Sah Kee southwestward to Tha Pyay Nyunt Army camp in the south of Tantabin township near the border with Nyaunglebin (Kler Lweh Htoo) District. The road will connect with another road already being constructed coming up from Ma La Daw. Although the straight-line distance is about 30 km., the road will be about 50 km. long or more due to the rough terrain it must pass through. Villagers have been ordered to stand guard over the road building equipment and carry supplies for the soldiers. They have had to bring their own food. This road will connect the two districts and may become a barrier to the movement of refugees from Tantabin township toward Papun District and the Thai border. The following is a translation of an order demanding forced laborers to work on the Bu Sah Kee-Ma La Daw road. (Source: KHRG)

Auk-bo-deh to Ta-nay-cha Road

Starting on March 2, 2000, and as of August 4, 2000, SPDC troops were constructing Auk-bo-deh to Ta-nay-cha motor road in Pa-an District, Karen State. The SPDC operation commander, Lin Zaw, supervised the project, while Hla Myo Aung was the engineer. Aung Kaing was responsible for construction and security. The village tracts around the project site were Naw-gay, Htee-po-kyaw, and Noe-ta-baw. These villages had to provide 200 to 300 forced laborers for the project. The villagers had to bring their own food as they were not given any by the SPDC troops. This motor road links Auk-bo-deh with Thi-wah-pu. As a result of the road construction, many acres of land owned by local villagers was destroyed, and the villagers were forced to relocate. (Source: KIC)

Tawae-Pauk Villagers forced to labor daily at local army base

Beginning in March 2000, the villagers from Tawae-Pauk, Kya-Ein Seik Gyi Township were required to send 5 villagers everyday to the base of LIB 284 which is based near Kya Ein Seik Gyi town. Then from May to June 2000, when SPDC battalions were arresting many porters and the men dared not stay in the villages, the women were required to go to the military base to work. The villagers were required to report to the base around 7 AM every morning with their own food for the day. They were then required to do odd jobs around the camp, such as cook, build fences, build barracks, carry water and find firewood. The "servants" were then allowed to return home in the evenings around 5 PM. (Source: HURFOM)

In April 2000, IBs 283, 284 and 32 ordered that each family from 5 villages in Kyar-Ein-Seik-Kyi Township, Karen State, grow 10 rubber trees, including Paw-Law-Kun, Kyo-Koun and Ta-Wae-Paunt villages. Every day 250 people from these villages were forced to go and labor with their food and without any kind of payment. (Source: THRF)

On May 1, 2000, SPDC troops forced Kaw-thay-doe villagers to clear bushes along Si-hkeh-doe motor road, Toun-goo District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On June 3, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 20, stationed at Day-lor ordered the villagers of Ler-hgaw-ko, Doe-ko and Doe-kah villages, Toun-goo District, Karen State to cut bamboo and build a bridge across Day-lor river. (Source: KIC)

On August 26, 2000, 50 troops from SPDC LIB 707, led by battalion second commander, Aung Naing Oo, demanded villagers from Yet-paw village, Lo-sha village, Ka-yin village, and Ka-kati village in Win-yin Township, Doo-pla-ya District, Karen State to cut and clear 100 yards on both sides of the "Than-pyu-za-yat and Pa-ya-thone-Zu motor road." (Source: KIC)

On September 30, 2000, Battalion commander Maung Hlang from SPDC LIB (534) ordered 40 villagers from Baw-tho-hta village to clear the road from Kaser-ther-pler to Htwee-thee-eu and also ordered 200 pieces of thatch each from of Baw-tho-hta, Ka-pi-khu and Htee-tha-blu-hta villages, Pa-pun District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

Shwe-bo-taung to Naung-ka-dok Road

In 2000 a motor road project linking Shwe-bo-taung to Naung-ka-dok, Tha-ton District, Karen State, was constructed. A person from every household in Way-raw village tract was forced to work on it. A person from every household in Ta-dah-oo village tract was forced to work on a third road linking Moe-gaung to Mee-chaung-aing. The villagers had to bring their own food. The road construction was ordered by battalion commander Myo Aung of SPDC LIB 9. In addition, many houses and fields, which were along the planned road route, were destroyed. (Source: KIC, Yoma3)

Forced to build school in Pa-an Township

At the end of November 2000 there was a tax collection for school construction in Pa-an township. However, the fund was not used for the construction, and the villagers were forced to build the school. (Source: DVB)

Repair of Ka-ma-maung to Papun Road

In November 2000, in Pa-pun District, Karen State, SPDC troops forced villagers living nearby to repair the motor road from Ka-ma-maung to Papun, at their own expense, in order to turn it into an all-weather road. (Source: KIC)

Lay-aw-ker village to Shway-yaung-pya Road

On November 2, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 8, led by company commander Soe Aung ordered that a person from each household of the villages in Tha-ton township, Tha-ton District, Karen State, work to build a motor road from Lay-aw-ker village to Shway-yaung-pya village. They destroyed all houses, farms and fruit trees in the way. (Source: KIC)

Repair of the Kyauk Gyi to Toungoo Road

On November 12, 2000, SPDC Division Commander-in-Chief, General Tin Aye, instructed the armed troops to repair the road between Kyauk Gyi and Toungoo, Nyaunglebin district, Karen State. Battalion Commander Lin Htein then ordered that each house from Mone village group bring bags of stones for this repair. The villagers collected their bags of stones in PalayLaw Ka Poe creek. Each house was forced to pay 500 kyat if they were unable to bring the stones for the road-repairing project. Moreover, the villagers were in addition forced to labor daily for the road project. The following is a list of the villages which were forced to bring stones for the road.

- (1). Mone
- (2). Thaung Lai
- (3). Mee Tain Daung
- (4). Taw Pu
- (5). Nyung Bin Thar
- (6). Mwe Twin
- (7). Myung U Gyi
- (8). Kyun Bin Seike
- (9). Mae Pote
- (10). Tat Kone
- (11). Naung Bo (Source: Yoma3) **Please see-Appendix # 7**

Pa-nweh-kla to Kar-meh Road

On November 21, 2000, Column 2 Commander, Aung Kyaw Moe, and troops from SPDC LIB 102 of LID 44, forced a person from each household of the villages of No-aw-la, No-law-plaw, Ha-ta-reh, Kyu-kee, Pwa-hgaw, E-heh, Ler-ga-zer, No-nor-wa, Bu-pa-reh and Pa-reh-kaw, to build a motor road from Pa-nweh-kla to Kar-meh. At the same time, they forced the villagers to dig and clear the ground for the building of Wa-pa and Maw-kloe bridges. The villagers were ordered to bring their own food. Those who failed to come had to pay a fine of 500 kyat. (Source: KIC)

Mi-chaung-aing to Ta-roi-khee Road

On November 31, 2000, Battalion commander Myo Aung of SPDC LIB (9) started a motor road construction project from Mi-chaung-aing to Ta-roi-khee village, Tha-ton District, Karen State. Every house, garden and plantation that the road passed through was ordered destroyed. A person from every household in Htee-nya-paw village tract and Shwe-yaung-pya village tract were ordered to construct the road from Mae-chaung-aing to Naung-ka-dok. A person from every household in Ta-roi-khee village tract and Ta-mau-daw village tract and 15 villagers from villages in Maw-ko village tract were ordered to construct the road from Naung-ka-dok to Ta-roi-khee. Villagers had to go without hesitation and carry their own food. (Source: KIC) **See-Appendix # 9**

Forced Labor for the army

In early 2000, the Military Strategy Group (2), led by Colonel Hla Moe, took possession of all paddy fields surrounding the army base in Kya-in-seik-gyi Township, Karen State. Then during the cultivating season, they ordered the authorities of 9 nearby villages to supply laborers to work in the paddy fields, which had formerly been theirs. The 9 villages were: Kya-in gyi , Shwe Doh , Dagay ,Mee Laung Chaung, Sel ein su , Shwe taungbo ,Thone tine ,Shwe Lin and kyetuyweitaung . 10 to 15 persons from each village were required to work in the army- paddy fields every day. They had to work all day, and use their own oxen and materials, and bring their own food to eat. Even on special religious days, they had to work without going to the monastery. If they refused to work, they were required to give 500 kyat per day in substitution. (Source: Yoma 3)

On April 6 2000, IBs 283,284 and 32, based in Kya-Ein-Seik-Kyi Township, Karen State ordered the villagers in this township to plant mango trees for their army mango plantation. Every family from 5 villages, about 300 people, had to plant 10 mango trees every day. The villages were -Chawn-Wa, Tater-U, A-lay-Yor, Kya-Kat-Chawn and Too-Lit-Koun. From Na-Chawn, Aun-Ta-Pin, Tha-Min-Lip, Ka-Sa, Kyo-Koun and Pa-Ya-Ngount-Tu villages, the military ordered 50,000 cut bamboo pieces and later the army ordered these villagers to put up a fence (with the bamboo pieces) around the mango plantation. (Source: THRF)

On May 1, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 549, ordered villagers from Thwa-kho-lor and Ta-hu-lor, Pa-pun district, Karen State, to find bamboo and to collect 80 baskets of dried cattle manure. (Source: KIC)

On May 2, 2000, two companies from SPDC army IB 344 and 232 went in to Sa-bah-koh-khee village, Toun-goo District, Karen State, summoned the West Day-Lor village headman and ordered him to provide villagers to serve as runners. The runners were to provide their services 3-times a day. Moreover, the SPDC troops threatened to burn down every house

Forced Labor

in the village if there was any gunshots or explosion of landmines. (Source: KIC)

On May 3, 2000, Maj. Than Yin of IB No. 32 asked about 100 villagers from Shwe-la-inn, Htee-paukhlo, Wae-krai, Kaw-krot and Ohn-khataw villages, Kya Ein Seik Gyi township, to clear grass in the battalion owned rubber plantation and used them to grow vegetables in the battalion compound. (Source: HURFOM)

On May 5, 2000, a unit led by Bo Soe Moe from SPDC LIB 3 ordered Ta-rweh-kee villagers in Tha-ton District, Karen State, to deliver 20 logs with a girth of 40 inches and length of 8 to 9 feet, by December 12, 2000. The unit threatened to burn down the village if the villagers failed to comply. (Source: KIC)

On May 10, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 35 based at Mone and Mae-daing-daw demanded 28 bullock carts from Tee-toe-loe village, 7 from Myang Oo village, 7 from Aung-chan-tha village and 7 from Paw-pi-doe village, Mone Township, Nyaung-le-bin District, Karen State to haul teak wood. Carts from Tee-toe-loe village had to pick up teak wood at Ka-law-Myaing, carts from Myang-Oo had to pick up wood at Ye-ta-yauk, and carts from Mee-diang-daw, Aung-chan-tha, Paw—pi-doe had to pick up wood at Kyaw-thay-gon. All the teakwood had to be sent to be sawmills at, Htee-toe-loe, Mone, and Mee-dand-daw. (Source: KAWU)

On May 11, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 434 demanded 5 villagers in Pa-pun District, Karen State, to set up a fence around the army camp. (Source: KIC)

On May 29, 2000, in Tha-ton District, Karen State, troops from SPDC LIB 9 forced Naung-ga-doke and Ta-maw-dot villagers to do various kinds of work for them. In addition they ordered each villager to make pointed bamboo poles and stand sentinel. (Source: KIC)

On May 30, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 9 seized one person per household in every village in Ta-rweh-kee and Ta-maw-daw village tracts, Tha-ton District, Karen State. The villagers seized were brought to Naung-ga-doke village, where each person had to make a pointed bamboo pole. At 9 a.m. the troops marched out in two groups, one headed for Ta-rweh-kee and the other for Mi-jaung-aing, taking the villagers with them. (Source: KIC)

For the month of June 2000, local villagers near Kya Ein Seik Gyi town, Karen State were forced by IB 32 to contribute free labor in the cultivation of the battalion's rainy season crop. The army ordered the villages close to battalion base to send 20-50 villagers per village, depending on village size, to work in rotation shifts of 3 days to 1 week. The village headmen from Htipaukhlo, Winye, Pyawyangone, Shwe-la-inn, Thanbaya, Bada-gyi and Nonepharpoe villages had to send the villagers for the whole month of June. (Source: HURFOM)

Since June 2000, LIB 545 and 546 have forced villagers from the over 20 villages in Kyone-doe, Kaw-bein, and Kharit village tracts, Kawkareik Township to labor in the battalions' 200 acres of paddy fields, which had previously been confiscated from local villagers. The villagers were ordered to labor in rotation, so that there were laborers all the time to work the land. Each village was generally ordered to send 15-50 workers per day, and to bring their own food, oxen, and cultivating equipment. The orders often segregated the demanded labor, demanding only men to come to do the harder jobs, such as plowing, and only women to do jobs such as transplanting the paddy plants. Then starting from the

2nd week of December 2000, the 2 battalions, as well as MI Unit # 25 (based in Kawkareik) forced the 3 village tracts to provide 40 daily laborers to harvest the paddy from the fields. (Source: HURFOM)

On June 6 2000, a commander from IB No. 32 demanded the headmen of Htee-paukhlo village, Kya Ein Seik Kyi township to send 7 pairs of oxen and plowing equipment to battalion farmland to plow lands. During June, as many farmers from that village were quite busy in plowing their own farmlands they could not provide the requested numbers of oxen pairs to the military battalion, they informed to commander the reason why they could not provide oxen. The battalion then ordered them to pay 1, 000 kyat for one pair of oxen in fines for their failure. The headmen had to collect this cash fine from villagers and pay the battalion. (Source: HURFOM)

On June 23, 2000 the No. 2 column commander, Tin Myo Hlaing, and No. 4, company officer, Bo Shwe Thu, from SPDC IB 235 ordered a person from every household in Kathwee-dee village, Toun-goo district, Karen State to cut bamboo and construct an army camp. Also the villagers were ordered to collect firewood. (Source: KIC)

On July 4 2000, Lt. Col. Win Bo, a commander of IB No. 32, demanded that 20 villagers from Htee-paukhlo village, Kya Ein Seik Kyi township clear grasses and grow rubber trees in the battalion owned rubber plantations. The villagers had to carry their own foods from their homes and cleared grasses and bushes, and grew rubber plants for the whole day. (Source: HURFOM)

On July 7, the commander of IB No. 32, Lt. Col. Win Bo asked about 50 villagers from Htee-paukhlo village, to come to battalion to plant their paddy. Thus, the village headmen had to arrange 50 villagers to send to farmlands owned by IB No. 32, while most villagers were very busy with their own farming activities. Not only Htee-paukhlo village, other villagers were also forced similarly to regularly contribute their labor in IB No. 32 paddy farms and rubber plantation. On July 9, the same commander again asked about 50 villagers from Htee-paukhlo village to labor in the rubber plantation. (Source: HURFOM)

On July 20 2000, when a commander from IB No. 32, Maj. Tin Oo asked about 30 villagers from Kyaukpone village to contribute labor in planting paddy plants in army's farms, the headmen could not manage to send these villager for the day, as all villagers were busy with their farming activities. The army responded with an order that a fine of 500 kyat per head for their failure. On the same day, about 16 villagers from Shwe-la-inn village were conscripted by Maj. Tin Oo to work in the farm. On July 21, about 20 villagers from Pyaw-yar-gone village were forced to work in the same farm. From July 22 to 30, the villagers from Wei-tha-lee, Kawkmar, Pyoe-lin, Pyoe-daw, and Shwe-daing-baw villages were forced by IB No. 32 to do the farming. The village headmen had to send different numbers of villagers – 15 to 70 people depending on the type of work. On July 28, about 10 villagers from Yale and Mae-tha-krae villages were sent to IB No. 32 to be used as laborers in the battalion's farm and plantations. They were used as laborers for over two weeks. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced Labor

On July 24 2000, a commander from LIB No. 708, Maj. Ye Htun, forced 60 villagers from Kha-won, Win-yaw, Win-htaung and Myaing-gone villages to build the military barracks for the army camp. In Myaing-gone, the soldiers threatened the villagers by shooting guns in the air to gather for the forced labor. The villagers were forced to gather the necessary supplies and then work for 3 to 7 days building the barracks. On August 18, LIB No. 708's commander Maj. Ye Htun asked about 50 villagers from Taung-dee village to dig long trenches round the compound, and build bunkers and fences. The villagers were forced to labor for 3 to 7 day shifts. The villagers in Kha-won village where LIB 708 is based are required to send at least 10 villagers every day to the base to act as servants for the soldiers: cooking, carrying water and performing other daily works. If the villagers are unable to serve their duty, they must pay 300-400 kyat each. In this way, the Battalion earns over 40,000 kyat every month. (Source: HURFOM)

On July 25, 2000, Company Commander, Bo Soe Myint, from SPDC LIB 9, demanded 100 logs, measuring 18 inches in girth and 18 feet in length, from Ta-maw-daw village and 30 from Ta-roi-khee village, Tha-ton District, Karen State. He also demanded from each household, 25 pieces of bamboo in Htee-pu-wah village and 20 pieces of palm thatch in Naung-ka-dok village. (Source: KIC)

On August 5, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 81 of division 44, led by battalion Kyaw Shwe, entered Baw-tho-hta village, Pa-pun District, Karen State and demanded bullock carts from the villagers for the extraction of timber. The villages were required to provide bullock carts were Baw-tho-hta, Wa-tho-klah Noe-hgaw, Htee-law-thi-hta , Htee-thet-lay, and Htee-tha-blu. Each of these villages had to give a bullock cart and the villagers had to haul, for the SPDC IB 81, logs from the area of Twe-thee-u, Baw-mu-kee and Wa-lor-plee-poe to Ka-daing-ti. (Source: KIC)

On August 19, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 366, led by battalion commander Kyaw Lwin, demanded 20 villagers from Kwee-ta-ma village and 10 villagers from May-lay-ler village, Pa-pun District, Karen State for agricultural work., In addition, the troops demanded 500 thatches of roofing leaves from Ma-lay-ler, 500 thatches of roofing leaves from Kwee-ta-ma village and 500 thatches of roofing leaves from Won-mu village for repairing storehouses of SPDC troops, in Won-mu. (Source: KIC)

On August 23 2000, troops from IB 343 led by column No. 2 commander, Aung Zin Min forced villagers in Kyaw-kay-ko village, Win -yae Township to work both nights and days for 2 days. The villagers were (1) Saw Pa Thein (M, 36), (2) Saw Cha Naw (M, 36), (3) Saw Nay Wah (M, 35). (Source: KIC)

From September 1, 2000 until at least November 7, 2000, troops from SPDC guerrilla battalion 930 were active in western Day-lor area, Than-daund township, Toun-goo District, Karen State, threatening, beating and forcing villagers to work constantly. As a result, villagers from Kaw-law-kah, Sa-ba-lor-khee and Ku-thay-doe villages had to abandon their villages and move either to Than-daung town or flee to the jungle for their safety. (Source: KIC)

On September 4, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 118, led by operation commander Col. Toe Aung, seized 3 villagers from each village and forced them to cut bamboo and firewood. demanded 2 Viss of pork from Kaw-po-pleh village, Tha-ton District, Karen State. On the same day, troops from SPDC LIB 8 led by officer San Aung demanded from Kya-ta-yaw, Lah-aung-ket, Shwe-yaung-pya, Ka-law-ket, and Ma-yan-gon villages, 8,000 kyat per month. In addition, the (Source: KIC)

On September 5, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 118, led by operation commander Col. Toe Aung, demanded 2 villagers from Kaw-po-pleh village, Tha-ton District, Karen State per week to serve as runners. The runners were required to bring their own food, and serve also as night watchmen at Lay-kay military camp. (Source: KIC)

On September 15, 2000, Battalion Commander Maung Htwe from SPDC LIB 98 demanded 100 pieces of thatch and 100 poles of bamboo from 43 villagers in Mae-cho and Mae-pu-hta villages, Pa-pun District, Karen State in order to construct their army camp. (Source: KIC)

In October 2000, troops from SPDC IB 96 forced villagers from Rai Thaw Khee, Pa Na Deh and Ta Ya Day villages, Shwe Gyin Township, Nyaunglebin District to construct their army base. (Source: KAWU)

On October 19, 2000, SPDC LIB 440 demanded that the villagers in each village tract located between Shwe-gyin and Kyauk-kyi towns, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State, construct 4 charcoal kilns for them. (Source: KIC)

On November 1, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 39, led by company commander Aung Sein, camped at Htee-htaw-mae area, Pa-pun District, Karen State and demanded 2 Htee-theh-lay villagers as runners and forced 2 other Htee-h-law-thi-hta villagers to clear roads for 3 days. (Source: KIC)

On November 10 2000, LIB 32, stationed in Kyar-Inn-Seik-Gyi township, Karen State ordered the villages nearby to supply logs to the battalion.

The following villages were ordered to supply the logs.

- 1, Kyauk Pon village length 120 feet x width 6 feet
- 2, Shwe Hla Inn village length 120 feet x width 6 feet
- 3, Wet Sut village length 480feet x breadth 6 feet

(Source: Yoma3)

On November 11 2000, Maj. Thein Win from LIB 81 ordered each village from Pha-am township, Karen State to send 120 villagers with their own food and tools to carry out summer cultivation for the army's food supply. The major also asked Than Hle village and Kaw-Zwe village to do harvesting and threshing and to provide fertilizers, water pumps, and diesel for the pumps. (Source: Yoma3)

Forced Labor

From the 2nd to 3rd week of November 2000, IB 81, based in Pa-an Township, forced the villagers from villages nearby to prepare land and grow dry season crops, soon after harvesting the rainy season crops. The battalion demanded 60 villagers daily from Than-hlae, Khaya, Kawlamu and Kawzin villages to work in its army-owned 50 acres of land. The villagers had to plough and irrigate the land, and then grow paddy plants. These 60 people were forced to labor for 9 days. After the initial work had been done, the battalion forced smaller numbers of people to further irrigate and fertilize the crops. In addition to the conscription of labor, the battalion collected 20, 000 to 50, 000 kyat per village from the villages nearby to cover the expense of gasoline for the water pumping engines and to buy fertilizer. (Source: HURFOM)

On November 25, 2000, troops from column 1 of SPDC LIB 118 forced 10 villagers a day from the villages near Kar-meh and A-tet-ywa, in Bi-lin Township, Tha-ton District, Karen State, to work for them. (Source: KIC)

On November 26, 2000, in Toun-goo District, Karen State, Column Commanders Than Myint and Aung Myo Lwin of SPDC IB 75, ordered Klor-mi-doe villagers to send reports to them three times a week and forced the villages in the area to send someone everyday to serve as runners. (Source: KIC)

On December 8, 2000, the SPDC guerilla column commander, Pakay, ordered Play-hsa-lo village, Toun-goo District, Karen State, to send one person per household, with machetes, crowbars and etc. to build a military camp near Play-hsa-lo school. He did the same on December 9, 2000, in the villages of Blor-baw-doe, Yeh-lo, Lay-wor-lo and Paw-pat. He also ordered Ta-ber-kee, Mwe-lo, Kaw-po-lo and Keh-doe village heads and teachers to come to a meeting with his unit, on December 9, 2000. Commander, Tin Aye, of SPDC Southern Command issued instructions to his subordinate units, saying that Kler-la and Gor-thay-doe villages would have to 30 million kyat per truck in compensation, if the trucks of the military columns and tactical commands under him were hit by a landmine. (Source: KIC)

On December 10, 2000, troops from SPDC Battalion 556, led by battalion 2nd in command, Kyaw Thu Tun, forced 15 villagers per village, per day, from the villages in Ta-po village-tract of Ga-zer-dor Township, Mergui-Tavoy District, Karen State, to do various kinds of work for them. If a villager failed to provide forced labor, he was fined 5,000 kyat. (Source: KIC)

In early December 2000, IB 32, based in Kya Inn Seik Gyi township, ordered the village headmen from the village near Kya-Ein-Seik-Gyi to find and bring large amounts of wood for the battalion's brick factory. IB 32 had established the factory to raise funds and in order to harden the earth bricks they required large amounts of wood to burn. The battalion demanded 5 tons of wood from Shwe-la-inn village, 5 tons from Kyauk-pone village and 20 tons from Htee-paukho village, and further instructed that the wood be brought to a designated place on the Zami riverbank. The battalions then ordered boats from the villages nearby to carry many tons of woods along Zami river to their factory. Finally, before the villagers had even finished these tasks, IB 32 forced more of the villagers from these villages to harvest the 100 acres of the battalion's paddy fields. (Source: HURFOM)

During the last 2 weeks of December 2000, LIB 545, LIB 546 and MI Unit # 25, based in Kawkareik township, Karen State forced the villagers from Kyone-done and Kawbeik village tracts to contribute free labor to harvest the paddy crop in the army's 300 acres of farmlands. Army commanders demanded 40 villagers every day from Kanni, Kaw-lyan, Thayet-taw, Tadar-oo, Kaw-kyaik, Kaw-khaik and other villages to contribute labor in reaping the ripe paddy plants. The forced laborers were required to work the whole day and to bring their own foods and tools. (Source: HURFOM) **Please see-Appendix # 11, #12**

Forced Porter Duty

From January until April 2000, SPDC LID 88 launched a military offensive against the KNU in the Three Pagoda Pass area. For this operation, the troops arrested many civilian porters from various villages in the area to use as porters. From February to April the troops launched a patrol along the Zami river, and regularly forcibly conscripted porters from 5 Mon and Karen villages, Kyauk-balu, Khasaw-lae, Hnit-ein, Kyaik-san and Kyaik-round. At the beginning, the troops arrested only the men in villages for use as porters for two weeks to one month, and then released them. Later, fearing the hardship of portering, many men fled their village and so the troops then proceeded to also arrest the women. On April 17, the troops also went into three Karen villages, Thapyin-zone, None-panane and Maw-lone-daing, and arrested both men and women in the villages as porters. On April 20, 2000, LIB 541 under the command of LID 88, passed through a small forest near Thanbaya village, Kya Inn Seik Gyi Township, Karen State and arrested 5 loggers. Nai Aung (45 years old), Nai Thar Htee (35 years old), Nai Min Naing (31 years old), Nai Mon Tun Ong (30 years old), and Nai Pwa Gyi (30 years old) were used as porters to carry ammunition and food supplies for one week, and then released near Thanbyuzayat town. During the porter service, the soldiers forced the porters to carry 30-50 Kilograms usually from 10-15 hours per day. The soldiers also gave them little food, so that many villagers took ill due to these conditions. Ill porters were often left behind or even killed by the soldiers. (Source: HURFOM)

On April 7, 2000, troops from IB 73 led by commanders Than Zaw Oo and Yyi Khaing demanded 100 villagers as porters from Nyang-bin-tha, Mae-pa-la, and Kyauk Kyi-pauk villages, Nyaung-le-bin District, Karen State. As the demand could not be provided, the army forcibly seized 50 villagers and sent them to Mone town and continued seizing more porters to carry supplies to Kaw-la-wah-lu camp. (Source: KAWU)

In the third week of April 2000, a group of soldiers from LID 44 arrived to Khay-wee village, Kya-Ein-Seik-Gyi Township, Karen State and arrested about 20 women. The women had stayed in the village while their men had run away to escape from arrest because they had thought the soldiers wouldn't arrest women to do the porter duty. However, when the soldiers arrived and saw no men, they were angered, arrested the women as porters and forced them to carry the same loads as the men. These women were used by the army for three days and then released when the soldiers could replace them with porters from other villages. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced Labor

On April 27, 2000, SPDC IBs 53, 26 and 66 seized 30 people from Kaw-thay-doe village, Tha-ton District, Karen State and forced them to carry food supplies for them. On April, 2000 these battalions seized 20 people from Baw-ga-li village and 45 people from Kaw-thay-doe village and forced them to carry food supplies. (Source: KIC)

In May 2000, IBs 284,283 and 32, based in Kya-Ein-Seik-Kyi township, Karen State started to excessively demand porters in the township for their rainy season operation against the KNU areas in Karen State. Most of the porters were from Chaun-Wa, Da-Dah-Oo, A-Lay-Ywa, Kya-Kat-Chaun, Too Lit Gone, Nat-Chaun, Own-Da-Bin, Tha-Min-Lit, Ka-Sa, Kyo-Sein and Paya-Ngo-Tu villages. Toun-Pount, Paw-Law-Gone and Tayo-Pount were also included. The military demanded 20 to 30 porters from every village and if the village was big, they asked more. (Source: THRF)

On May 6, 2000, troops from SPDC army IB 53 seized Baw-gali and Kaw-thay-doe villagers as porters. As of June 23, 2000, they still had not been released. On May 9, 2000, these troops again seized more villagers and forced them to transport supplies to Bu-Sa-Kee. These villagers also had not been released as of June 23, 2000. In addition to seizing porters the SPDC troops extorted 900,000 kyat from villages in Baw-ga-li area. (Source: KIC)

On June 5 and 7, 2000, IB 61 which is based in Paya-Thone-Zu, Karen State captured nearly 100 men from a group of 237 people which had been deported by the Thai Government to Paya-Thone-Zu. (Three Pagoda Pass) The troops used these deported Burmese migrant workers as porters in their columns. At that time, the IB, which had been temporarily based in Paya-Thone-Zu, had to change bases with IB 343, so it was the right time to capture porters. Along the way, the SPDC troops tied every porter's hand to a rope, so that each porter was separated 20 inches from one to another. One soldier had to guard two porters and walk between them. In addition, the troops captured 10 people from each quarter of Paya-Thone-Zu City, about 40 people in total. It was reported that when IB 61 arrived, there were 150 porters. Also, in Paya-Thone-Zu City, the military regime has been asking 200 kyat per family in porter fees, whenever they like. (Source: THRF)

From June 10 to 21, 2000, Khin Maung Kyi , commander of operational command 1 of SPDC LID 44 and battalion commander Aung Kyaw Oo of LIB 367 , forced 175 villagers from Mae-waing , Day-lor-pu ,Pway-day, Wah-lor-klo , Wah-tho-lor ,Toe-mer-kee, Mae-ko-ta, Mae-kor-lor and Hto-kaw-sot-khee villages, Pa-pun District, Karen State to carry food supplies ,in the re-supply of 2 battalions under operational command 2. The distance between Mae-waing to Mae-paw-ta and the campsite is a one and a half hours walk. Each villager was forced to carry sacks of rice, weighing 50 kg., 3 times a day. (Source: KIC)

On June 19, 2000, Columns from SPDC army IBs 20 and 23 forced 130 villagers, including 50 women, to carry rice from New Tharn-daung to Leik-tho bridge, in Toun-goo District, Karen State. In addition, the troops forced 20 Ler-gi-bho and 5 Ker-doe villagers to cut bamboo and to build rice barns at one end of Leik-tho bridge. (Source: KIC)

Since June 12, 2000, SPDC officers in Myawaddy township of Karen state arranged to recruit fifty porters a day and to hand over them to DKBA. According to a villager, U Tin Hla, the chairman of Myo thit (village) block-4 in Myawaddy town, in collaboration with the military officers of Infantry Battalion (209) ordered the villagers to provide a porter from a house and fifty porters a day routinely. Any family unable to provide a porter must

pay 300 to 500 kyat to the chairman and the military officers. DKBA officers used the porters in breaking rocks, constructing roads and other hard labor. Myawaddy is a border town opposite Mae Sot of Thailand. (Source: MICB)

On June 20 2000, SPDC battalions No. 81 and No. 85 under brigade No. 22 ordered 13 villages to provide them 5 porters by each village daily. The soldiers of the battalion at Yebu camp, between Kadinetee and Kamma Mounng villages in Papun township, Karen state have been earning money by selling off all the bamboo and woods, the 65 porters collected daily. The 13 villages in Papun township are (1) Kyun Dow (2) Wa Do (3) Wet Tho Kho (4) Ml Zaing Chaung Pyaa (5) Gwan Ta Hla (6) Kyo Day (7) Lay Pho Hta (8) Tee Thaw Lae (9) Baw Kyo Hta (10) Baw Kyo Lay (11) Ye Bu Chaung Wa (12) Wae gyi and (13) Pyin Ma Bin Seik. (Source: MICB)

On June 22 2000 Battalion commander Nyein Zaw , from SPDC IB 59 , seized 15 villagers from Ka-mu-lor and Playhsa-lor villagers, Thaton District, Karen State to carry supplies as porters to Tha-byay-nyunt base camp. The troops also issued an order saying that any villager found carrying paddy or rice would be considered as an enemy. (Source: KIC)

On June 26 2000, troops from SPDC IB 92 summoned 25 villagers from Klaw-mee-doe village, Thaton District, Karen State and forced them to carry supplies to Baw-ga-li village and forced them to carry supplies to Naw-Soe camp. Moreover, troops from columns 1 and 2 of SPDC IB 35, forcibly gathered 40 villagers from Baw-ga-li and forced them to carry supplies to Bu-sa-khee and Si-hkek-doe villages. (Source: KIC)

In the first week of July 2000, column 3 from SPDC LIB 59 and columns 1 and 2 from LIB 30, demanded that the villagers of Ka-mu-lo, Yu-lo and Play-sa-lo, Toun-goo District, Karen State provide porters. The three villages had to give 15 villagers for a day for use as porters. Similarly, troops from LIB 25 under Operational command 2, columns 1 and 2 of LIB 35, columns 1 and 2 of LIB 53, demanded Gor-theh-doe and Klaw-me-doe village tracts, Toun-goo District, Karen State, to provide volunteer workers, porters and cash every day. (Source: KIC)

On July 17, 2000, at about 4:00 p.m., about 130 troops from SPDC LIB 705, led by the battalion commander and the second in command, came to Shwe-po-hut-ywa-thit village and seized 21 villagers for use as porters. They were all released on August 8.(Their names have been omitted from the yearbook) (Source: KIC)

On July 28, 2000, SPDC authorities arrested two men with many other civilians and sent them as porters to the front line in the Karen state of Burma. The wives of the two men, from Thayagon village, Hlaing Bwe township of Karen state went to the SPDC authorities concerned and asked them the whereabouts of their husbands. The SPDC authorities from Battalion No.339, who said it was a disturbance during office hours, arrested the two wives and sent also hem to the front line as porters. (Source: MIC)

On July 28 2000, troops from LIB 343 arrested 5 civilians at Hti Photan Village, Kyung Doe Township, Dooplaya District. The five were abducted and forced to work as porters for the soldiers. (Source: DIR, KIC)

Forced Labor

On August 1, 2000, troops led by Column Commander, Maj. Soe Aung, from SPDC LIB 2 of LID 44, demanded 11 villagers from Lay-kor-ti village, Pa-pun District, Karen State for use as porters and also 10 baskets of rice. (Source: KIC)

On August 2, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 35 and IB 6 seized 16 villagers from Gor-thay-doe village, Toun-goo District, Karen State and forced them to carry supplies to Si-hkeh-doe, Naw-ko-soe and Bu-hsa-kee camps. (Source: KIC)

On August 2, 2000, SPDC IB 20, based at Ler-gee-kho-doe-kho village, Toun-goo District, Karen State seized 30 villagers and forced them to carry supplies from Tharn-daung to San-tin-tharn-shin camp. (Source: KIC)

On August 3, 2000, in Pa-pun District, Karen State troops from SPDC LIB 63, led by Battalion Commander Hla Sein, demanded 50 villagers from Ko-thu-ta village and 65 villagers from Mae-klo village tract for carrying rations to the Nat-kyi military camp. (Source: KIC)

On August 4, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 26 seized 1000 villagers in Baw-ga-li area and 25 villagers from Kaw-thay-doe village, in Toun-goo District, Karen State and forced them to carry supplies to Bu-hsa-kee area. (Source: KIC)

On August 6, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 26 seized 29 Gor-theh-doe villagers of Toun-goo District, Karen State and forced them to carry supplies as porters to Buhsa-kee and clear the road of land mines. (Source: KIC)

On August 6 2000, SPDC troops from IB 26 captured villagers from Gaw Day Deh village, Taungoo District, Karen State. Their names were: Naw Bay Lay, Naw Bay May, Naw Mi Mi, Naw Tu Kaw Paw, Naw Da Nu Nu, Naw Ga Na, Naw Da Gaw Gaw, Na No No, Naw Say Gay, and Naw Tha Ni Ni. These women were used as porters and in addition they were used as human mine sweepers. (Source: KWO)

On August 7, 2000, 50 troops from SPDC LIB 343, led by No. 2 column commander Aung Thein Myint, came to Tee-po-than village, Kyon-doe Township, Doo-pla-ya District, Karen State and seized: (1) Saw Eh Ner, M, 39; (2) Saw Ta Pa, M, 36; (3) Saw Cha Si Nu, M, 42; (4) Saw Pa Hgaw, M, 25; (5) Saw Pah Klu, M, 28; (6) Mahn Pu Lone, M, 45; and forced them to serve as porters. They were released on September 9, 2000. (Source: KIC)

On August 14, 2000 troops from IB 708 and 709, led by battalion commander Kyaw Aung Oo, came to Tree-ta-kawn village, Kya-in Township, Doo-pla-ya District, Karen State and forced 40 villagers to be porters and carry military rations to Ahn-kaw village, in Kaw-ka-reik Township. (Source: KIC) **Appendix #13**

On August 17, 2000, Battalion Commander Min Soe of LIB (369), under Tactical Command (2) of Operational Command (10), seized 100 villagers in Mae-waing area, Pa-pun District, Karen State and forced them to carry food supplies and ammunition. (Source: KIC)

On August 22, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 366 seized 16 villagers from Ka-ter-tee village tract, Pan-pun District, Karen State, for use as porters. (Source: KIC)

On August 24 2000, Company Commander Aung Thay Myit and a Senior Company Commander Aung Thay Oo entered Wiga village, Dooplaya District and nabbed 8 civilians to porter for LIB 343. (Source: DIR)

On September 7, 2000, SPDC guerrilla troops, went to Ler-ghee-ko village, Toun-goo District, Karen State and demanded 30 villagers for use as porters. (Source: KIC)

On September 7, 2000, in Pa-pun District, Karen State, troops from SPDC LIB 366, led by column commander Kyaw Oo demanded 100 villagers from Won-mu village, 35 villagers from Po-ket-ta village and 15 villagers from Nya-sa-hgaw village to carry rations. (Source: KIC)

On September 7, 2000, in Toun-goo District, Karen State, SPDC troops from the Ba-la and Mote-thone guerilla forces took with them 3 headmen from Yu-lo, Ka-mu-lo and Play-sa-lo village and forced them to go along with them for an operation. They also demanded 20 villagers from Yu-lo, Ka-mu-lo and Play-sa-lo villages and forced them to clear the roads for their operations. As of October 12, 2000 they still had not been released. (Source: KIC)

On September 8, 2000, SPDC guerrilla troops, demanded 30 villagers for use as porters in order to carry food supplies from Than-daung to Ler-hgee-ko village, Toun-goo District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On September 22, 2000, troops from IB369 led by Bo Min Lwin, active in Mae Waing area, Pa-pun District, Karen State summoned 66 villagers from 11 villages as porters to carry supplies to the tactical command head quarters. (Source: KIC)

On September 22 2000, commander Maung Aye Latt from IB 30 captured Naw Nin Nin, Naw Lwee Lay, Naw Day Lay Ya Paw, Naw Nay Lay, Naw Say Ni Say, Naw Lay Paw, from Gaw Day Deh village, Tan -ta-bin Township, Karen State. Then on September 23 they captured Naw Ju Ju, Naw La Sein, Naw Gu Gu, and Naw Blay. They forced all these women to carry food supplies to Bu Saw Kee village, also in TanTaBin Township. (Source: KWO)

On September 26, 2000, Battalion Commander Myo Aung Soe with his troops from SPDC LIB2 Forced 15 Pohket-hta villagers of Pa-pun District, Karen State as porters to clear and carry land mines. (Source: KIC)

On October 2, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 289 forcibly took 40 villagers from Peh-kaw-doe village and 20 villagers from Maw-ko-doe village to clear land mines and carry food supplies to Ta-aye-khee camp, Toun-goo District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On October 6, 2000, in Pa-pun District, Karen State, camp commander Win Aung of SPDC IB 19 demanded 6 Saw-bwe-doe villagers as porters. (Source: KIC)

On October 7, 2000, a combined column of SPDC IB 26, 30, 35 and 53 came into Kaw-thay-doe village, Toun-goo District and seized 30 porters to carry supplies to Bu-sa-khee and to clear land mines. Some of these villagers died while carrying out this forced duty. (Source: KIC, DVB)

Forced Labor

On October 7, 2000, SPDC IB 92 based at Klaw-mee-doe, Toun-goo District, Karen State ordered villagers in Klaw-mu-doe village tract to carry food supplies to Saw-hta camp. Villages that did not go had to pay 18,000 kyat for their absence. (Source: KIC)

On October 7, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 289 and IB 39 forcibly took 20 villagers from Kaw-Thay-doe and Baw-gali villages to clear land mines and to carry food supplies to Bu-sa-khee camp, Toun-goo District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On October 11 2000, Camp Commander Win Win captured 4 women from Papun District, Karen State to serve as porters, carrying military supplies. They neglected to feed the women during their porter duty. (Source: KWO)

On October 14, 2000, Officers Maj. Mya Tin, Maj. Thein Shwe and Sargent Major Thein Win of SPDC IB 92, forcibly collected 20 male villagers and 10 female villagers from Klaw-mu-doe village, Toun-goo District, Karen State and used them to carry supplies to Pet-let-wa. The troops also ordered nearby villages to give them 10,000 kyat per village per month for porter fees. (Source: KIC)

On October 16, 2000, troops from SPDC IB-20 and troops from the guerilla forces demanded Kaw Law Kah villagers to carry supplies to Peh-kaw-doe village, Toun-goo District, Karen State. On their way back, villager Saw Kyay Ka Rai, M, 30, son of Saw Ta Naw, drowned while crossing Day Lor river. (Source: KIC)

On October 22, 2000, in Toun-goo District, Karen State, Columns (1) and (2) from SPDC IB 48 forced 15 Baw-gali- villagers to carry supplies and clear land mines on the way to Bu-sa-khee. (Source: KIC)

On November 5, 2000, Commander Tin Zaw Myint, from SPDC LIB (340), demanded 20 villagers from He-po-doe village and 16 villagers from Kyo-kho-doe village, Pa-pun District, Karen State, for porters. (Source: KIC)

On November 5 2000, Lieutenant Tin Zaw Myint of LIB 340 took 15 women and 5 men from He Poe De village, Pa-pun District, Karen State and 13 women and 3 men from Kyo Kho De village, as porters. (Source: Yoma3)

On November 6, 2000, troops from SPDC IB (39) led by battalion commander Win Soe and Battalion second in command Aung Lwin seized 15 villagers as porters from Mae-plee village, Toun-goo District, Karen State and as forced them to work in Ma-lar-daw, Pwe-baw-doe and Si-daw-kho villages. (Source: KIC)

On November 7 2000, IB 92 troops ordered 10 female villagers from Ka Law Me De village, Taungoo District, Karen State to bring their food supplies from Pet-let-wa village to Klaw-mee-doe village. (Source: Yoma3, KIC)

On November 10, 2000, troops from SPDC tactical command No.1 seized 20 villagers from Kaw-thay-doe village, Taun-goo District, Karen State, and forced them to carry supplies to Naw-soe camp. (Source: KIC)

On November 10, 2000, SPDC tactical command (1), Southern Division tactical command commander (G-2) Zaw Win and (G-3) Zaw Hla seized 13 villagers, both men and women, from Kaw-thay-doe village, Toun-goo District, Karen State, to carry food supplies and clear the road to Bu-has khee. The villagers seized were Saw Tha Wah, Naw Nay Nay, Saw Eh Paw, Naw Tin, Naw Ma Cho Cho, Saw Ta Ray Lay, Saw Saw, Maung Tin Win, Saw Eh Say, Naw Leh Sein, Saw Po Wah, Saw Tin and Saw Yellow. (Source: KIC)

From November 10 to 13, 2000, Tactical Commander Than Htay of SPDC Division 22 ordered his followers to bring 10 villagers from Maw Ko, Gat The, War Me Kala and Htee Ka Haw villages, Pa-an district, Karen State as porters to carry wounded soldiers. (Source: Yoma3, KIC)

On November 11, 2000, Pa-pun SPDC army camp commander Win Win, demanded 10 Saw-bwe-doe villagers, including 4 women, to porter to military supplies without providing them with food. Also at that time, SPDC troops ordered eight villages from No. (4) section, Pa-pun Town, Pa-pun District, Karen State, to keep night watch, every night. Any villager found dozing was beaten and put into a cell. Moreover, the troops demanded 20 people from every section to constantly work for the army. As a result, villagers could not do their own work. (Source: KIC)

On November 11, 2000, in Toun-goo District, Karen State, two columns of SPDC IB 124, led by battalion commander Myo Aung and battalion second in command Saw Mya Thaung, seized 24 Ku-thay-doe villagers and forced them to carry supplies. As of November 29, 2000 they still had not been released. (Source: KIC)

On November 13, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 124 led by battalion commander Myo Aung came into Ku-thay-doe village, Toun-goo District, Karen State and took 50 villagers as forced porters. As of November 29, 2000 they had not been released. (Source: KIC)

On November 15, 2000, Battalion Commander Tin Thein of SPDC IB (289) forced 10 villagers from Per-kaw-doe village, 7 villagers from Maw-ko-doe village and 7 villagers from Der-doe village to carry supplies to Tha-aye-ha, Taun-goo District, Karen State. Also on that day, troops from SPDC LIB (118) looted 3 baskets of rice, 4 chickens and 1,500 kyat from Htee-si-baw villagers and 2 baskets of rice from Mya-lay village.(Source: KIC)

On November 16, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 124 led by commander Myint Htwe came into Sa-bah-lor-khee village, Toun-goo District, Karen State and seized 17 villagers as porters. As of November 29, 2000, they had not been released. The troops also looted villager's belongings worth 30,000 kyat and destroyed a paddy barn containing 100 baskets of paddy. (Source: KIC)

On November 17, 2000, troops from SPDC IB (34) led by battalion commander Ye Nyunt, based at Kyo-ta-dah camp, forced 20 Ler-hgi-kho villagers to carry supplies from Than-daung, Taun-goo District, Karen State, to their base everyday. Also on that day, Commander Khin Zaw Htun, from the SPDC guerrilla unit, came into Htee-ta-pu village and demanded one pig. (Source: KIC)

Forced Labor

On November 19, 2000, Battalion Commander Myint Aung of SPDC LIB 369, ordered Meh-waing village tract, Pa-pun District, Karen State, to supply 76 villagers as porters. (Source: Inside Burma)

On November 22, 2000, Battalion Commander Tin Maung Aye Hla of IB 30 forced Gor-theh-doe villagers of Tan-da-bin Township, Toun-goo District, Karen State to carry supplies for troops to Bu-has-kee village. The villagers seized were Naw Neet Neet, F, Naw Ka Pee Lee, F, Hsa Mee Thu, F, Naw Day Lya Paw, F, Naw Neh Lay, F, Naw Hser Nay Say, F, Naw Ler Paw, F, and Saw Dah Poe, M. On November 23 troops under the same commander seized the following Gor-theh-doe villagers for use as forced labor to transport supplies for troops at Bu Has Kee: Naw Ju Ju, F, Naw Hla Sein, F, Naw Ku Koo, F, Naw Bleh, F, and Saw Da Kyaw Kyor. (Source: KIC)

On November 27, 2000, troops from the SPDC guerilla group seized 4 villagers from Yu-lo village, 4 from Ka-mu-lo village and Saw San Tin, the village head of Plaw-hser-lo village, Toun-goo District, Karen State for use as porters. As of December 13, 2000 they still had not been released. (Source: KIC)

On December 12 2000, LIB 343, stationed at Phaya Thone Zu, was ordered to return to its base in Ye township. So LIB 343 conscripted 80 villagers from Phaya Thone Zu village, Karen State and forced them to carry ammunition and the soldiers' belongings. As a result of the portering, U Ye Myint died when the army reached to Ma-Yan-Chaung village. His wife and three children were left alone and were not given any compensation for his death. (Source: Yoma3)

On December 22 200, junta's military authorities in two townships of Karen state ordered every village in their areas to provide porters for the authorities everyday. Junta's Military authorities of LIB 336 and LIB 340 ordered all villages in Papun township of Karen sate and Bilin township of Mon state to provide the military Battalions with five porters everyday from every village of the two townships which are unable to supply porters must pay kyat 600 as fine to the authorities. According to a Karen teacher (name withheld), every household in the townships has to supply three porters in a month. Papun township consists of 25 villages and Bilin township has 21 villages. Every village in the two townships consists of around 120 houses to 300 houses. (Source: MICB)

On December 24 2000 SPDC troops, led by Commander Khin Maung Sint from IB 48 captured Gaw Dee Der villagers Naw Mu Mu, Naw Yay Bu, and Naw Gu Gu to serve as guides from Yay Da Gone Base to the Division Command Headquarters in southern Taun Hmu Township, Karen State. (Source: KWO)

Forced Sentry Duty

On March 10, 2000, SPDC troops issued an order to the villagers of Mar-lar-daw to construct sentry posts from Way-hta to Tha-ba-ko area, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State. Ler-kaw-bler villagers were made to stand sentry day and night at the sentry post near their village. Two villagers had to stand sentry 3 days at a time. (Source: KIC)

In June 2000, troops from SPDC IB 8 ordered villagers to watch the gas pipeline in Thaton district day and night. On July 2 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 8 , based at Ye-thee-man-a-leh-sa-kan ordered villagers of Shway -yaung-pya, Thaton District, Karen State to keep watch on the gas pipeline , 5 persons at a time , for the pipeline's security. (Source: KIC)

On July 2, 2000, Lieutenant Aung San from SPDC IB 8, came to Shway-daung-pia village, Tha-ton District and ordered the villagers, 5 people at a time, to keep watch on the gas pipeline near Bo-de-gon camp, and extorted 4,000 kyat from each villager. (Source: KIC)

On August 16, 2000, SPDC military columns in Ker-gweh and Ler-hgee-ko areas, Toun-goo District, Karen State forced the villages in the areas to post 2 villagers from each village to stand sentinel every day. (Source: KIC)

1.11 Situation of Forced Labor in Karenni State

Forced Labor for infrastructure and development projects

In 2000 in Loikaw City, Karenni State, all families were frequently forced to work by the military authorities at temples, pagodas, lakes and streets without payment. In addition, they were ordered to plant four durable trees in their compound with out fail. The Loikaw residents were ordered in mid 2000 to provide labor at government offices and on main road and all streets every week, as part of the "City Beautification project". Families that failed to work on the labor sites were ordered to pay a fine of 100 kyat to the authorities. Forced labor was also common whenever there was news of SPDC Secretary One, Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt visiting the state. (Source: KNAHR)

In eastern Pekon Township, Shan State and western Karenni State, over 30 villages including Kaw Mine, Gwan Lone, Now Hlein, Heh Gwee, Yan Kham, A Lway Yin Mingala, and Nan Pae villages and people from Moby and Pekon towns have been forced to grow rubber and "jone" trees on plantations owned by LIB 421 and 422. This order came from General Maung Bo, the commander of the Eastern Division Command over 2 years ago. As of November 1 2000, the villagers were still being forced to do this labor. Each family was required to grow 60 plants and to bring their own food supplies. Then the families were required to dig fire trenches around the plantations and clear the dry leaves from under the trees to protect the 2-year-old tree saplings from fire. (Source: DVB)

Forced Labor for the army

In the year 2000 it was reported that the village secretary of Ttee Lon village tract, Karenni State is ordered to come every Sunday to the military base of IB 54 and inform the army of the village security conditions and rebel activity around the village tract. (Source: KNAHR)

2 years ago, LIB 102, based in Demawso town, had seized over 100 acres of fields from the area surrounding Demawso. Since then, they have been forcing the former owners of these fields to cultivate and their own fields for the army. In addition, they force the people of Demawso town to give free labor to assist in the harvest of these paddy fields. (Source: DVB)

On January 15 2000, IB No. 54, based in Loilin, Karenni State, led by Captain Aung Kyi, commanded Tee Lon village tract secretary, Ai Loon, to monthly collect 500 kyat in cash from each family in this village tract. Captain Aung Kyi explained that he needed to purchase planks, nails and bamboo for his military barrack expansion. However, the people are forced to bring such building materials and built the barracks themselves for the troops. Moreover, the troops force people to sell rice to the military and then they never pay for the rice. If people ask money for their rice, they are badly tortured and threatened with death. (Source: KNAHR)

On January 23, 2000, SPDC troops from IB281 forced the villagers of Pha Sawng village, Murng-Luay tract, Murng-Yarng township, to fetch water and bring it to the military camp for the soldiers. The villagers were required to bring water to the camp for 7 days. Members of 3 households were required to work each day. (Source: SHRF)

On February 2 2000, Commander Maj. Kyaw Moe of LIB No. 531, encamped at Markrawshe village, Prusoe Township, Karenni State convened villagers at his base. At the meeting the commander gave a verbal order for each family to bring two posts for an electricity power supply line and 100 pieces of thatch for roofing military barracks. He ordered the villagers to deliver within one week. He also ordered that the villagers must voluntarily provide labor for any project of the military. (Source: KNAHR)

On March 3 2000, Maj. Maung Maung Soe, a commander of Daw Tamadu based IB No. 72, gave a verbal order to eight villages heads to contribute the military's building materials. Each family from the 8 villages was required to provide 40 12-foot-long rounds of bamboo, 17 thatches, 17 9-foot-long hard wood posts and 18 fence posts within seven days. Some villages had to walk 8 hours to bring these supplies from their villages to the military base. Families from these villages have been required several times to provide various sorts of materials and work for the military The battalion normally dismantles their barracks when they leave their base and order villagers to re-build it again when they return. Villagers have received nothing for their work, instead they have to bring their own food while they work at the military base. (Source: KNAHR)

On March 15 2000, Markrawshe based LIB No. 531, led by commander Maj. Kyi Win, ordered the Markrawshe village head to send one messenger from each family every day to the military camp. This is a big challenge for widow households and those who can not afford to send or pay for a messenger. Families that failed to send a messenger were demanded to distribute chickens, wine and whisky to the Burmese troops. (Source: KNAHR)

On March 23, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 531, led by Commander Kyi Win, based in Markrawshe, Karenni State, ordered the Markrawshe village head that each family in the village was required to send one messenger every day to the military camp. It was further commanded that families who failed to send a messenger had to distribute chicken, wine and whisky to the Burmese troops. This is a big challenge for families, especially widow families, who cannot afford to send the messenger or the substitution of the messenger. (Source: KNAHR)

In May 2000, troops from LIB 530 seized land from farmers in Hteepawso village tract, Karenni State. They then forced the villagers living in the village tract to plough and sow the crops on the military farms made on the seized land. The villagers, who were still being forced to work the farms as of August 2000, had not been provided with anything for their work by the military. Villagers who failed to work on the farms were forced to pay a fine or work on the military base. (Source: KNAHR)

Beginning in late May 2000, troops from LIB 430 ordered each of over 200 families living in the Namphe forced relocation camp, Karenni State to provide the army base with 10 rounds of bamboo, 10-ft-long posts and 2 bundles of thin bamboo strips. The materials were for the new military base built 8 miles from Nample town. In addition, people were forced to build the military base in the beginning of June. The army provided nothing for the laborers and ordered them to finish the base as soon as possible. (Source: KNAHR)

Since the beginning of June 2000, about 130 families from Daw Sophya village, Demawsoe Township, Karenni State have been forced to daily carry 20 tanks of water to the Burmese military base that is temporarily stationed at Daw Tamadu. In December 2000 the people complained that they could no longer carry the water. In return, Capt. Aung Min forced them to pay 5,000 kyat every month. (Source: KNAHR)

In the second week of June 2000, troops of LIB 428 seized about 30 acres of farms owned by farmers from Hteepawso village tract, Karenni State. In addition, each family was ordered to come and plough with their own buffaloes in these seized fields for five days for the Burmese troops. Women were also forced to work and families that failed to come out were ordered to work longer than others on the seized farms. (Source: KNAHR)

On June 21 2000, Lt. Aung Shwe, commanding officer of LIB 51 based in Htarleh village ordered villagers to supply the army base with 100 poles of bamboo. The bamboo was for army barrack extension work. (Source: KNAHR)

In mid 2000, villagers living in LawKuKu, Daw Takleh, Lawlyaku, Hteebyanye and Daw Byaku, Karenni State were being ordered to report in rotation to LIB 102 based at Hteeklu Daw as messengers. The messengers were required to bring their own tools and work in the military camp for three days. (Source: KNAHR)

On July 9 2000, Commander Ne Myo Aung of Markrawshe based LIB 428 ordered the village head of Hteeseku village, Karenni State to send vegetable, groundnuts and meat every five days to his assistant Sergeant Myint Thein without fail. The headman was further told that if he failed to do so, he would also have to send whisky and wine along with the other demands. (Source: KNAHR)

Forced Labor

On September 6 2000, villagers from Htee Kludaw, Karenni State were ordered by LIB 428 to provide 40-poles of big-size bamboo, 20-poles of medium-size bamboo, and 50 small poles of bamboo for the military base construction. Moreover, on September 10, 2000, the SPDC soldiers demanded 350 kyat for the repair costs of the meeting hall and another 350 kyat for long term plantation projects from the village. (Source: KNAHR)

On September 10, 2000 an combined troop from LIB 427 and IB 102 ordered villagers from the village tract of Htee Paw Hsoe and Myo Ma, Karenni State to provide labor at their new military base on Khaw Ta Maw village hill. The villagers were forced to cut stumps and clean the land for the military base. On Sept. 11, 2000, the SPDC troops forced thirty villagers from Law Khu Ku village and a person from each household of Kaw Ta Maw village to provide free labor. On Sept 12, 2000, villagers from Lawjar and Htee Thaw Taneku villages were also forced to work on the same military base construction site. All the villagers, who had to do the work for the military were ordered to bring their own food and their own materials. (Source: KNAHR, TIR)

On September 26, 2000, Kawthamaw based LIB no 427 summoned ten villagers from Lawkuku village to their base. They were forced to fetch water for the troops daily for uses such as drinking, cooking and bathing. The Hteeklu Daw base of Burmese troops IB no.102 ordered six villages within Myoma tract to send a messenger from each in turn to the military base. If they failed to do so, the respective village would be required to pay a fine in cash and receive punishment. The messenger must appear to the military base with report from his/ her villages' chief as a daily messenger. (Source: KNAHR, KAWU)

On September 27 2000, commanders from LIB 427 and IB 102 ordered villagers from Lawjar, Karenni State to provide labor at their military base. The troops forced them to dig trenches, fetch water, collect stones and make fences the entire whole day and night without rest. Villagers were ordered to come with their own food while working at the military base. (Source: KNAHR)

On September 29 2000, the 90 Burmese soldiers from IB 261 led by commander San Shwe temporarily stationed 2 furlongs north of Daw Takleh village, Kaylya Township, Karenni State ordered the villagers to daily fetch water for their military base. The troops also sneaked into village at night and stole chickens and eggs. (Source: KNAHR)

In October 2000, LIB 430, based in Bolekay Township built a camp on a mountain, about an hour away from Nan Pay village, and forced the villagers to build the camp for them. (Source: DVB)

In October 2000, 2nd Lt. Aung Shwe of LIB 531 forced the villagers of Ta Lay village, Prusoe Township to cut wood, bamboo, and "em-paet" leaves for use as roofing, and send them to the LIB base, for their new military camp. (Source: DVB)

On October 8, 2000 , Hteeklu Daw based IB no. 102 ordered Daw Byaku villagers to cut 160 round of 18-long bamboo on for their base buildings. And Daw Takleh and Htee Byanye villages were orders to transport such bamboo with their own bullock cart to the military base. (Source: KNAHR)

On October 10 2000, Cpt. Win Myint of IB 72, based in Daw Ta Ma Doo, ordered villagers of Daw Ta Ma Doo village tract, in Demawso Township, Karenni State, which consists of over 100 villages, to build new army barracks for them. Since then, 2 people from each of 20 villages (a total of 40 villagers) have been forced go daily to labor as "servants". The villagers are forced to dig and move dirt for the army camp road, build fences, cut firewood, etc.. The villagers are required to come with their own food supplies. (Source: DVB)

On November 1 2000, Captain Win Than from LIB 531 ordered Lawkuku and Kawthamaw villages, Kaylya township, Karenni State to provide his troops with 500 rounds of bamboo and 30 banana trees. After the Captain received the bamboo, he transported them to the market to be sold. Then again on November 6 he demanded of the villagers that each family provide him with 2 sacks of manure. (Source: KNAHR)

Forced Porter Duty

On March 8, 2000, troops of IB No72 forced 38 villagers from Daw Tamadu village tract, Karenni State to serve as their porters. It was unknown where the troops took the villagers. (Source: KNAHR)

On June 2 2000, a combined force of troops from LIB 337 and the KNPLF entered Phukraku village, Kayla Township, Karenni State and ordered 5 villagers to carry rations to the Htarleh base. On their return, one of the porters, Pray Reh, age 43, stepped on a landmine and his leg was seriously injured. After this incident, a LIB 337 officer arrested 7 Phukraku villagers and tortured them. (Source: KNAHR)

In October 2000, the SPDC demanded villagers in Karenni State to provide porters for their army offensives. Due to the dangers, and to landmines, several of the porters died. Villagers who are unable to serve as porters are required to pay 3,000 kyat to hire a substitute. Troops from LIB 337, based in Bolekay township, seized 16 porters from Poukeya Khu village. Ko Pray Yay, one of the 16 people seized, died after stepping on a landmine. He was 30 years old. (Source: DVB)

On November 20 2000, about 80 troops from LIB 428, allied with the KNPLF, rounded up villagers in Weithutaw village, Karenni State in order to catch porters. Most of the villagers managed to escape when the troops were approaching the village, but 5 were captured and forced to serve as military porters. As of December 2000, no one knew where the troops had taken them and they had not returned. (Source: KNAHR)

Forced Sentry Duty

People from Demawsoe Township are forced to take security along the AungBan to Loikaw Railroad line. These villages include Daw Goo Lee, Daw La Lay, Boo Pah, Thet Soe Lay, La Lay, and Soung Du villages from Soung Du village tract, and Oh Kay, Nah May Khone, and Daw Bu Gu villages from Daw Bu village tract. The railway is 3 hours away from these villages, so they are forced to bring their own food for their security duty. (Source: DVB)

1.12 Situation of Forced Labor in Magwe Division

Pahukku-Gan Gaw-Kalay Railway

According to escaped prison laborers, people along the Pahukku-Gan Gaw-Kalay railway construction site are forced to work on that construction. (Source: FTUB)

1.13 Situation of Forced Labor in Mandalay Division

Mandalay - Lashio Motor Road, Mandalay Division

Since the end of 1999, the Mandalay- Lashio motor road linking Mandalay division to the Northern Shan State has been under repair and widened. Major General Ye Myint (Commander, Central Command) has been personally supervising the road repairs of the Pyin-u-lwin portion of the road in Mandalay. Under his authority there has been no sparing of money, labor, motor vehicles etc. for the completion of the project on time. For six months, thousands of residents from 19 groups of villages (Aung -chan-tha, Nyan-nyin-tha, Kan-gyi-kan, See-tha, Wa-boe-ye, Tha-bye-kyin, See-ga, Twin-nge, Inn-gyi, Inn-gone, Dha-thwe,kyauk, Kyin-ga-naing, Thone-taung, Kyauk-pe-pya-doe, Pyin-sa, Tha-bye-kyin, Kun-lein, Than-daung, A-ne-sa-khan) which lie along the Pyin-u-lwin, Mandalay motor road, were used as forced labor. These villagers are extremely poor cultivators of farms and gardens and other odd jobs. They have to eke out a living. Township administrative authorities, village administrative authorities and members of the USDA summon and force the people to work. Up to kyat 500/- has to be paid for failure to give forced labor. Punishment for failure to pay the fines is arrest and imprisonment at the police stations.

Different types of motor vehicles ply between Mandalay, Pyin-u-lwin, Lashio, and Shweli. On the Mandalay/Pyin-u-lwin road, there are 8 transport associations. Every day at least 50 vehicles are commandeered. In order to be exempted from this, kyat 2500/- to kyat 5000/- a month has to be paid. Also a road toll of kyat 2500/- is collected.

Those who know about the forced labor, penalties, exemptions and road tolls are threatened with imprisonment if the information is divulged to outsiders, including foreign tourists. Forced laborers have been instructed to say that they are happy and contented and that they are being adequately paid for their labor. (Source: NLD)

In 2000 the villages from Kyaukse, Meikhtila, Myingyan and Seikpyu townships were ordered to grow teak and eucalyptus trees. Each family in those areas had to grow 15 eucalyptus trees and 15-25 teak, take care and water those plants. To water the plants was a hard duty as the water was not enough in central Burma. Those plants were grown along the roads, in rice fields and farms. The forestry department inspects the plants monthly and if a plant dies, the family responsible to take care had to grow again. If someone cut down the plant, he or she had to serve 3 years imprisonment. Villagers received no benefits for growing trees, and authorities said it was for the country. There was no proper distribution of knowledge of growing eucalyptus, tree's consumption of water and nitrate from the ground. (Source: FTUB)

1.14 Situation of Forced Labor in Mon State

Forced Labor for Infrastructure and Development Projects

Hangan-Khawza Road

In March 2000, government authorities and SPDC troops from LIB No. 299 ordered some hundreds of Mon villagers from 7 villages in southern part of Ye Township to construct a road 12 miles long to connect two main Mon villages, Hangan and Khawza. Around 200-300 villagers were forced to work daily on the construction site, doing various duties such as collecting stones in nearby forests and streams, crushing these stones into gravel, moving the gravel, and then laying the gravel on the road. As of April 2000, the road was still under construction with the use of forced labor. This road construction is under the SPDC's border area development program (BADP) and the government officially ordered the headmen to help the authorities in constructing the road. In January 2000, the BADP had also ordered the local villagers to provide money for the construction. Over 5 million kyat was collected by the authorities, of which 2.5 million was given back to the village headmen in 7 Mon villages to hire trucks and buy the stones necessary for the road. However, even without paying the villagers, this budget was not enough and the villagers were forced to give money again for the road construction, in addition to their labor. (Source: HURFOM, Mon Unity League)

From July 2000 until at least the end of October 2000, with objectives of area security, LIB No. 299 conscripted the forced labor of villagers to clear bushes along the part of the Ye-Tavoy motor road in Ye Township. Villagers from villages including, Hangan, Kalort and Kaw-hlaing villages, have been constantly subjected to this forced labor. (Source: HURFOM)

In late 2000 Maj. Gen. Sit Maung ordered the district and township authorities in Moulmein area, Mon State to force a member of each family to prepare the sports-ground and to build buildings for planned Student Sport Festival to be held in Moulmein in 2001. He specified that the families who failed to obey the order would be fined 500 kyat each. (Source: Inside Source)

From October 2 to 10, 2000, Paung Township PDC authorities forced the civilians of all villages along the Paung Township portion of the Mottama-Rangoon motorway to clear bushes which had been growing beside the road. Even primary school students were forced to contribute their labor. (Source: HURFOM)

On October 28, 2000, Paung Township authorities demanded 50 people from each of the 4 quarters in Paung town to clear bushes and grass from an area in order to celebrate a pagoda festival in the place. The authorities provided no transportation for the villagers who had to come a long way, and the villagers had to take their own food and tools. Police, USDA members and township authorities guarded the 200 villagers as they worked for the whole day. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced Labor for the army

From February to August 2000, LIB 343 forced villagers from the 9 village tracts and 7 town quarters of northern Ye Township to build a military compound. The villagers had already raised all the funds necessary for the compound construction, and then they were forced to fell trees and clear the grounds, build the military barracks, dig trenches and banks, fence the base, and even cook for the soldiers. 10 villagers from Kun-do and Hnin-sone villages, 5 villagers from Tu-myaung village, 5 villagers from Ah-plaing village, 5 villagers from Taung-zon village, 20 villagers from Aru-taung village, 5 villagers from Sone-na-thar village, 20 villagers from Taung-bon village, 10 villagers from Done-bi village and 20 villagers from Thaung-pyin village had to be sent to the work-site every day. (In total over 100 villagers were working each day) (Source: HURFOM) See **Appendix #15**

In June 2000, the commander from LIB 299 forced villagers from Koe-mile village (Ye Township) to do cultivation in their confiscated fields. The army forced the former land owners to come with their oxen to plow, plant, and cultivate the 15 acres of land which the army had confiscated from the villagers. (Source: HURFOM)

For the entirety of the month of June 2000 and the first 2 weeks of July, when the rainy season started, Southeast Military Command forced the Mon villagers from ten villages in Kyaikmayaw Township to plow and plant 100 acres of army lands in the township area. (The army had confiscated this land in 1997 from Kha-yone and Kyone-wan villages.) The 10 villages were: Damatha, Than-ga-laung, Tarana, Kaw-thut, Kha-yone, Let-pan, Ywa-thit, Kyone-wan, Kyone-manin and Kyaik-paran. From these ten villages, the village headmen sent 60 men, 60 pairs of oxen and 60 man-made plows to the work-sites every day. The plowing was completed after 2 weeks, and then the army ordered the village headmen from the same villages to send villagers to sow the paddy of the newly plowed land. On a rotation basis, the village headmen had to manage to send about 800 villagers in total to do this labor. In general, each of the 10 villages took responsibility for 10 acres. Some of the larger villages were able to send more villagers to work on the land, while some smaller villages were unable to complete their share on time. This was also a busy time for the villagers, who needed to plow and plant their own fields. Some of the villages were unable to provide the required oxen and had to hire oxen and plowing equipment at 1, 200 kyat per day. Some villages also had to hire laborers by paying 350 kyat per day. According to estimation by village headmen, this forced labor requirement cost the villagers around 3 millions kyat, after the expenses of hiring laborers, oxen and equipment. Some villagers had to spend about 100, 000 kyat to hire labor, oxen and equipment and the village had to collect this fund from the villagers. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced Porter Duty

With an order dated June 30, 2000, Ye Town based SPDC's army battalion, LIB No. 343 gave an order through letters and wireless to headmen of 9 Town sections and 19 villages in the southern part of Ye township to immediately provide 121 "Military operations Laborers" who would be used to carry ammunition and food in an offensive against an active Mon armed force. The order further stipulated that the 9 town sections provide 2 to 5 porters each, Larger villages were asked to provide 10 porters and village with less than 50 households had to provide at least two porters. These porters, as they were used for military operations, were required to porter for a term of at least a month up a term of the

duration of the operation. Many villagers did not like to go with this military operation because it would be long, yet they could not refuse the headmen's management, who sent them on a rotation basis. (Source: HURFOM)

On September 5, 2000, Capt. Khin Maung Zaw with about (60) soldiers from LIB (404) which was based at "Kyauk-ta-yan" sea coast village, suddenly came into Da-ni-kyar village, Yebyu Township, Mon State around 4 o'clock in the afternoon and seized anyone that they could hold upon to use them as porters for the army. (1) The witness, Nai xxxxxx, (2) Nai Ah Poo , (3) Nai Liya , (4) Nai Tee , (5) Nai Yoke Pyu , (6) Nia Myint Wai , (7) Nai Maung Kyup and (8) Nai Han Kyi were captured. Nai Han Kyi alone was taken away by (7) soldiers. The rest were tied in pairs of two each by ropes and were taken to Nai Tun Sein's house which was in the middle of the village. They saw about 60 villagers (porters) from other villages there but they were not tied by ropes. Only the witness and persons from the Da-ni-kyar village were tied in pairs. These porters were taken for 18 days. (Source: FTUB)

On December 9, 2000, LIB 31, stationed at Pha-ya-thone-zu, conscripted five villagers from Than-pa-ya village, Mon State to serve as porters on its security mission in the area. (Source: Yoma3) *Note: The battalion is responsible for providing security in the region.*

Forced Sentry Duty

From the beginning of dry season in September 1999 until at least the time of this report in March 2000, under the instruction of Township PDC and the local military battalions, 4-5 villagers from each village in Ye Township have been forced to take security along the Moulmein-Ye and Ye- Tavoy Railway lines. As the railway authorities and military battalions in this area worry for the possible destruction of the railway due to land-slides and sabotages done by rebels, they have forced the local villagers from every village to build at least one hut per village in the designated places and instructed them to take security on a rotation basis. The headmen of the villages have been ordered to provide 4-5 people for each 24 hour shift. Each family must participate. Besides waiting in the huts, the villagers were ordered to walk along the roads and report any unusual activity to officers in the nearest railway stations, and to check for sign of landslides. The authorities often performed surprise checks on the forced security guards to ensure they were doing their duty, and if the villagers had failed to take security according to instruction, they were forced to pay a fine of 500 kyat. The small villages in the northern part of Ye Township such as Sontalin, Pingone, Thingun-taw, Saung-phan and Pharan-maw faced many difficulties, as the villagers had less time to do their own work. Including the time taken to travel to the security hut sites, those from small villages had to spend nearly 10 days every month doing this "duty". (Source: HURFOM)

On December 12 2000, LIB 61 of Ye township issued an order to Taung Zun, Ahparal, and Sone-netha villages, Mon State. The order stated that each village was required to send two villagers each day to provide road security for the Ye-Tavoy highway. The order also specified that any villager who failed to carry out the order would be required to pay 200 kyat per day in fines. (Source: Yoma3)

1.15 Situation of Forced Labor in Pegu Division

Forced Labor for Infrastructure and Development Kama-se to Htat-kha-Naing Waterway, Thanat-pin Township

In early 2000, people from the villagers of Pyun-pauk, Htaung-hmin, Kyaik-pa-laing, Ta-wa, Sint-oh-pho, West Tagoon-daing, Kyaik-me, Moe-khaing-lay, Hla-sin-taung and Zee-bin have been forced to dig up earth to make a connecting waterway (chaung) between Kama-se and Htat-kha-naing villages in Thanat-pin township in Pegu division. Every landholding cultivator was ordered to dig 35 pits and those not holding any land 22 pits. It was dictated that those who could not supply labor would have to pay kyat 200 per pit in substitute fees, which amounts to 7000 kyat for 35 pits and 4500 kyat for 22 pits. (Source: NLD)

Water Canals near Pegu City

From the beginning of March until May 2000, the Pegu Township PDC authorities forced both town residents and local villagers to contribute free labor in digging water canals in the rice-farms and outside of Pegu town in order to prevent flooding during the rainy season. There was no machinery provided for the work, it was all done with the use of forced labor. People living in Pegu City had the option of working or of paying 150 kyat per day in substitution, but people from 1) Mokala, (2) Naing-tee, (3) Oh-poe and (4) Kama-nat villages near the city were forced to labor without option. About 1, 000 families from Pegu City, who weren't able to pay the substitution fine to the authorities, and another 1, 500 families from the 4 villagers near Pegu town were forced to share the labor duties on a rotation basis. The responsibility of the work was passed down from the township authorities to the city and village leaders and then on to the families. Non-farmer households were required to dig out and carry away 15 *Kyin* of earth from a 20-50 meter length of the canal, and usually had to work an average of 5-7 days per month on the site. Farmer families with their own oxen-carts were required to dig out 20-30 *Kyin* of earth, usually working 15 days per month. For day laborers, who work as trishaw drivers, truck drivers, paid day-laborers it was quite difficult to have enough time to do their own work. For the farmers, they also had less time to work in their farms. The people were required to bring their own food, medicine and tools from their homes and the authorities provided no assistance. If a villager was sick, he/she had to hire a substitute labor. (Source: HURFOM)

1.16 Situation of Forced Labor in Rangoon Division

Tapoon Chaung and Kee-Mun-Chone Chaung Dams, Khayan Township

To protect the damn at Tapoon chaung and Kee-mun-chone chaung in Khayan township, Rangoon Division from the flow-in of tide waters, neighboring villages have to reinforce the embankments every year. This year approximately 1200 pits were ordered to be dug from the vicinity of Pyin-din-ne-kan village for the Tapun damn and about 700 pits from the vicinity of Kee-mun-chone village for the other damn. Every household that could not give this forced labor was forced to pay kyat 500. (Source: NLD)

On June 19, 2000, the chairman of Ye-da-she village in the Myauk-chaung-village tract of Kaw-hmu township, made five persons from every ten households clear the forest behind the village and remove the branches and trees to the road at the front of the village. (Source: NLD)

Ye-baw-thoung to Taw-la-ti Road, Taik-gyi township

Beginning on July 4, 2000 the work of breaking and carrying stones for the road that links Ye-baw-thoung and Taw-la-ti villages in Taik-gyi township is being done with forced labor in rotation by villagers from the village tracts of Taw-la-ti, Baw-la-kwet, and Min-hla-wa. No wage is paid. Penalty for failure is 500 kyat per day. Prisoners from Ba-wa-thit prison in Sin-kyan village tract, (Taik-kyi township) are also made to work on the road construction. Villages from the vicinity have to supply rice packets daily for them. The villagers and farmers here are experiencing great hardship because they need to be plowing their fields at the beginning of the rainy season to prepare for cultivation of their crops instead of which they are forced to work on the road. Failure to give forced labor means a penalty of 500 kyat. (Source: NLD)

1.17 Situation of Forced Labor in Sagaing Division

Forced Labor for Infrastructure and Development Projects

Repair of main road in Katha

In January 2000, the inhabitants of the wards and villages in Katha township, Sagaing Division, were forced to provide labor without any payment for the purpose of repairing the main road in the town of Katha. The authorities forced them to collect big and small rocks from a point about 2 miles from Katha, which had to be taken to the main road and deposited on the left and right sides. Households that couldn't provide labor were forced to pay 250 to 400 kyat to the Ward PDC. Motor vehicles owners had to pay 5000 kyat per vehicle for this purpose. Each truck had to carry rocks excavated from two pits without payment. Any resulting damage to the trucks was not compensated. Horse-drawn vehicles too were requisitioned. One pit-full had to be conveyed on three horse-drawn vehicles. Each ward/village tract quota was 42 pits. (Source: NLD)

Monywa to Kalewa Road, Min-kin and Kalewa Townships, Sagaing Division

From early February 2000, a new road from Monywa to Kalewa running along the Chindwin watercourse and a bridge crossing the Myittha river in Sagaing division has been under construction. The entire area is full of cliffs, ridges, chaungs and rivulets across which tree trunks have to be laid for crossing. Residents from the townships of Monywa and Ka-ne (Monywa District), Min-kin township (Kale District), Kalewa township are summoned in writing to give forced labor and money by a method of apportionment.

Approximately 1000 people from each township are forced to bring 200 kyat each and provide their labor. The money is to be used when necessary while working on the road. 500 to 1000 kyat has to be paid for inability to give forced labor. Villagers in the vicinity, as well as their cows and buffaloes are commandeered for use on the road. Though these animals are required for the cultivation of crops on the villagers' own farms, they are not spared. The people of the region are extremely hard pressed for their livelihood. These workers are abused and driven like slaves by those in command. The area is infested with a type of insect having the capability of killing elephants and malaria injecting mosquitoes and other insects and microbes that are harmful to humans.

Most of these forced laborers suffer from malaria and there are times when many lose consciousness while on the job. No medical aid whatsoever is provided by the authorities. Medicines have to be bought from outside by the patients themselves. No compensation is given for injuries or even death as a result of accidents at the workplace. (Source: NLD)

Thet-care-kyin to Homalin Road, Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Division

Since the end of May 2000, the SPDC has been using the forced labor of the residents of Mawlaik township for the repairs to the strategically important Thet-care-kyin/Homalin road, a road that branches off the Ye-U, Kalewa motor road in the Mawlaik township (Sagaing Division). Forced labor is also being used for building bridges to cross streams and indiscriminate collection of money from the people is being practiced. Cultivators living in the Mawlaik region including those from Sha-bin, Tain-tha, Kin-tat, Kya-inn, Tat-kone, poverty stricken farm coolies and hired hands have all been forced to work in repairing bridges and roads, carrying stones and rocks, digging soil and doing other manual labor for this strategically important road. Those unable to work have had to pay 300, 1000, or 2700 kyat, as prescribed. Bridge toll is collected by the PDC in Ward 1 and 2 (Mawlaik town) of 300 kyat per household. Forced labor for clearing drains and digging gutters in the town is also used. Private motor boats and other craft that arrive at Mawlaik jetty are forced to give free of charge one gallon of diesel oil supposedly for the strategic road. Before they are allowed to proceed a sum of about over 2000 kyat has to be paid to the six different authorities that await them at the motor boat association. These authorities include the Police, La- A-Ka, Forest, Military Intelligence and Bureau of Special Investigation.

Authorities who are steeped in the practice of "forced labor" have reduced the lives and plight of the Mawlaik farmers to that of slaves who day and night have to work wherever, whenever, whatever forsaking their own needs, their health, their fields, their cultivation. (Source: NLD)

Labor for irrigation in De-pe-yin Township

As of June 2000, under instructions from the township authorities of Sagaing Division, the village authorities in De-pe-yin township, specifically U Myint Maung, Chairman of the Taung-pyin ward and the members of the council demanded that the farmers dig the Mu river which runs along the east of Taung-pyin. Non-compliance resulted in a penalty of 300 to 500 kyat per household. Some elderly farmers who failed to satisfy the chairmen were forced to work two or three times even though it was the beginning of the rainy season. (Source: NLD)

Pagoda construction in Wuntho township

Beginning in mid 1999 and ending on March 23, 2001, forced labor and donations were collected in Kawlin Township, Sagaing division, to build a pagoda in Taw Shaw village, Wuntho township. In 2000, authorities demanded forced labor from the administrative regions of Nankhan, Gyo-taung, Kin, Taung-gyan, Nauk-chan, A-sshasi-chan, and Maing-thone-chaung-phyu village group in order to complete construction of the 108 feet high pagoda on Shaw-bin hillock, (Magyi-bin village tract, Wuntho township, Sagaing division) by June 2000. The labor force was inadequate for the task. People were required to dig, carry bricks, sand and stones, cut down trees and bamboo and transport them for use as fuel for baking bricks. The villagers had to bring their own supply of food to last them a

week at a time. Those who had to travel from far away areas experienced great hardship. No medical services were given to those who fell ill. Penalty for failing to give forced labor was 1,400 kyat and 2 pyi of rice. Inability to cut and supply wood resulted in a separate fine of 1,400 kyat per stack. Attendance to matters relating to death and other personal affairs had to be postponed until after completion of this work.

In addition, the adjoining townships of Katha, Indaw, Ban-mauk, Hte-jiane, and Pin-le-boo had to contribute seven hundred and fifty thousand bricks each and transport them to the base of the pagoda site. Motor vehicle associations also had to contribute 14,500 kyat per heavy vehicle and 3,000 kyat per lighter vehicle. In some townships more was demanded. This forced labor was referred to not as "voluntary labor" but as meritorious giving of "dhana" function.

On the final day of building, March 23, 2001, the local people were ordered to attend a ceremony marking the event. Prior to the ceremony 940 local people had to clean around the pagoda, including roads and bushes, and build 3 helicopter landing pads for the arrival of military leaders. Even though they had a budget to build the landing pads and soldiers to do the construction, the authorities pocketed the money and used the forced labor of the people. High ranking police officer, Colonel Soe Win; Kyi Win, highest ranking officer in Ka Tha district; and Khin Maung Aye, local SPC leader in Wuntho township, were responsible for the project, including the conscription of forced labor and donations. (Source: NLD, AAPP)

Repairs of Bamauk to Indaw Road

In the year 2000, forced labor was used to convert a 28-mile long stretch of road into a tarmac road from Bamauk to Indaw in Bamauk township. Every household in the Bamauk township was responsible for filling up two and a half *Kyin* (each *Kyin* measuring 25'x10' and one foot high) with small stones which they had to first pound into pieces measuring 2 to 4 inches. People from villages that were not accessible to the big rocks had to go to the hills where rocks had been dynamited and transport them to the site. 2,500 kyat per household was the fine for inability to do the rock pounding and 300 kyat for not collecting the rocks. In addition to this, those who lived in the vicinity were forced to provide labor and building materials such as planks, wooden posts, bamboo and money as apportioned by the village PDC for the construction of the Ma-Htone police station in Bamauk township. (Source: NLD)

On August 8 2000, Tactical Commander Khin Maung Myint, who controls seven battalions, traveled from Da Sone village in Homalin township, Sagaing Division, to Swetmaya village in Lay She township. He then forced over 100 local Shan, Gu Kee and Na Ga ethnic villagers to clear a local road. (Source: Inside Source)

Government Crop Project in Tamu Township

In the first week of November 2000, the chairman of the Tamu township PDC issued an order to the farmers in the lower area of Tamu township, Sagaing Division to reap the rice paddy harvest of Htinn Zin New Life paddy fields, Pan Tha paddy field and Kalarkone paddy fields. The farmers were ordered to harvest the crops quickly, within the period of November 11 to 20, 2000. The farmers of lower area of Tamu township such as Sun Lai group, Minthamee group, Htinn Zin group, Kham Park group, and Kyundau were therefore forced to send one person from each household to the Htinn Zin paddy field. They had to bring their own buffaloes, cows, bullock carts, and food rations. Similarly, the farmers of

Witork group, Pan Tha group, Khameit group, Mantmaw group and the farmers of urban areas in Tamu also were forced to labor. They were supervised by police forces while working, and these police gave punishments to those who did not work well. Each group of farmers, based on their population and number of houses, was forced to harvest at least 100 to 150 acres. Then, not only were they forced to reap the harvest, but they were also forced to thresh the paddy with their own buffaloes and cows. Then they had to send the threshed paddy to the houses of the village PDC chairmen where it was left in the sun to dry. For instance, the 10,000 baskets of paddy which was threshed from the Htinn Zin paddy field was sent to U Aung Matt, the Village PDC chairman. These forced labor duties caused great difficulties for the farmers because during the harvest time, they also have an urgent need to reap and thresh their own paddy from their own farms.

In addition, the Tamu township PDC gave an order that, starting from November 11 2000, each village in the township would be required to cut 1,000 to 5,000 pieces of bamboo every month. Farmers from Thee Thain Yan and Twe Van villages therefore had to cut the bamboo and pile it beside the local car road. According to the one of the villagers, the bamboo was to be used to build granaries to store the collected paddy. (Source: HRDU)

Leshi-Summara Road, Naga Hill land, Sagaing Division

In mid-2000, villagers from 12 villages from Naga Hill Land were forced to build a 5-mile highway between Leshi and Summara, which is located on the Indian border. The road is for the utilization of the military personnel stationed at Summara. For the Leshi-Summara highway construction, each of the 12 villages was required to supply 100 laborers in rotation, with their own food and clothing.

Each family was asked to make 35 trenches of split rock measuring 6' x 6' x 14'. Women and children were forced to carry the split rock to the construction site over a distance of half a kilometer. Those unable to work were given the "duty" of paying 3,000 kyat (through the head of the village/ ward) to township authorities concerned. The villagers suffered from malaria and dysentery as a result of the continuous heavy rains. *"Laborers have to get up early, cook their breakfast and lunches, go to work up to 5 p.m. in the evening"* said a woman interviewed on the border. (Source: Mizzima News Group)

Htamanthi-Layshi Road, Naga Hills Area

In 2000 the 60 mile-long Htamanthi-Layshi Road is one of the motor roads where the Burmese army continues to use forced labor in the Naga Hills. (Source: NNLD)

Kan-Dee to LaHel and Tha-Man-De to Layshi roads

On November 4 2000, SPDC troops based in Kan Dee Township, Sagaing Division ordered 60 villagers from Homalin Township and 200 villagers from Kan Dee township in the remote Naga Hill land area of Sagaing Division to construct a 3-mile stretch of road 3 furlongs wide along the Kan Dee to La Hel and Tha Man De to Layshi motor roads. They worked until December 31 2000 without payment or provided food. (Source: Inside Burma)

Forced Labor for the army

In August 2000, Tele-communication and television sets were placed in Leshi town, Naga Hill Land, Sagaing Division. For this service, families were required to contribute one trench of split rocks or 3,000 kyat. According government figures, the "Development of Border Areas" program budget for 2000 was kyat 700 lakh, while for defense and military purposes, kyat 9,530 lakh was sanctioned.

The strength of the army in the border has increased more and more and the villagers, mostly ethnic minorities, are the ones who suffer. The villagers are forced to carry rations and all eatables for the soldiers, of course, free of charge. One villager is always on duty to carry army rations, reports and for other purposes. In addition, the villagers cut trees and bamboo, and make thatch and blocks for the army personnel. Unable to bear these hardship and difficulties anymore, some Naga families fled in mid-2000 to India, particularly to the Naga areas in India. (Source: Mizzima News Group)

Forced Porter Duty

On August 8 2000, Tactical Commander Khin Maung Myint, who controls seven battalions, traveled from Da Sone village in Homalin township, Sagaing Division, to Swetmaya village in Lay She township. He then forced over 100 local Shan, Gu Kee and Na Ga ethnic villagers to carry military supplies and provide food for 50 SPDC soldiers. (Source: Inside Source)

1.18 Situation of Forced Labor in Shan State

Forced Labor for Infrastructure and Development

Namtu- Mang Tong Road

In January 2000 Palaung villagers in Shan State were ordered to begin construction on the Namtu-Mang Tong road. Capt. Nay Oo from LIB 324 had received 1 million kyat for the construction, yet he forced the villagers to work during the time of the tea harvest without pay. Villagers living along the route were forced to sell 10 *Kyin* of stone to the military, at only 400 kyat per *Kyin*. (The current price is 2,500 kyat per *Kyin*) In addition, one person from each family was forced to work at the road construction site, digging drains, building bridges and constructing the road. This was done without payment. The military also forced owners of local tractors to move 20 *Kyin* of stone, or pay 50,000 kyat in absentee fines. The villagers were ordered to finish the work within 20 days. (Source: PYNG)

Since January 2000, acting under the authority of the SPDC in the area, USDA members have been forcing the townspeople to sweep and clean the roads and streets in Ta-Khi-Laek town every Saturday. One person from each house was required to work or else pay 100 baht to the USDA. (Source: SHRF)

Kho Lam to Wan Zing Road and Nam Mawng River Dam Construction Projects

From the beginning of year 2000 to 2001, SPDC troops from the 99th Brigade, which recently set up a base at Kho Lam, have been forcing the villagers who are located near their base, to build the new road to Wan Zing village and a dam on Nam Mawng river to let the water run through Wan Zing. SPDC have forced not less than a hundred people to work for

their programs daily, and the Shan people have been forced to work without payment or food. Burmese people in that area were paid 250 kyat a day. Shan who are able to pay for workers had to hire Burmese. (Source: Inside Burma, Freedom News)

On March 13 2000, IB 332 based in Mong Pan, Shan State forced local villagers to cut and clear the sides of the highway. When they had finished, the soldiers scolded the people for not doing their duty well, and forced them to give the troops 5 viss of chicken and 5 bottles of cooking oil. (Source: SSANews)

NamSan to Mandalay Highway

In early 2000, repairs continued on the NamSan to Mandalay highway in Shan State with the use of forced labor. Since 1999, Palaung villagers from Nan Sai, Namshan Taung Ma, Sakan Tha, Zeyan Gyi and Moe We villages have been forced to work as laborers after local SPDC authorities pocketed the funds which had been allocated for the road repairs. The government had granted 2.1 million kyat a year to repair the road to LIB 503 and 504. (Source: PYNG)

Man Set to Lan Kar village road, Nam Kan Township

On March 12 2000, Captain Tin Win, the Chairman of the Nam Khan Township PDC ordered villagers from Man Set village tract, Nam Kham Township, Shan State to repair the road from Man Set village to Lan Kar village. The work section was about 2 miles long and villagers were responsible for their own food and drink. They were required to produce 500 stones in order to repair the road and were ordered to finish before the end of March. This road is a part of the Ho-Nar feeder road to Pan Sae village which has been under construction with forced labor since 1999. The villagers were originally promised 100 kyat per day (the average daily wage at 500 kyat) by the former Chairman of the Nam Kahn Township PDC, Captain Aye Maung, but he transferred to become Chairman of the Muse Township PDC and didn't pay anything. In addition, although the villages of Pan Sae, Tar Kink, Rar Pan Kohn, Shat Pan Koung, Ar They Se Tang, Kon Kan, and Naung are located along the road, they were not required to provide forced laborers as they are growing opium. (Source: PYNG)

Mong Kyawt to Mong Htar Road, Mong Ton Township

Since June 4 2000, the SPDC's 65th and 225th IBs from Mong Ton have been forcing the local people to work for them without payment on the motor road construction between Mong Kyawt and Mong Htar, in Mong Ton township. About 30 to 40 villagers have been working on the construction of this motor road and those who resisted are being arrested, fined and beaten up. Since most of the villagers are farmers and it is the season to till the land and sow the seeds, they are being hindered to go about with their routine works. Besides, they also have to worry of the bad harvest, due to the late planting caused by this unpaid forced labor. (Source: RSO)

Kaung-bo Road, Taungyi District

In the construction of the Kaung-bo road in the township of Pin-da-ya, Taungyi district, Shan State forced labor was required of male and female residents of the following villages :- Shwe-pa-hto, Thein-kone, Ohn-ai, Pha-nan, North Patho, Inn-nge and Kaung-bo. In addition to having to provide their own food and water at the workplace, each household

had to contribute kyat 300 and 2 Kyin of rock. Penalties were imposed for inability to supply the forced labor. No medical aid was supplied. It was the commencement of the rainy season when peasants cultivate their crops. This had to be left unattended while forced labor had to be given for the road construction. (Source: NLD)

On July 5, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB509, led by Maj. Tin Aung, went to Nawng Kham village in Nawng Kham tract, Tarng-Yarn township, and used the unpaid forced labor of the villagers to repair the market grounds and the road from the market to the village monastery. (Source: SHRF)

Murng Pan-Larng Khur Road, Murng Pan Township

Starting from July 24, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB520 led by Capt. Kyaw Win have conscripted 6 civilian trucks and 108 forced laborers in Murng-Pan township and forced them to fix and clear the sides of the Murng-Pan - Larng-Khur main road. The laborers had to fill up cracks and potholes in the road with stones, rocks and earth gathered by the civilian trucks, and clear the bushes on both sides of the road, from Murng-Pan all the way up to Larng-Khur town. (Source: SHRF)

Repair of Larng-Khur to Murng Nai Road, Larng-Khur Township

Starting from July 27, 2000, SPDC troops from Company No.3 of IB99 led by Capt. Aung Phe had conscripted 5 civilian trucks and 163 forced laborers in Larng-Khur township and forced them to fix the main road and clear the bushes on both sides of the road, from Larng-Khur up to Murng-Nai town. (Source: SHRF)

Repair of Murng-Nai to Nam Zarng Road, Murng-Nai Township

Starting from August 5, 2000, SPDC troops from Co. No.5 of IB248 led by Capt. Saw Hpyu had conscripted 3 civilian trucks and 87 forced laborers in Murng-Nai township and forced them to fix and clear the bushes on the sides of the main road, from Murng-Nai all the way up to Nam-Zarng town. (Source: SHRF)

Wan Naa to Murng Pan Road, Murng Pan Township

Starting from August 19, 2000, SPDC troops from Co. No.4 of IB225 conscripted 8 civilian trucks and 120 forced laborers in Murng-Pan township and forced them to fix the road starting from the base of IB225 at Wan Naa village in Murng-Pan township. A new shift of trucks and laborers would replace the old one every 15 days. All the forced laborers had to bring and use their own tools such as hoes and spades in road fixing and their own knives to clear the roadsides. They had to provide their own food and received no pay, no matter how long they had to go for the forced labor. (Source: SHRF)

Murng Zaem Road, Kaeng-Tung Township

On August 19, 2000, SPDC troops of IB244 forced the villagers of Wan Lawng village in Murng Zaem tract, Kaeng-Tung township, to fix and renovate the 2-furlong-long driveway between the main road and their base. According to the local people, the SPDC troops had already forced people from several villages in Murng Zaem tract many times to take turns and build the driveway but it did not seem to be finished. One person from each of the 27-28 houses in Wan Lawng village had to get up early, prepare some food for midday meal and go to work from 07:00 hrs in the morning until 17:00 hrs in the evening, stopping only a short while around mid-day to eat the day meal. While the villagers were working, about 25 fully armed SPDC troops from IB244 were always present, overseeing the work site and

guarding the villagers as if they were prisoners. (Source: SHRF)

Tree Planting Beautification Project in Pekon

On September 17 2000, Maung Bo, of Eastern Division Military Command ordered over 100 villagers in Pekon Township to plant trees to beautify the area, including Pekon town. Each household was ordered to plant 60 tree saplings. The Government of Agriculture provided the 10-inch tree saplings to the villagers, but in order to plant the trees, the villagers had to dig holes 1 ft. deep and 1 ft. wide. If the villagers were not able to labor, they had to hire others to do the job at 200 kyat per day. Therefore, the villagers have been facing many difficulties. (Source: DVB)

Repairs of Taunggyi to Pang-Lawng Road

On November 20 2000, people in Kyawk Teng and Thapye Kong village tracts, Shan State were forced to fix roads by Pa-O militia, formerly a Pa-O cease-fire group under Aung Hkam Hti, in the area under their control. One person from each house in the said 2 village tracts was required to provide their own food and fix the roads starting from Taunggyi to Nam Pan village, to Kyauk Long Gyi village and down to Pang-Lawng, a road 10-miles long. A written order was sent to village tract leaders by the village tract level Pa-O militia officer in the area on November 19, stating that anyone who failed to turn up on the given day would have to face punishments as the militia deemed fit. (Source: SHRF)

Forced to grow Opium, Ho-Pong Township

For the year 2000, people living within the area from Phra Kao Su mountain to Loi Maw mountain range in Ho-Pong township are being ordered to grow opium by the SPDC troops in the area. Every household is required to grow it and the opium seeds are being provided by the SPDC troops themselves. The land area in which opium is to be grown is about 15 square-miles. No household is allowed not to engage in this enterprise, all have been forced to do so whether they like it or not. The growers are obliged to pay, as taxes, 30,000-50,000 kyat to the military for each acre of the land used to grow opium, and thus creating one more source of extra income for the military. About 30 square-miles of land between Loi-Lem and Murng Pawn towns in Loi-Lem township are also being used to grow opium by the military and about 3,000 civilian laborers would be needed to do the job, from clearing the land up to harvesting the produce. (Source: SHRF)

Forced Labor for the army

Situation on Murng-Ton Township

The civilian population of Murng-Ton township is regularly being forced to work without pay for the SPDC troops for at least 15 days per month. Each month, every household, working in rotation, has to provide workers to work for the military in the following categories of work:

1. Guarding roads — 2 days and 2 nights
2. Serving as porters (actually serving or standing-by) — 7 days and 7 nights
3. Waiting on stand-by at military camps (for running errands, etc.) — 2 days and 2 nights
4. Working in military farms and fields — 2 days
5. Making fences, chicken shacks and pigsties, etc. — 1 day
6. Clearing military compounds and drainage, etc. — 1 day

Each civilian truck or car in the township has to wait at the military camps on stand-by for 7 days per month to do various kinds of transportation. Any truck or car, even though its turn for serving the military is not yet due, is subjected to conscription at any time in an emergency. The owners have to provide their own fuel for their vehicles. Mini-tractors are often forced to work or borrowed 'for free' by the military for several days at a time and the soldiers take no responsibility for any damage done to the tractors. Video tape recorders are also often borrowed by the soldiers, either to entertain their families or for their own enjoyment, sometimes for several weeks and are usually returned only after they have broken down, and the owners have to pay for the repair. Small shops selling consumer goods are taxed 1,500 kyat per month by the military authorities and bigger shops selling clothes and other goods are taxed 3,000 kyat and upwards. During occasions when there are visiting senior military authorities, or transferring of troops or military units, soldiers often take things from the shops without paying. Apart from the regular provision of many kinds of forced labor, there is often random conscription of laborers, especially porters, whenever so-called emergency cases arise. (Source: SHRF)

On January 8 2000, SPDC troops from IB 524, led by Capt. Khin Maung Nyo bought an ox worth 10,000 kyat for only 6,000 kyat from the villagers of Kali village, Kali tract, Kunhing Township, Shan State. It was butchered and the people were forced to buy the beef. He also ordered 4 villagers from each village in the tract to make charcoal for his battalion without payment. (Source: SSANews)

On February 19, 2000, villagers of Yaang Khwaai, Wan Tap and Nawng Hoi villages in Murng Luay tract, Murng-Yarng township, were ordered to provide firewood by SPDC troops of IB279 and IB281. Each village was required to bring to the military camps 5 arm-span stacks of firewood within 10 days. To be able to gather enough firewood within the given time, the villagers had to abandon their own necessities and work cutting and transporting firewood to the military camps. (Source: SHRF)

In 2000, SPDC troops of Military Tactical Command stationed at Kaeng Ka village, zone 2, in Kaeng-Tung, confiscated the villagers' pineapple gardens and forced them to grow other kinds of vegetables for the military. The villagers were made responsible for virtually every aspect of cultivation, from the planting until the produce was transported to the military base either by portering or by truck. In March 2000, a Major from the Military Tactical Command came to Kaeng Ka village and ordered the villagers to gather. He told them that the regional commander wanted to help them make a livelihood and ordered them to grow vegetables in the fields in front of the village. He said that they would be able to sell the vegetables and share the profits among all the villagers. However, when the time came to sell or eat the vegetables, no one was able to take them. In addition, the villagers had to take turns and keep watch over the gardens to keep away animals because if any of the vegetables were destroyed by pigs or cattle they had to pay for them. (Source: SHRF)

On March 10, 2000, a patrol of 7 SPDC troops from IB244 shot dead a cow and forced the villagers to cut up meat for them at Wan Saa village, Kaad Thaa tract, Kaeng-Tung township, Shan State. Zaai Saam Long (m), aged 46, lost one of his cattle which could easily fetch 17,600 kyat in the market. (Source: SHRF)

On March 12, 2000, SPDC troops from IB278 stationed at a camp near Wan Zaang village in Murng-Yarng township ordered the villagers of Wan Zaang to catch 20 viss of fish for them by the next day. It was virtually impossible for a small village of only 11-12 houses like Wan Zaang to catch that much fish in just one day, so villagers begged the soldiers to reduce the amount to 5 viss. The soldiers, however, refused to change the quota and the villagers had to collect 5,300 kyat amongst themselves and buy all the fish from a fishpond in Murng Luay to give to the SPDC soldiers.

On March 21, 2000, SPDC troops of Murng-Khark-based LIB327 issued an order requiring the villagers of Wan Phaa Tai village and Wan Phaa Nur village to provide 3 arm-span stacks of firewood from each village within 3 days. Because of frequent and extensive cutting over the years, wood had become scarce and the villagers from both villages were only able to gather 3 stacks of wood within the 3 days. The troops then ordered each village to provide 6,000 kyat in cash for the remaining quotas of firewood. The villagers explained about the scarcity of the wood and tried to ask for 7 more days to fill their remaining quotas, however the troops said that their time was up and demanded that they bring the money. The villagers collected the money amongst themselves and handed it over in order to avoid more severe punishment. (Source: KIC, SHRF)

On March 23, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB316, based in Ta Lur, forced the people of Kawng Khi Laek and Nam Laan villages, Pa Leo tract, Ta-Khi-Laek township, Shan State to clear trees and brush around their military camp, and gather firewood for them. The villagers worked from 9:00 hrs to 18:00 without a break and without pay. They were not provided with food or water and had brought little food with them from home. (Source: SHRF)

On April 5, 2000, SPDC troops of Ta-Lur-based LIB316 issued an order requiring the villagers of Huay Tai village and Pa Saang Mai village in Ta-Lur tract, Ta-Khi-Laek township, to prepare the ground of the military farm for cultivation for 3 days (April 6-8 2000). Some villagers, confused over why only their 2 villages were required to go and not the other villages in the tract, went and asked the Commander of the troops, only to be angrily scolded by him and told that they had no right to question his orders. (Source: SHRF)

Since early 2000, SPDC troops of Kun-Hing-based LIB524 have been conscripting ox-carts from the civilian population in the Kaeng Tawng area of Murng-Nai township in order to transport teak lumber from Kaeng Tawng to Kun-Hing town in Kun-Hing township. About 30 ox-carts from Kaeng Tawng are being used at a time and at least 2 times per month. The owners and the drivers of the ox-carts get nothing for their service but are scolded, fined and punished if they fail to fulfill their forced labor obligations. Those who can not work fast enough to meet the demand of the troops are often scolded and beaten; sometimes even the oxen are beaten to death. (Source: SHRF)

In early 2000, temporary Battalion Commander Khin Maung Shwe from LIB 130 based on Man Ton, Shan State used forced labor from villagers for building a new military camp. In fact, 200,000 kyat had been budgeted for building the new military barrack. But the LIB ordered to villagers to build it with just 15,000 kyat. They also forced the villagers to clear forests, level ground, and build roads for the new camp. (Source: Inside Burma)

Since June 2000, SPDC township level authorities in Kaeng-Tung township together with authorities in the Golden Triangle Special Regional Command have been confiscating land, on both sides of the Kaeng-Tung - Murng-Khark main road, from Nam Khern bridge up to Wan Kaang La Murng village. The confiscated land has long been cultivated by the local people in several village tracts, such as Wan Mao, Yaang Long, Yaang Hok, Kaad Tao and Wan Kaang La Murng. The villagers in the area are being forced to grow crops for the military on the land that has been taken from them. Over 800 acres of land has already been confiscated and distributed among the SPDC government departments, each getting about 30 to 40 or 60 to 100 acres. The Forestry Department, located in Kaad Tao village tract, got about 40-50 acres and the people in Kaad Tao village tract are being forced to grow crops for them on it. As of October 2000, the crops forced to be grown were mainly potato, Soya bean and other kinds of beans. For the cultivation of any crop, the villagers have to take responsibility from the beginning to the end, from clearing the land up to the transporting of the produce to the Department. The SPDC troops and the Department's workers do little more than make sure that the villagers do their assigned job properly. (Source: SHRF)

On June 7, 2000, SPDC troops from Loi Muay-based IB226 issued an order requiring the villagers of Wan Zawn village in Murng Laab tract, Kaeng-Tung township, to provide 40 arm-span stacks of firewood for the military within 7 days. The villagers had to use their own money to hire trucks to transport the firewood to the military camp, which was 6-7 miles away. (Source: SHRF)

From June 2000, SPDC troops of LIB327 have been forcing the villagers of Kaeng Pin village in Murng-Khark township to grow an acre of chillies for them. The villagers have to use a part of their cultivating land for it and have to do the work from the beginning until the end of the cultivation — fencing, tilling, sowing, planting, weeding and up to harvesting of the crop. In other areas such as Murng Nung tract and Nam Wok tract, villagers are also being forced to cultivate chilies, vegetables and cucumber farms for the military. (Source: SHRF, S.H.A.N.)

On June 27, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 327 ordered the villagers of Pa Non village in Murng-Yarng township, Shan State to provide 20 viss of fish for the military. On that day, 3 troops from LIB327 came to Pa Non village and summoned the village leaders to go to see their commander at the military camp. At the camp, the commander told the 4-5 village leaders to go back and tell their villagers to catch 20 viss of fish and bring it to the camp on 29.6.00. The village leaders explained that it was time for rice cultivation and all the villagers were very busy tending their rice fields and trying to get enough rain water for them, and requested the commander to let them provide the fish after the rice cultivation. But the commander only scolded the villagers, "Our troops are stationed here to protect your interest, and yet we do not have enough curries to eat and nothing was sent from the HQs. It is your responsibility to see that we have enough good food. Say no more and go back, and make sure the fish is here on 29th". For fear of further and harsher abuse the villagers had no choice but to comply. They had to abandoned their work at their rice fields for one whole day in order to catch the 20 viss of fish for the SPDC troops. (Source: SHRF)

On July 3, 2000, 7 SPDC troops from Murng-Khark-based LIB327, led by Lt. Nyan Lin, issued an order forcing the villagers of Huay Long, Nawng Yaao and several other villages in Nawng Long tract to cut bamboo and build fences for their military base. The villagers were required to cut 50 bunches of bamboo sticks, each containing 100 bamboo sticks about 6 feet long and about 2 inches thick. They had to be finished before July 13, 2000. They were forced to build the fences for 3 days, from July 19 to July 21, and each village had to provide 6 workers for each day. All the work had to be done using the villagers' own tools and eating their own food without any pay or compensation. (Source: SHRF)

On July 9, 2000, 2nd Lt. Kyaw Win of the 'Wa' army, acting under the instruction of SPDC tactical command No.3, forcibly conscripted 25 villagers in Nawng Kham tract to work as unpaid laborers on their pineapple plantation. He did the same on August 15, 2000, when he conscripted 20 laborers. (Source: SHRF)

On July 27 2000, SPDC troops from IB246 dismantled several temples and monasteries in the forced relocation areas in Kun-Hing township and took away the tin roofs and the lumber. On the day of the incident, about 80 SPDC troops from IB246 led by Capt. Min Oo forcibly recruited 54 young men, aged between 20-35, and 14 trucks in Kun-Hing town and drove them to Wan Lao tract where there were many deserted villages that had been forcibly relocated to other places in 1996-97. The troops then forced the 54 men to dismantle deserted temples and monasteries in 6 deserted villages in Wan Lao tract and trucked the lumber and tin sheets roofing back to IB246 military base. The 54 workers and the 14 trucks received no pay whatsoever. Later, on August 4, 2000, the same troops again forcibly took some workers and trucks in Kun-Hing town and went to deserted villages in Ho Yaan tract that had also been forcibly relocated a few years ago. The troops disassembled deserted temples and monasteries in the following 6 relocated villages and trucked away the lumber and the tin sheet roofing to the IB246 military base. On August 10, 2000, the same troops again conscripted 87 workers from Kun-Hing town and forced them to build a big tent-like building to house the lumber and tin sheets roofing from the dismantled monasteries in the base of IB246. (Source: SHRF)

On August 2, 2000, Tarng-Yarn township authorities extorted 650 pieces of bamboo from the people of Long Mong village tract. 3 days later they extorted 1200 pieces of bamboo. The villagers were required to cut and transport the bamboo to the village monastery at Long Mong village. (Source: SHRF)

From August 10 to 15, 2000, local people were forced to work free of charge on a peanut farm belonging to the SPDC in Mongton, Mongshat District, Eastern Shan State. One member from each household was required to come to labor, and bring their own food and tools. (Source: LNN)

On August 17, 2000, SPDC troops of Murng-Yarng-based IB279 forced each of the villagers from Wan Yaao, Wan Pung and Wan Pa Hai villages in Murng Luay tract, Murng-Yarng township, to do sanitary work in the military base from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. without pay. The villagers had to provide their own food and tools and were not given drinking water. (Source: SHRF)

On August 25, 2000, SPDC troops from IB226 based in Loi Muay in Kaeng-Tung came to Wan Hud village, Murng Laab tract, Kaeng-Tung township and told the headman, Lung Sai, to go and see their commander at the base immediately. In order to get to the military base as soon as possible, the headman and 2-3 villagers hired a car and set off right away. When they got to the base, the commander ordered the headman to tell his villagers to bring 60 bunches of bamboo pieces for making fences by August 30, no matter how they got them, and dismissed them immediately without letting them speak. Each bunch of bamboo contained 100 pieces of 2-inch-thick and 6-feet-long bamboo sticks. The village headman had no choice but to call a village meeting and allot the duties among his villagers. Since there was no wild bamboo that could be cut for free in the area, the villagers had to buy from other villages, some as far as 20 miles away. The villagers managed to meet the deadline by working very hard and squeezing out 300 kyat from each family's meager income to pay for the bamboo and the car rent. In addition to their free labor, the villagers had to provide over 8,000 kyat to fulfill the demand of the military. According to the local people, every village in the area often has to do one kind of forced labor or another all year round, and no village or family is spared. (Source: SHRF)

On August 25 2000, SPDC troops of LIB 508 ordered the villagers from Wan Hai Khai, Par Kee tract, Murng Paeng township Shan State to carry planks for use in their base. They ordered that the village had to carry two cartloads and if they disobeyed, the villagers would be punished seriously. (Source: SSANews)

In August and September 2000, local people in Mongton, Shan State were summoned to labor in several tasks, such as construction of chicken coops pigstys and Chinlong (Takraw) courts, digging latrine holes, mending and constructing latrines, and pulling weeds in army's bean fields and corn fields. (Source: SHAN)

Since September 1 2000, at least a hundred people from each of the 15 villages in Hsipaw Township were summoned by the IB 23 to join in this year's corn-harvest in the 100-acre Army's land at Kawngwa, between Pangniu and Nakang. The villagers were also required to bring their own food. There was no talk of compensation from the military authorities. Instead, "absentees are punished by having to pay for diesel-fuel for the Tolajis (farm tractors)" The 15 villages that were forced to participate in the harvest were Namon, Pangniu, Kawngghai, Nawng-nyawng, Namzam, Koongpong, Nampien, Kawgteng, Pangmoed, Khaihsim, Poogpak, Nakang, Namhukad, Khahiao and Khoknam. One of the villages, Khaihsim, is the headquarters of Shan State National Army aka Shan State Army Central, commanded by Gunyawd. The group enjoys a cease-fire agreement with Rangoon. (Source: SHAN)

In September 2000, thousands of bamboo pieces were forcibly taken from the people of Tarng-Yarn Township. Unpaid forced labor was used to cut and transport them to the military camp at Wan Kaad village to be used for building a military training camp. (Source: SHRF)

On September 7, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB326 came to Ho Mang village in Ho Mang tract and forcibly took away 500 pieces of bamboo, using the unpaid forced labor of the villagers to cut and transport them. They did the same on September 11 with 400 pieces of bamboo. (Source: SHRF)

Since September 19, 2000, SPDC troops of Tachilek-based LIB526 have been forcing the villagers of Wan Saa Laa and Wan Noi villages in Fang Min tract, Ta-Khi-Laek township, to grow several kinds of crops for them at farms near the 2 villages which were confiscated from the villagers in 1998. The troops provided the seeds and the villagers have had to do all the rest, from clearing, tilling, sowing, weeding, up to the harvesting and transporting the produced crops to the military base. The villagers would also be held responsible for any loss or failure. The crops the villagers have been forced to grow include potato, peanut, sesame, pea and different kinds of beans. Since there are only about 20-30 houses in each of the 2 villages, the villagers have to work in frequent rotation and have very little time to work for themselves. (Source: SHRF)

On September 22, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB326 forced the villagers of Ho Mang village to provide 607 pieces of bamboo. (Source: SHRF)

On September 26, 2000, a patrol of 80-85 SPDC troops from LIB524 led by Maj. Maung Maung burned down a Buddhist temple and monastery at Paang Hok village in Wan Lao tract, Kun-Hing township. The monastery was a big and well established one, built in 1958 of the best hardwood. It was once supported by 200 households of devotees before they were forcibly relocated by SLORC/SPDC troops in late 1997. In May 2000, Capt. Hla Khin, commander of Co. No.3 of LIB524, conscripted 24 ox-carts and 20 civilian forced laborers in Kun-Hing town and went to the deserted village of Paang Hok. He then ordered them to dismantle many of the wooden planks and timber from the walls, floors and framework of the monastery and carted them back to the base of LIB524. They were later brought to No.6 military base in Nam-Zarng. The SPDC troops burned down the remaining structure of the monastery to completely destroy all the evidence that a structure of worship of the Shan villagers had ever been there. (Source: SHRF)

On September 29, 2000, SPDC authorities in Tarng-Yarng township forced the villagers of Nawng Kham village tract to provide 350 pieces of bamboo and transport them to the military camp. (Source: SHRF)

On October 1, 2000, SPDC troops of Murng-Ton-based IB65 issued a written order to all the village tract headmen in Murng-Ton and Murng-Sart township forcing the farmers in the areas to grow rice and other crops for the military. The order required the farmers to buy rice seeds, which had been brought up from the lowland in southern Burma by the military, and grow them for the military as the second harvest in the villagers' rice fields after the harvest of the rainy season crops. Soya bean seeds and another kind of bean seeds were also required to be bought by the farmers. The farmers would be held accountable for any loss and failure. The order said that the paddy seeds were to be bought immediately and kept by the farmers, and were to be cultivated as soon as the current rice crop had been harvested. The paddy seeds would be sold at the rate of 3,500 kyat per basket, and both kinds of bean at the rate of 10,000 kyat per basket. The following rates of production were expected:

- 1 basket of rice seeds must produce 100 baskets
- 1 basket of Soya bean must produce 400 baskets
- 1 basket of a certain bean must produce 500 baskets

If these requirements were not met, the farmers were responsible to fill the quotas. The 8 village tracts in Murng-Ton township were required to buy from 1 to 3 baskets of each kind of the seeds in proportion to the sizes of their cultivating land areas. (Source: SHRF)

During the year 2000 and the beginning of 2001, SPDC troops from IB99 and LIB525, manning a military camp at Muay Taw village temple, routinely extorted food and money and demanded forced labor from the people of Wan Zid, Haai Kuay and Nawng Long village tracts, Larng-Khur township. The villagers were forced to provide the troops with food stuff such as rice, salt, pickled Soya bean, cooking oil, chickens, coconuts and lemons, etc., at least 1-2 times per month. According to one villager, "They ask for almost everything you eat". In addition, at least 1 ox-cart had to fetch and transport water to Muay Taw camp every day, 5 times per day. At least 7 people had to report to the camp every day; 2 for running errands and 5 on standby to serve as porters. Anyone who turned up later than the specified time was fined, either money or rice or chickens, etc.

Occasionally, the villagers were forced to provide firewood, using their own ox-carts and mini-tractors to transport it to the camp and Larng-Khur town for the troops' families.

Certain behavior of the troops also upset the local people. For example, despite the fact that the troops lived in the compound of a Buddhist temple, they kept pigs and chickens and often killed them there and often brought their wives to sleep over; behavior from which Buddhists are supposed to refrain. (Source: SHRF)

On December 8 2000, SPDC troops from the 64th IB led by Major Tun Hla ordered the people in the area of Wan Hti tract, Lai Kha township, Shan State to cut down and send 10 poles of bamboo, a bullock cart load of firewood, and 2 viss weight of chicken to their base in Lai Kha. The ordered things had to be at their base not later than 10th December 2000. (Source: Inside Burma)

Forced Labor for the police

Since June 8 2000, people in Mansi Township (where Shan, Kachin and Yunnan province of China all meet), have been forced to labor without compensation in the paddy fields owned by the local police welfare service. Villagers from Nawnglom were forced to sow the paddy seeds, while those from Nawnglook, Nawngmon, Hpazang, Namhi, Nawngzawn, Pangkham, and Manwiang took turns to plow the fields. The villagers who plowed the fields were made to rent either buffaloes at 600 kyat each, or Tralajis (tractors) at 4,600 kyat each. Local policemen kept a watch over the forced "volunteers" and also collected a tax from passing vehicles. (Source: S.H.A.N.)

Forced Porter Duty

On January 1 2000, a unit from LIB 99 stationed in Ho Mong, Shan State forced 10 villagers with 2 trucks to carry rations to Border Point One (Nong Ook) near the Thai-Burma border. It took them 3 day to do the 58-mile journey there and back and nothing was provided for the villagers. (Source: PYNG)

On January 2 2000, troops from LIB 422 used 2 trucks and 5 horses belonging to local villagers to carry dry rations to Ta Hway Pa near the Thai Burma border. 8 villagers from Mae Aw Gyi, Shan State were forced to move the supplies between Homung and Na Moon Long. It took them 3 days to complete the 38-mile journey there and back, and they were given nothing. (Source: PYNG)

In January 2000, on a military operation in Murng Khur tract area, Si-Paw township, a column of about 100 SPDC troops from Nam-Lan-based LIB506 led by Maj. Kaung Kyaw forcibly took several civilians to serve as porters for several days. The following is an account of one of the porters who had to serve the military for 13 days, from January 10 to 22. On January 10, Ai Zaam, aged 26, a Palaung villager of Naa Mawn village, Murng Khur tract, Si-Paw township, was seized at his village by a passing column of SPDC troops from LIB506 to serve as a porter. He was forced to carry rice and some backpacks of the soldiers. There were about 30 civilian porters with him at the time. It was said that the troops came from Paang Hung village early in that morning, drew their rations at Ho Kho village military camp and came to Naa Mawn village where they took Ai Zaam. For several days, the troops searched along the route which went through several villages, somewhat in a circle, in Murng-Khur tract. On January 22 at Paang Hung village, 12 porters were released, including Ai Zaam, after serving for several days and were suffering from badly injured feet and shoulders. But the same number of new porters was taken to replace them, in addition to an ox-cart. During the 13-days period in which Ai Zap had to serve as a porter, the troops took 7 more civilian porters at different points and 4 of the soldiers from Company No.3 deserted. While traveling, several porters were beaten, particularly those from Murng Tung. All the porters were tied to their loads, and were untied only at eating and sleeping times. In the villages, the troops took the chickens they wanted without paying. They bought 2 pigs for the troops on the way, enough to distribute 1 viss of pork to each soldier. The rice they fed the porters was rotten and had a horrible smell, and was given with only salt. Only when they happened to be eating in a village, could the porters ask for some dried or pickled bean or vegetables from the villagers. As a result of 13-days portering, Ai Zap suffered from extreme weakness and badly injured feet and shoulders. (Source: SHRF)

On February 29, 2000, a column of 30 SPDC troops from IB245, led by Capt. Sein Win, came to Naa Le Kao village in Tong Ta tract and forcibly took 6 villagers to serve as porters. They later took another 4 villagers from Naa Le Mai village in the same tract. Although they were first told to serve as porters for 1 day, the villagers had to serve for 5 days, through Murng Sen, Murng In and Murng Paeng tracts. The porters were fed rice twice a day and at night slept on the bare ground while tied together. (Source: SHRF)

On March 11 2000, at 8 AM, 28 SPDC troops on patrol from Laikha Township captured 4 innocent villagers in their paddy fields at Pang Oo Sae tract, Laikha township, Shan State. The victims were tied up and beaten with rifle butts and sticks. They were then tied up in pairs until March 12, when they were forced to follow the troops as porters to carry rice.

The 4 victims were:

- Loong Phit, age 48, whose arm was broken due to the beating
- Aw Ta, age 25
- Sarng Loo, age 18
- Sarng Lu, age 35

As of the end of April 2000, no news had been received of their whereabouts after they were taken as porters. (Source: SSANews)

On April 1, 2000, 7 Palaung male villagers from Wan En village were forcibly taken as porters by SPDC troops from LIB527, in Murng Lung tract, Murng-Sart township. The villagers were seized by the troops in their village and made to carry military things as well as lead the way to Murng Pak village tract area. The villagers led the troops by a shortcut route, which went through forests, brush and undergrowth. After some time the Commander became quite angry because of the difficulty in following the route and accused the porters of deliberately leading them through a difficult route. For this reason, he called one of the porters, Ai Zaen, who was also one of the village leaders, and punched him in the face with his fist. He was hit in the eye which caused a painful bruise. The villagers were released on April 3, 2000. (Source: SHRF)

On the morning of April 12, 2000, a column of about 60 SPDC troops from LIB527 led by Capt. Tin Kyaing forcibly conscripted civilian porters from Yaang Kham, Wan Nawng and Waeng Laek villages in Murng Lung tract, Murng-Sart township. Altogether 23 villagers were seized, 7 from Yaang Kham, 11 from Wan Nawng and 5 from Waeng Laek. The villagers were forced to carry heavy packages of different shapes without knowing the contents. They started out at about 15:30 hrs towards Murng In tract and did not stop until 22:00 hrs when they stopped for the night near Nam Yaang village in Murng In tract. During the journey the troops pressed the porters to go as fast as possible and did not let them rest or eat. The beat and kicked those who lagged behind as a result of feeling weak. The next day at 6:30 a.m. they continued on after a second meal of rice and salt. Again they were kicked and beaten all the way until they reached Nam Phoi village in Nawng Tao tract, at about 18:00 hrs in the evening. At Nam Phoi village, they were released without being given any food and replaced by a new batch of civilian porters. All the porters suffered from bruises and pains and 2 of them, Ai Saam, aged 41 and Ai Kawng, aged 26, had been so repeatedly beaten and kicked with army boots that they were virtually dead. (Source: SHRF)

On June 21, 2000, a column of about 60 SPDC troops from IB245 conscripted civilian porters in the area of Loi Ko, Paang Mu, Yaang Mu, Wan Son, Kiu Khi Kai Tai and Kui Khi Kai Nur villages. Altogether 37 villagers were unexpectedly and so suddenly seized where they happened to be that they had no time to take their food and put on proper clothing, and many had to go barefoot. The porters were first taken down to the main road where there were trucks loaded with military things, which were divided and distributed among the porters to carry on their backs and shoulders. On the same day the troops set out again up into the hills away from the main road and the porters were ordered to carry their loads and go with them, towards the area of Murng Sen and Murng In tracts. (Source: SHRF)

On June 23, 2000 porters were released after serving the military for 51 days without pay or any other kind of compensation. At the time of this report, out of 24 civilian ports that had been conscripted, only 13 have returned home. In early May 2000, a column of about 80 SPDC troops of Company No.5 from LIB514 led by Capt. Hla Myint conscripted 24 civilian porters for 51 days during which they killed at least 4 porters and wounded or killed many others while on patrol in the rural areas of Murng-Kerng township. Most of the civilian porters were originally from Kung Yom village in Ham Ngaai tract, Murng-Kerng township, who had been forcibly relocated to a relocation site in the outskirts of Murng-Kerng town by the SLORC/SPDC troops a few years ago. After having to carry heavy loads for 37 days with inadequate rest and food, 4 of the porters became so weak that they had to stop at every 20-30 yards, but the troops thought they were just feigning and angrily beat them until they all died. A few days after that, 3-4 other porters who had become too weak to go on were also beaten and left lying along the way, without any care whether they were dead or not. Since they have not returned until the time of this report, they are presumably dead. Many other porters were also beaten along the way. (Source: SHRF)

On July 22, 2000, Akha villagers of Phaa Khaao village in Murng-Paeng township were forcibly taken by SPDC troops to serve the military without pay. On that day, a column of about 60 SPDC troops from IB245 surrounded Phaa Khaao village in Si Paw tract, Murng-Paeng township, and forcibly took 13 Akha villagers to serve as porters for the military. On the same day, the villagers were forced to carry heavy baggage, the contents of which they did not know, and set off towards Murng Sen and Murng In tracts in Kaeng-Tung township. The troops went through several villages and tracts for 3 days until they reached Murng-Kok village in Murng-Sart township where they released the porters without paying them anything. During those 3 days, the troops forced the villagers of the villages they were passing through to cook meals for them to eat immediately as well as put into packages for them to take away to eat on the way. The porters, however, only received a very small amount of food per day and were scolded, kicked and beaten along the way when they slowed down due to hunger and weakness. (Source: SHRF)

On August 7 2000, SPDC troops of Co. No.4 from LIB524, led by Capt. Soe Nyunt forcibly conscripted the following 10 civilian porters from Kun-Hing town relocation site:

1. Lung Saw (m), aged 51, originally from Waeng Kum village, Naa Poi tract
2. Na-Ling (m), aged 50, originally from Huay Poo, Saai Murng tract
3. Saw-Zing (m), aged 36, originally from Mai Maw Lao village, Saai Khaao tract
4. Lung Moo (m), aged 53, originally from Kung Laang village, Loi Khio tract
5. Wi-Ya (m), aged 55, originally from Paang Hok village, Wan Phui tract
6. Zaa Win (m), aged 21, originally from Naa Khaa village, Naa Teng tract
7. Naang Lu (f), aged 36, originally from Naa Keng village, Loi Keng tract
8. Naang Paang (f), aged 33, originally from Naa Yaang village, Saai Khaao tract
9. Naang Nyunt (f), aged 28, originally from Nam Hoo village, Saai Khaao tract
10. Naang Ung (f), aged 25, originally from Naa Waai village, Wan Lao tract

These 10 porters were seized while they were working at a farm and forced to carry military things and go with the troops while they patrolled the deserted villages in the relocation areas, camping wherever they were when night fell, sometimes stopping for 2-3 days at a place. According to the porters themselves, they did not have to carry very heavy loads, but the women were raped almost every night by one soldier or another. After 1 month and 5 days, a porter named Zaai Win tried to escape but was captured by the troops. He was beaten and tortured, including by a bamboo stick being rolled on his shins, in front of the other porters. In 3 days, the wounds in his shins were full of pus and the troops beat him to death.

The other porters were forced to go on until 20.11.00, when they reached Kun-Hing town and the troops released them. These civilians had been forced to serve as unpaid military porters for a straight period of 3-1/2 months, from 7.8.00 to 20.11.00, during which time the women were also forced to serve as sex slaves. (Source: SHRF)

On August 23 and 24, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB360 conscripted 21 villagers in Pet Kaang tract, Murng-Paeng township, Shan State to serve as forced and unpaid porters for the military. A column of about 60 SPDC troops from LIB360 came through Pet Kaang village tract and seized 6 villagers from Kung Sa village, 9 villagers from Wan Tong village and 6 villagers from Nawng Kaa village. The villagers, 21 in all, were taken to Tong Ta village where they were forced to carry heavy loads and headed towards Murng Sen and Murng In tracts. Most of the things the porters had to carry were dried food, ammunition and clothes of the soldiers. Though they had dried food with them, the troops did not eat it, but forced the villagers of the villages where they stopped for meals to cook and provide food for them and the porters. The troops went through several villages and tracts and, after 4 days of strenuous journeying, they released the 21 porters at Wan Mawn village in Nam In tract without giving them anything. All the porters were suffering from severe shoulder wounds at the time of their release and they did not know the purpose of the troops and where they were going to. (Source: SHRF)

On September 28/2900, a column of about 60 SPDC troops from IB49 seized 6 villagers from Wan Long village, 8 villagers from Wan Hung village and 3 villagers from Wan Pen village in Murng Lung tract, Murng-Sart township to be used as unpaid porters. These villagers were forced to carry heavy bags, without knowing the contents, from a remote place north of a village called Nawng Leo down to Phak Tu Murng village near the main road. The 2 places were quite distant and the villagers could transport the bags only 1 time per day. It took them 2 days to carry all the bags. The bags the porters had to carry on their soldiers were about half the size of a regular rice sack and the contents felt like some sort of seeds or grains, and were quite heavy. It was later learned by some of the porters that the contents were hundreds of thousands of amphetamine tablets, produced at remote places in the jungle in Murng Kok and Murng Lung areas by dealers, but protected by SPDC troops. In this particular shipment, the merchandise was produced and owned by a Chinese trader named Aa Jung. The SPDC soldiers were taking responsibility for the safe passage of the drugs. Some SPDC authorities are making good money from giving protection to the drug trade, and more so by using free forced labor. (Source: SHRF)

In the month of September 2000, SPDC troops of the 99th Brigade who are based in Parng Sarng tract, Lai Kha township issued a martial law to the villagers in the area. The order says:

1. Never run away from SPDC troops wherever villagers meet them, if not they will be shot to death.
2. Whenever SPDC troops need porters or laborers, they have to be provided in time.
3. If the porters are not presented according to the order, the villagers will not be allowed to work in their farms. (Source; Freedom News)

Forced Sentry Duty

On March 14 2000, 6 soldiers from IB 99 who had been posted to stand guard near the Nam Teng bridge went to nearby Wan Sit village, Langkho Township, Shan State and ordered the villagers to bring them supplies by March 17, or else face severe punishment. The soldiers ordered the villagers to bring them teak logs, 7 viss of betel nut, 10 bottles of cooking oil, 10 viss of chicken, 10 viss of pork, and 6 bullock carts of dried firewood. (Source: SSANews)

Villagers from Pekon town are forced to daily guard the Loikaw to Mo Byay electric pole route. The electricity along this route is carried from Lawpita hydroelectric Power Plant in Karenni State. The people were originally ordered to take security for the route following incidents where the KNLP had blown up portions of the line. Yet even though the KNLP has signed a cease-fire with the regime (in 1994), the people are still forced to guard it. Villagers unable to perform the security duty are forced to pay fines, of 500 kyat per night, to LIB 421 and 422, who are sharing the profits from these fees amongst themselves. In addition, the people from Pekon Township are forced to take security along the AungBan to Loikaw Railroad line. Every family is forced to go once a week for this duty, and if they are absent, they must pay a fine of 200 kyat per day. (Source: DVB)

1.19 Situation of Forced Labor in Tenasserim Division

Forced Labor for Infrastructure and Development

Kyauk-meh to Myin-khan-baw village road

Villagers from Taung-thone-lone village, Tavoy District are required to work at the construction site of the Kyauk-meh to Myin-khan-baw village road every other ten days. This road construction started in 1997 and was still going on up until at least July 2000. (Source: FTUB)

The-chaung to Kin-taung Road

From November 1999 until February 2000, villagers from The-chaung village tract, located near the Yadana on-shore gas-pipeline area, have had to contribute free labor in building a road 6 miles in length from The-chaung to Kin-taung, under the order of LIB No. 273, which received an agreement contract from France's oil and gas company, TOTAL. The-chaung village tract consists of 6 villages: 1) The-chaung, 2) Talaing-myaw, 3) Thingun-taw, 4) Taput-chaung, 5) Kadot-chaung and 6) Kin-taung. In these villages, there are over 700 households which are made up mostly of Mon and Tavoyan inhabitants, who have occupations as farmers and fishermen. LIB No. 273 battalion commander Col. Htin Kyaw, and his two column commanders, Maj. Ngwe Lin and Maj. Kyaw Win were in charge of the villagers' forced labor. They required that every household send at least one person, and 30-50 villagers were then forced to labor everyday for 3-5 days, in rotation

shifts. They had to bring their own food and tools. The villagers who failed to go to the designated construction site, had to either pay 500 kyat per day in fines to the army or 500 kyat to hire a substitute. The villagers were forced to level the earth, collect, crush and transport stones, build the road embankment, and build bridges. For carrying of stones to far places on the embankment, the army also conscripted ox-carts from every village. If a family was unable to provide the requested ox-cart, they were forced to pay 1,000 kyat to the army. According to villagers, although they knew that LIB 273 had received funding from TOTAL company for the construction contract, the army never paid them for their labor or fed them while they were working. The road is directly supportive of the oil and gas companies in the area including Unocal and Premier Oil, and was build to better their transportation of staff, workers and facilities. (Source: HURFOM)

LaungLon to Tavoy road

In April 2000, the military ordered the villagers of Tha-Jet-Taw village, Tenasserim Division, which has about 2,000 houses, to build a new road beside the LaungLon to Tavoy road. For this forced labor, the military ordered that one person from each family go to labor. Families who were not able to send the required person for the labor had to pay a fine of 500 kyat. The villagers also had to "donate" money for porter fees, 1000 kyat for 15 days. (Source: THRF)

Bongti-Tavoy Highway Project

In the beginning of May 2000, SPDC Tactical Command No. 2 Commander Colonel Khin Maung Myint, under command of Operation Commanding HQ No.9, ordered the battalions under his control to expand the road from Myitta village to Bongti, on the Thai-Burma border. He ordered the road to be expanded by 50 feet on both sides of the road. To do this, the SPDC troops forced the villagers from Myitkabaw village tract, Myitta village tract, Paungdaw village tract, Heinda, Taung Thon Lon, Kyauk Me Taung, Bawatpyin, Bawatgone, Myinkanti, Pagayi, Kanainda, and Zalome to construct the road. Every village was forced to work 7 days shifts, sending 70 to 100 people. It is estimated that at least 500 villagers were forced to work on this road in each shift. The battalions responsible for the construction also demanded 5 chainsaws and 100,000 kyat cash from Paungdaw village tract, 5 chainsaw and 100,000 kyat from Myitkabaw village tract, and 3 chainsaws and 100,00 kyat cash form Myitta village tract. According to the information received, the troops responsible for the car road construction and to oversee its security are LIBs 275, and 379. The villagers had to fell the trees, clear the stubs, level the damaged road, dig out the fallen earth, and dig drainage beside the road. The villagers did not receive anything for their labor and they had to bring along their own food and tools. Those who failed to show up for their shift were required to hire someone else at a 7,000 kyat substitution cost.

At the beginning of September 2000, Burma Army's No.8 Operational Commanding Headquarter ordered No.2 Tactical Command under its control to examine the damages of Bongti-Tavoy road cause by erosion during the rainy season. According to the field information the damages between Tavoy and Myitta village are minor and there are at least 15 damages between Myitta and Sinbyudaing (Kasawwah) villages. In some parts the soil slid away and left only rocks, which would need to be blasted in order to recreate the roadway through those rocks. The damages were reported back in detail by No.2 Tactical Command to No.8 OC HQ in the mid of September and No.2 TC was ordered to take responsibility to repair the damages. To finish its task, No.2 Tactical Command summoned

villages from the eastern part of Tavoy township such as Myitta, May Kan Baw, Taung Thonlon, Heinda, Hpaungdaw, Bawagon and Pa Kayi village tracts to send labors: at least 100 persons per 7 day terms starting from 1st October. The orders were sent through its frontline headquarter. The mentioned village tracts have been forced to work on that road every year after the rainy season when the road gets damaged due to the heavy rains. The villagers earn nothing by working under the order of the responsible troops and instead they have to bring along with them their own tools, food, cooking utensil, medicine (for in case of sickness by working under the summer sun in malaria infested terrain).

The Bongti-Tavoy highway project is the project which will connect Tavoy in Burma and Kanchanaburi in Thailand. The plan is to develop a transport route for eco-tourism, and cargo transportation purposes that have connection with the project of Tavoy deep-sea port. The project recently dealt by Burma, Kyaw Lynn Naing Company and Thailand, Kanchanaburi Tavoy Development Company. Because of the lack of security, the project has been delayed. The road is now being used by the SPDC as a military transportation route to send supplies to the front line troops. (Source: TIR)

In June 2000, SPDC township authorities in Nasaik village, Thyetchaung townhsip, Tavoy district, Tenasserim Division ordered Nasaik villagers to build an earthen dyke along the Tavoy River to protect rice fields in Naseik village area from floods. Every household had to provide one person for the work everyday. Those who could not go on their duty had to pay 300 kyat per day in substitution. The surrounding villages also were forced to do this work. (Source: TIR)

Ye-Tavoy Road

In November 2000, 30 villages along the Ye-Tavoy road construction sites were asked to send 50 villagers each to provide labor in the construction. No wages, food, or medication was provided. Those who failed to come for the work duty were forced to pay 3000 kyat to hire a replacement. Many villagers could not afford to pay because the army had seized their paddy fields. Rice production is the major source of income for these peasants. However, the Village PDC pressed the villagers to pay the fees. The villagers suspected that the Village PDC used the money for personal income. (Source: Yoma3)

Saw-Pha to Tha-Pru-Chaun Road, Thayay Chaun Township

IBs 403,404, and 405, based in Thayay-Chaun Township, Tenasserim Division have been building camps for the military, constructing new roads, and repairing old roads in Thayay-Chaun area. The road between Saw-Pha and Tha-Pru-Chaun in Saw Pha district, Thayay-Chaun Township is one of the roads that the military units have been building.

The road is over 100 miles long, and even though the SPDC began construction on the road at the beginning of 2000, it is still uncompleted due to storms and falling trees. Villages located near this road had to labor for its construction, because the road is a forest road. The villages are: Tha-Phru-Chaw, Law-Min-Pa, Tawn-Zin, Big Pa-Dac-Chawn, Ka-Tee, Ka-Tee-Wa, Saw-Pya, In-Pha, Pane-Pone-Aye, Khaw-Lay-Kar, Kin-Shai, Mu-Shew-Kuu, Kar-In, Sal-Ain-Kaw Pa-Dawt and over villages.

In April 2000, they re-started the road project. For this forced labor, each family had to work for 7 days with their own food supplies. Families which weren't able to go and work

were forced by the military to give 500 kyat. The military took no responsibility for workers injured from the forced labor. In addition, other villagers were tortured by the military. About 300-400 villagers from these areas were forced to go and work each day because of the military order. (Source: THRF)

‘Tha Ban Chaun Mountain 30’ Road

‘Tha-Ban Chaun Mountain 30’ is being built over the Tenasserim Mountain Range, which marks the border of Thaya-Chaun and Tavoy Townships. This road construction is both very difficult and very dangerous. It is also common for fighting to occur between the SPDC troops and KNU, MDUF members in this area. Even though the SPDC began building the road in 1999, as of August 2000, it was still unfinished due to the many battles. So the SPDC demanded many force laborers from nearby villages to come with their own food supplies and work. For most of the first half of 2000, there were between 400 to 600 people forced to labor every day on this road. (Source: THRF)

Taninthayi to Naungbwa Road, Mergui District

On July 2 2000, SPDC’s LIB 561 Commander, Lt. Col. Min Din, ordered villages from Thagyet, Nyaungbingwin and Thebotleik village tracts of Mergui District, Tenasserim Division to construct a road between Taninthayi town and Naungbwa. Every day 3 persons from each village were required to go and work on this road construction in turns. This road was a part of the Mergui to Prakuabkirikan road. (Prakuabkirikan is a coastal town in Thailand) (Source: TIR)

On November 13, 2000, troops from SPDC Tactical Command 4 came to Thee-ko village, Mer-gui-Ta-voy District, Tenasserim Division and summoned the village heads in the area. They ordered them to instruct the villagers to grow 2 acres of oil palm per household for the "Myanmar Myint" company. (Source: KIC)

Htee Wah Throke military camp Road

On November 18, 2000, Burma Army’s LIB 559 and 560 ordered the villagers from Kay area, Kyeinchaung village tract, Tenasserim township, Tenasserim Division to construct a new road from Htee Wah Throke military camp. As of late December 2000, 100 villagers from Kay area have to serve as in-turn forced laborers everyday since the date they were ordered. (Source: TIR)

Mee-dar to Kwee-wor-wah Road

On November 20 2000, 20 villagers each, from Mee-ta, Mu-tor and Seik-ku, Mer-gui-Ta-voy District, had to work, at their own expense, building a road from Mee-ta to Kwee-wor-wa. They were ordered to do this by Tactical Commander 2, Ye Aung, under SPDC Operation Command 8. The village head of Dah-bler and the village head of Kay-tah, U Ye Tun Naing, had to collect of donations from the villagers to fund the road construction. The villagers were instructed to finish the road before the end of the dry season. The villagers had to bring their own food supplies to work (Source: KIC)

In November 2000, villagers from Pyin Gyi village, Laung Lone Township, Tenasserim Division were asked to establish a bank to prevent flooding. They were fined 3000 kyat each if they failed to do so. (Source: Yoma3)

Forced Labor for the army

In January 2000, Lt. Col. Htun Way of LIB 407 forced people from Talineya village tract, Yebyu Township, Tavoy district to work as plantation clearing workers in LIB 406 and 407's rubber plantations and cashew-nut plantations. This village tract consists of five villages namely Dauklauk village (50 households approx.), Pedaukgon village (approx.: 60 households), Myaukpugon village (approx.: 40 households), Talineya village (approx.: 50 households) and Kalonehta village (approx.: 200 households) This year, in addition to these regular duties to the army, LIB 407 ordered Talineya tract villagers to clear a new 100 acres for rice plantation. Those who failed to were required to pay 300 kyat for substitution. (Source: HURFOM)

In March 2000, IB 104 ordered 20 villages in Tha-Jet-Taw tract, Tenasserim Division to labor in the army's rubber and coconut plantations which are located beside the Tavoy to LaungLon road. The military ordered that one person from every family work for 7 days. The military took no responsibility for those wounded on the work site and also tortured the workers. In addition, the soldiers would summon women for "emergency work" and when the women would arrive, there would be nothing and the troops would rape them. (Source: THRF)

In preparation for joint military exercised of China-Burma held in July and August 2000 in the Coastal Region Command between Tavoy and Mergui, local villagers were asked to contribute labor for the building of the temporary military lodgings for Chinese and Burmese military personnel who took part in the exercises. Village peace and development councils in Mergui and Tavoy Districts required each village to provide 50 volunteers. Villagers living near the site of the military exercises were required to work as volunteers to build huts and those living far from the site to cut, gather, and send timber and bamboo. (Source: DVB)

On July 17 2000, SPDC's LIB 561 Commander, Lt. Col. Min Din ordered Hti Hpo Wah villagers of Mergui District, Tenasserim Division to go and work for a military building construction at Hit Hpo Wah village. (Source: TIR)

On July 27, 2000, SPDC's LIBs 557 and 558 had ordered villagers from Thagyet and Yeinchaung village tracts, Tenasserim Township, Mergui District to work for military oil palm plantation at Kyeinchaung area. 70 persons from haget, 50 from Nyaungbingwin, 30 from Thebotleik, 50 from Kamukru, 30 from Kyauktalone villages were demanded to go and work in turn. That oil palm plantation was about 55500 acres and it was led by Ko Aung and Ko Soe Naing as managers (Source: TIR, KIC)

In 2000, the Col. Hla Moe led Military Strategy Operation group confiscated paddy fields around its base in the cultivation season. The villagers from the nearby nine villages were summoned to provide voluntary service to cultivate the crops for the military. Kya-in gyi , Shwe Doh , Dagay ,Mee Laung Chaung, Sel Ein Su , Shwe Taungbo ,Thone tine ,Shwe Lin and Kye Tu Vwei Taung villages were ordered to send 10 to 15 persons each with their own foods and tools to do the cultivation. The villagers were to work the whole day to complete the cultivation. No wage was given for their labor. (Source: Yoma3)

On September 20, 2000, Burma army's IB 280 Battalion Commander Khin Maung Aye forced the villagers from Kleh Mu Htee area (northern Palaw township and southern Theyetcahung township) to build a new military base and a car road. The villagers have to bring along their own tools and food. (Source: TIR)

On September 20 2000, Sgt. San Win of LIB 282 asked the headmen of Kwe-ta-lin village, Yebyu township, in the Yadana pipeline area, to provide 25 villagers to contribute free labor in growing palm trees in the battalion plantation for 3 days from September 21 to 23, and that the villagers bring their own food. 12 men and 13 women were sent and forced to clear grass, dig holes and plant small palm trees. The last day Sgt. San Win attempted to rape one of the women, Mi San Htay, age 28. (See chapter on women) (Source: HURFOM)

At the beginning of October 2000, SPDC's LIB 408, based near 'No. 1' rubber plantation in Yebone township, demanded bamboo and laborers from Yebone village. The villagers were forced to substitute the barbwire fencing outside their headquarter compound with a new fence. Village PDC chairman Oo Thein Aung ordered his village to provide 100 bamboo pieces per household and then sent the bamboo along with one person from each household to the army base. The villagers were forced to build the new bamboo fence, which required 10 days. Fees for labor absence were 500 kyat per person per day. (Source: TIR)

Army Rice Cultivation Project, Yebyu Township

Since September 1999, villagers in Yapu village tracts in Yebyu Township, Tavoy district, Tenasserim Division have been forced to worked on a SPDC rice cultivation project. SPDC IB 406, 407, 408, 409 and 410 (under control of SPDC Operation Commanding HQ No.8) has a rice cultivation project site 8 miles east of Yapu village tract. This rice field was planned and started in the end of 1999, and consists of at least 500 acres. Each battalion owns at least 100 acres of the land. To accomplish the project work these five battalions formed a committee, and in September 1999, the military authorities ordered Yapu village tract to work on this project. There are seven villages in Yapu village tract. They are Mayanchung village (30 households), Yapu village (300 households), Upper Yapu village (20 households), Kywetalin village (100 households), Kyaukkadin village (150 households), Lawnthek village (80 households), and A'le Sakan village (100 households). Each village has to provide 20 to 70 people for each one-week shift, for a total of more than 300 villagers forced to work on the work-site each week. The villagers have had to labor for every step in the entire work of cultivation. In May 2000 they were ordered to dig canals and do other necessary things for the rice fields, plowing the land and planting the paddy. For planting the paddy, SPDC Operation Commanding HQ No.8 ordered each household to bring one tin of paddy. Those who did not have extra paddy had to buy from others' at the cost of 1,000 kyat for one tin. The villagers have had to work from 7:00 AM until 5:00 PM without rest, and bring along their own food and tools. Those who fail to labor in their shift have to pay 4,000 kyat in substitution. In addition, Yapu villagers are regularly forced to work on other SPDC development projects. Each month, they are forced to provide 15 men to work on these other development projects. (Source: TIR)

Forced Labor situation in Yebyu Township

Since the beginning of 1998, LIB 407 has been forcing from Oaktayan village in Yebyu Township, Tavoy district to work for their military plantations. According to a villager from Oaktayan who arrived to the Thai-Burma border on May 26, 2000, there are 250 households in Oaktayan village, and LIB 407 demands one person per household to go and work on military's rubber, oil palm, and cashew plantations between Padaukgon and Oaktayan villages. The villagers are made to kill weeds in the plantations and substitute dried plants with live ones. The villagers have been forced to work regularly in shifts of 10 days. The villagers have had to clear the forest, plant the rubber, oil palms, cashews and do everything that needs to be done. Those unable to serve their shifts are fined 300 kyat per day to hire someone for substitution. (Source: TIR) **See Appendix # 20**

Forced Labor for Police

In addition to the SPDC military demands for forced labor from the army based in Thay-Yay-Chaun, the police have also been forcing the native villagers to labor for them. The police gate in Win-Wa, Tha-Ya-Chawn Township, Tenasserim Division is one such case. This police gate has been forcing 10 people from each of the nearby villages to labor in their police gate compound. Starting from the beginning of 2000, this type of forced labor is general work in their compound. The police take 200 kyat from each family who can't go and work. (Source: THRF)

Forced Porter Duty

Villagers from Taung-thone-lone village, Tavoy District are required to provide 15 porters every month, and more for emergency cases. 4500 to 10,000 kyat is the fee to send a substitute. The farmers have an average yearly income of 50,000 to 60,000 kyat.

Forced Portering in Thyetchaung Township, Tavoy district

The SPDC has been regularly forcing hundreds of villagers from Nasaik village in Thyetchaung township, Tavoy district, Tenasserim Division to transport military supplies to the frontline base Aunthawara. According to a local villagers who arrived to the Thai-Burma border on June 27 2000, there are 1200 households in Naseik village, divided into 24 administration quarters. Once a month SPDC's village headman U Win Sein orders the villagers to transport military food supplies. Each quarter is forced to provide 20 to 24 people, therefore in Naseik village alone 720 people monthly have to serve as military porters. The porters are sent to IB 285 base in Palauk village, and forced to carry military supplies from Palauk to the military frontline camp Aunthawara in the Tenasserim river area in the east. The journey takes more than 6 days walking by foot in the jungle. Each porter has to carry one tin of rice (weigh 16 Kegs), 4 meat-cans, one Viss of sugar, 4 milk-cans, and other food weighing more than one Viss. The porter group is usually half female and half male. Those unable to serve on their term are sent by the SPDC village authority to Nasiak village police station and detained. When some villagers avoid their terms and disappear from their houses, the SPDC authorities lock up their houses and usually wait three months for their return. If they do not return the authorities sell these houses. Those who do not want to serve their terms have to pay 7,000 kyat for seven days (one term) in substitution.

The villagers have to take along their own food and pay for all expenses. From Naseik village to Palauk, the carfare is 500 kyat each. They have to pay all these expense to the

SPDC village headman before they leave to serve their term as porters. The army sends along with each porter a list of the supplies that they are transporting to the destination camp. At the destination camp, the soldiers check the supplies with the supply list and if they find something lost, they take action against the porter. The porters have to pay compensation for the lost items. For example if 4 kegs of rice was lost they have to pay 150 kyat compensation, 500 kyat for one milk-can, and 500 kyat for one meat-can. Those who cannot pay the compensation are tortured by the soldiers, not allowed to return to their villages, and punished by being forced to serve as porters on military operations, which are far more dangerous. Female porters have to take along 3,000 kyat with them for fear of punishment. The soldiers often accuse the porters of lost supplies, ask compensation and punish them. According to the local villager, many people get sick after serving as porters. In May 2000, 40 people were admitted to the regional hospital for this reason, which was overcrowded and some patients were sent to Naseik village monastery where the authorities set up a temporary health care. During the last two years, at least 40 villagers have died because of sickness after portering. (Source: TIR)

Note: There are at least 25 battalions of SPDC's troop assigned for the frontline areas in Tenasserim River region in Tenasserim Division. During and after the SPDC's troop occupied this area in 1997, the only military transportation was forced local villagers for their transportation needs. Villagers were regularly forced to carry military food and other supplies to those frontline camps. In addition, they were forced as porter for military operations. Being a porter for military operation is danger than being military regular porter. There are three major military camps, where the villagers were forced to transport the military supplies. Those are Htee Hta camp, Katawnni camp and Aungthawara camp.

Forced Portering in Ek Ek village tract, Theyetchaung Township, Tavoy district, Tenasserim Division

According to local people from Meelaungchaung village, the people of Ek Ek village tract have had to serve as porters monthly, sending military supplies to Aungthawara.

Villages in this tract were :

1. Ek Ek village 110 households
2. Lebyingyi village 100
3. Kyauktakwa village 100
4. Meelaungchaung village 30
5. Malakachaung 120

Aungthawara is a deserted village on the bank of Tenasserim river now used as front line depot center by SPDC troops. Every month 50 men from Ek Ek, 40 from Kayuktakwa, 40 from Lebyingyi, 12 from Meelaungchaung and 50 from Malakachaung, a total of 192 villagers, are conscripted to Palauk village, to the IB 285 headquarters in Palaw township, Mergui district. Those unable to go have to hire another person at the cost of 7000 kyat per 7-day term. The conscripted porters have to bring their own food for the 7-day trip from Palauk back to Palauk.

The porters are sent to the camp without an escort troop, or SPDC troops to oversee them. Instead, the SPDC sends a list of the supplies along with the porters. Although the villagers care well for the supplies they are carrying, they often meet soldiers from outpost camps or patrolling troops who take whatever they like from the porter's load. Then when the porters

arrive to the depot camp Aungthawara, the officials there check the supply list and fine them for any lost supplies, despite the porters explanation that the supplies were taken from them from soldiers they met on the way. Every trip each village tract pays 50,000 kyat to 100,000 kyat in fines for the supplies taken from soldiers on the way took away which cost them.

At the same time, every month five village tracts in Theyetchaung township have to send their villagers to serve as porters to the Aungthawara depot camp. The total numbers of the porters is usually 1000.

The difficulties the people face serving as porters on the 7-day rough journey are not only fines for missing supplies, but also malaria is a major disease which has killed some of the villages on the journey or after the journey. Most of the people have to treat such sickness at their own expense, in addition to leaving their income work for the 7-9 days of portering. (Source: TIR)

In March 2000, LIBs 407, 408, 409 and 273 began a small operation against a Mon insurgency in Tavoy district, Ye-Phyu Township, Tenasserim Division. These LIB columns captured and used Mon and Tavoy villagers as porters. They captured both women and men for use as porters, and if the porters were unable to carry as they had been ordered, they were tortured and beaten. (Source: THRF)

On April 24, 2000, SPDC Division 33 demanded civilian porters from Tahpohta (Tharabwin) village tract, Tenasserim Division. 'Pyi Thu Sit' (SPDC's village defense force) was unable to find male porters in the area because all the men had escaped after learning of the order. Therefore, the Pyi Thu Sit captured women to fulfill the duty. They captured 43 old and young women from Kin Inn village and 27 from Kaw Daw village and sent them to Tahpohta. Those women were kept waiting at Tahpohta to serve as frontline military porters for Division 33. Tahpohta village situated to the east of Mergui town in Tenasserim Township, Tenasserim Division. Division 33 is a light infantry division, assigned to Tenasserim Division to serve under the control of the Coastal Military Command (CMC). (Source: TIR)

On July 5 2000, the village chairman of Taung-thone-lone village, Tavoy Province, Tenasserim Division provided 15 porters for IB (104). There were about 200 soldiers in that column with 70 porters from other villages. The porters had to carry army ration supplies and artillery shells all weighting about 30 viss for Capt. Tin Win from company No.(1). They started at 8:00 am from Taung-thone-lone for Myit-kan-baw village to which they had to walk for about 6 hours. They acquired 10 more porters there through people's militia leader U Dar Ba Leh and spent that night at the village called Kin-mon-chone. They had to sleep on the ground and for toilet, the soldier escorted them individually. Smoking was not allowed and they could only whisper as the soldiers scolded them when their voices became loud. A flat bamboo ladle full of rice, without any curry was given as food but at this time with a bit of fish paste. After 4 days of a tiring march to the east, they came to Thu-kha. There were no village on the way and they had to sleep in the jungle. On the way 10 villagers including this witness were beaten because they asked for a rest as they were almost exhausted carrying the heavy loads. They were kicked and stamped with the butt of the guns. (Source: FTUB)

On August 5, 2000, Lt. Col. Min Din from LIB 561 ordered his troops to join the SPDC

village militia and capture villagers as military porters. The combined troop captured 30 people from Kywe Htein Gon, 40 from Moseikkwin and brought them back to Nyaungbingwin village in Mergui District of Tenasserim Division where the troops were stationed. (Source: TIR)

In mid-August 2000, SPDC troops forced villagers in Pawklo (Banchaung) and Kamothwe (Kamaungthwe) areas in the east of Tavoy, Tenasserim Division, to transport military food supplies to their frontline camps. SPDC Operation Commanding HQ No.8 ordered its Tactical Command No.2, to take the responsibility of transporting more than 1332 sacks of rice, (One sacks = 50 Kg.), and 5,749 meat cans (one meat can = 1 ounce) from Myitta village to deserted Karen village of Kwe Waw Wa where their force camped. Those food supplies were for three months ration for their frontline troops at Thuka border area. On August 19, 2000 military trucks loaded with the food arrived to Myitta village. To transport the food supply to Burma Army's Tactical Command No.2, Commander Major Nay Lay forced the villagers from Paungdaw village tract's in Pawklo (Banchaung) area and Kaw Paw (Myaykanbaw) village tract in Kamothwe area. He demanded 20 engine boats from the Paungdaw village tract and 20 engine boats from Kawpaw village tract to transport the food supplies along the Tenasserim River. According to the order, the village elders were required to send 20 engine boats on August 20, 2000 without fail. The villagers had to bear the cost of fuel and transportation expenses. Besides this, the commander demanded five people from each of the local villages to transport the food supply. Those who did not want to serve had to pay 5,000 kyat in substitution fees, or else hire someone else. The villagers had to carry the food from Myitta to Kwee Waw Wa village, which took one day by foot. Some of the boats which transported the military food supplies were attacked by KNU soldiers on their way and the KNU soldiers destroyed the foods they were transporting. The boat owners who had been forced to transport the military food that had been destroyed, and their respective village s were then held responsible for the lost supplies, and were ordered to repay the army the value of the food that had been destroyed. (Source: TIR)

In November 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 552 and LIB 566 forced villagers to carry food supplies to Chaung-chi army camp, Mergui-Tavoy District. Villagers who were unable to go had to pay 7,000 kyat. (Source: KIC)

On November 2, 2000 a column of 100 men from SPDC IB 17 led by Major Aung Kyaw Than entered Theindaw village, eastern Mergui town, Tenasserim Division. The Major ordered Theindaw village headman U Kyi Shein to arrange 30 porters for his troop. When U Kyi Shein could not find 30 porters as ordered, Aung Kyaw Than ordered his troop to go around the village and capture anyone as porter. That troop captured 75 men and 15 women in Theindaw village and forced them to carry military supplies for their military activities against Myeik Dawai United Front (MDUF). Upon arrival to Kawk Ma Pyin village they captured 20 more villagers and forced them to be porters. During their operation there were two clashes with the MDUF. It was learnt that two porters from Kawk Ma Pyin village died due to illness and beatings by the troops and five female porters from Theindaw village were raped during this military activity. (Source: TIR)

On November 2, 2000, LIB 561 combined with village militia from Nyaung Bin Gwin village arrived to Taket village tract, Tenasserim Township, and captured 50 villagers and took them back to the military camp in Kauk Yo village. Their intention was to make the villagers transport the military supplies. On November 3, 2000, LIB 561 arrived to

Thabawleik and Ban Law villages, Mergui District, Tenasserim Division and captured more than 70 villagers and forced them to served as porter to carry their military supplies. (Source: TIR)

On November 8, 2000, a troop of SPDC LIB 101 arrived to Meelaungwin village, Tenasserim township, Mergui district and demanded 80 porters from village headman. The demand was to send the 80 men to their camp not later than November 25 2000. (Source: TIR)

On November 15, 2000, Burma Army's LIB 561 commander Lt. Col. Min Din informed the villages in Pawat area, Tenasserim township, Mergui district: Tagu, Aleman, Yengangyi, and Shwegenyio villages to send him 900 porters to his battalion headquarters not later than November 25 2000. (Source: TIR)

On November 15 2000, villagers who live in Manorone area village tract, Tenasserim Division were ordered to transport military rations to Chaung Chi outpost Camp on the Thai-Burma border. Those who were unable to serve were required to pay 7000 kyat (about US\$ 17.5) in substitution. (Source: TIR)

On November 15, 2000, Burma Army's LIB 559's commander Lt. Col. Kyi Shein and LIB 560 commander Lt. Col. Htay Win forced the villagers in Manorone area in Mergui district (who had not served as porter as ordered) to give money instead. The villagers are from Manorone, Klaw Thoo Wow, Lahpoonge, Mukwah, Hkechaung. The officers ordered the village tract chairman U Maung Oo to collect 7,000 kyat from 20 households and sent it to the commanders. Those who unable to give the requested money were taken and forced to serve as porters in the frontline SPDC military camp Ko Thet Loo. A total of 60 men who were unable to pay were taken to the frontline, including 30 men from Manorone, 15 from Taung Nge, 5 form Lahpoonge, and 10 from Hkechaung. (Source: TIR)

On December 1 and 2, 2000 Battalion Commander Col. Aye Tun of LIB 299, based in the southern part of Ye Township, ordered the village headmen from 11 Mon villages in the southern part of Ye area to send villagers for use as porters. The porters were demanded for LIB 299's military operation to Paya Thone Zu (Three Pagoda Pass, on the Thai border) where they also planned to deploy a base. The number of requested porters depended on the size, population and household numbers of the villages. He demanded 5 villagers from Koe-mile, 6 from Kalort-gyi, 8 from Hangan, 2 from Ba-round, 4 from Kaw-hlaing, 3 from Singu, 3 from Toe-tet, 4 from Ying-ye, 4 from Yin-dein, 4 from Kabya and 8 from Kapyar village. The commander also demanded 100,000 kyat from these villages for the expense of feeding the porters during their military operation. The deadline to send these porters was December 3, 2000. After the battalion had gathered the required total of 43 civilian porters and collected their porter fees, they left from Ye towards the border, taking trucks as far as Thanbyuzayat town. After this, to avoid ambushes from KNU/KNLA troops, the troops walked and civilian porters had to carry ammunitons and food supplies along the 60-mile Three Pagoda Pass - Thanbyuzayat motor road. During the 3 days it took them to reach the border they were attacked twice by KNU/KNLA troops. No porters were killed, and some soldiers were injured. After arrival, LIB 299 transferred the porters to LIB 343, which needed to return to Ye township. When LIB 343 returned to Ye township, the 43 porters were not released and were forced to carry ammunitons and food supplies for LIB 343 again for another 3 days to reach their battalion base in the northern part of Ye

township. The porters were used for two battalions and were taken for over one week for their homes, yet the battalions never provided them with any payment. The NMSP sent a complaint letter to the appropriate Strategic Commander of IB 61 and pointed out the order issued from MOI dated October 27, which had banned the use of forced labor, and send a copy to Southern Command. However, NMSP received no reply. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced Sentry Duty

Forced to guard along the Ye-Tavoy Highway

On December 12 2000, LIB 61 of Ye township, Tenasserim Division issued an order to Taung Zun, Ahparal, and Sone-netha villages. The order stated that each village was required to send two villagers each day to provide road security for the Ye-Tavoy highway. The order also specified that any villager who failed to carry out the order would be required to pay 200 kyat per day in fines. The security duty was still in effect as of February 2001. (Source: Yoma3)

1.20. Personal Accounts

Name: Ko Than Shwe

Sex: Male

Age: 30 Yr.

Ethnicity: Burmese

Occupation: Farmer

Religion: Buddhist

Father's name U Chit Tin, Daw Ohn Shwe

Address: Chaung Wa Byin village, Thayetchaung township, Tavoy District, Tenasserim Division

Date of Interview: June 26, 2000

Source: TIR

I and three other villagers from my village started to serve as intern (regular) porters on May 3, 2000. We, along with other villagers from neighboring villages, were sent to the Light Infantry Battalion 404 base in Thechaung Gyi village. There, more than two hundreds porters had already arrived at that military camp. On May 4, we, more than two hundred porters, were forced to carry military food supplies from Thecahung Gyi to the east of Thayetchaung township to Katawnni village where the Operation Commending HQ No.9 based.

Only the porters traveled, there were no soldiers guarding us. When we left, the SPDC authorities gave us the list of the supplies we had to carry. When we arrived to the destination camp, the SPDC soldiers inspected the load and the list. If the list do not match with the load, we, the porters would face severe action. The SPDC soldiers punish porters by kicking, beating, and punching. In addition, if the list did not match the load, when the porters arrived back to their village they have to pay in compensation double the value of the losses. Therefore, there is no easy way being a porter. We have to carry our own food

while serving as porter. Some villagers (porters) have their own food to carry, but some who have difficulty to earn their living can not. Porters are not allowed to take any bit of the military food they are carrying. Therefore, some poor villagers who could not carry their own food have taken a small amount of the military food to eat on the way. Those who have done this did face the SPDC's official punishment. Also, it is often the case that other SPDC patrols take what food they want from the porters, or that KNU troops confiscate or destroy the food the porters are transporting. If this happens, the porters are still held responsible for the lost supplies.

After the term of service, porters are allowed to return to their villages. However, anytime during the term, there is the possibility that SPDC soldiers will conscript the porters to act as front line porters. I and U Aung Than, 47 yr. were conscripted as frontline porters after we arrived to Katawnni village. On May 10, we left from Katawnni village with 50 porters, following a military column of Light Infantry Battalion 376 to Htee Hta village in the east Tenasserim Riverside. Each porter was forced to carry 24 Kilograms of rice, three milk-cans, three meat-cans, and two bottles of fuel (One and half Litre. 2 kilo. weigh included bottle). From Katawnni to Htee Hta it took four days walking on foot. Some porters who walked slow and did not catch up to the military column were beaten, kicked, and punched. Those who got sick had no chance to rest. After we arrived to Htee Hta we were not allowed to return. Instead, we were further used as military field porters. Those who got sick did not receive any treatment from the military. Instead, we had to buy from the soldiers at the price of 5 kyat for one Paracetamol tablet. Those who had no money had no chance to get any medicine. In the camp, malaria and sickness was severe and people died almost every day. My fellow U Aung Than died at Htee Htan camp because he had contracted malaria and was unable to get any treatment.

I stayed at Htee Hta camp for more than ten days. Every day we were forced to work for the soldiers, clearing the bushes around the camp. On May 31, the troops from Operation Commanding HQ No.8 arrived to the camp and we the porters were forced to go along with the Operation troops. Commanding HQ No.9 left for Myitta village. On June 4, we arrived in Myitta village. On that day, I ran away because I feared that they may again force me to serve as a porter. After I ran away, I decided not to return to my village because I had not received the recommendation sheet from the military which stated that I had done my porter duty. If I had returned without this paper the village SPDC authority would have accused me of running from my porter duty, arrested me and forced me to serve as porter again. Therefore, I decided to come to Thailand and try to earn my living for a while.

Name: Daw Hla Sein

Sex: Female

Age: 52

Ethnicity: Tavoy

Religion: Buddhist

Address: Tha-Jet-Tal village, LaungLon Township, Tavoy District

Date of Interview: Mid-2000

Source: THRF

Q: Why did you flee to the Thai- Burma border?

A: The reason I fled is that I cannot survive in my village.

Q: Can you explain why you cannot survive in your village?

A: All right!

In my hometown there are two Burmese battalions, LIB 25 and 104, which give trouble to us villagers. These soldiers take the villagers as force laborers, and they order the villagers to porter for military affairs too. We have to work without payment, food or medical care. We have to bring our own food to work for them. We have to work on their rubber plantations, coconut oil plantations and on road construction. The rubber plantation is 500 acres, and is near Tal-Shee village, beside the LaungLon - Tavoy highway. The coconut oil plantation is near the rubber plantation.

Q: Are women, children and old people included in this forced labor?

A: Sure! Most of the forced laborers are children, women and old people because the men have to work for family survival. Before I left my home village, I had to work on the LaungLon- Tavoy highway construction.

Q: When you go to work, do the military authorities ever pay money?

A: Never. We have to bring our own supplies including medicine. If someone is injured they don't pay for any treatment. If someone stops working because of injury, the soldier don't even him or her stop. Sometimes they beat if someone stops working. As I was scared, I dared not to stop when worked, even though I felt tired and sore. I restrained my pain.

Q: Besides taking villagers for forced labor, is there any arresting of porters for military affairs?

A: Sure, there is. Sometimes I don't know where they take our villagers. There are two categories of taking porters as forced laborers for the military. One is as permanent porters and the other is as porters by turn. We have to provide two porters as permanent porters. The Chairperson of the village administration committee has the responsibility to collect the money to hire these two permanent porters. Every house has to pay for between 200 -800 kyats for this, depending on the family situation. My family had to give 400 kyats. Even widow families weren't exempt from paying these porter fees. Even though our village had provided two porters for the military, if the soldiers asked for more porters we had to provide them with more. For example, if there are military operations in our region, more troops come and we have to provide some porters. So the families in my village, by turn, are chosen to go in a lucky draw. If the family wins the lucky draw, this family has to send a

Forced Labor

member to go as a porter for military affairs. If the family can not go, they gave to hire some body. The price for hiring porters is around 20,000 to 25,000 kyat. These are temporary porters. Sometimes troops come to our village and arrest all the people they see as porters. They arrest more than they need because they want to make money. For example, if they need 3 people as porters they arrest 10 or 11, and then make the others pay for their release. We have to (regularly) pay porter fees twice a month. I already mentioned that my family paid 400 kyats per time, so it was a total of 800 kyats in a month. Yet although we pay porter fees, we are not free from arrest as porter. We must run when they arrest porters.

Q: In conclusion, please share with us any other thoughts you have

A: Its so hard to hear how we, as old people, have to flee to the border. The root cause is the oppression of the military rule. On the way to the border my husband died because of sickness. After my husband died, I had to rely on other people. I have faced so many troubles and difficulties. As you know, everybody is suffering from numerous hardships on the border. Although I left from my native land to escape horrible oppression, I am still in trouble. I would like to urge all to please collaborate and topple these soldiers who are creating such bad things.

Name: Aung Kyaw Phru

Age: 37

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Arakan

Religion: Buddhist

Occupation: Farmer

Family situation: Married with 5 children

Address: A Pauk Wa village, Kauktaw township, Arakan State

Date of Interview: September 2000

Source: Arakan Liberation Party

I have 4 children and earn my living as a farmer. My children go to school and the family depends upon my income. Including this last time, I have been forced to work on long term forced labor projects nine times.

The times that I have had to go and work without pay on short term forced labor projects at LIB 374, and 375, which are based in Kyauk Taw are unaccountable.

Those who do not want to be taken along on long term forced labor projects have to pay 7,000 kyats and those who can't pay the fine are told they will be jailed for six months. As no one from my family could go, I paid 7,000 kyats each time for two periods.

Those who couldn't travel far were made to work on the maintenance of the barracks, digging trenches and cleaning the compound and the perimeters of the military compound.

Men were made to clear jungle undergrowth for roads, find routes for the road, dig earth, look for gravel, and look for and carry bamboo and wood for constructing bridges. The work started at 7 in the morning, lunch break was from 12:00 to 12:45 and then we had to work again until 5 in the evening. Food had to be brought by the people.

I usually had to work 30 to nearly sixty days on forced labor projects. This last time, I was forced to work from July 9 until the time I ran away with Kyaw Tun Aung on the 26th of August 2000.

Name: "Than Htun"

Sex: Male

Age: 46

Ethnicity: Karen

Religion: Buddhist

Occupation: Laborer

Family Status: Married, three children aged 5 to 12 years old

Address: xxxx section, Mandalay

Date of Interview: June 2000

Source: KHRG

["Than Htun" was imprisoned in Mandalay Prison. He escaped from portering in Pa'an District of Karen State.]

Q: Can you tell me how you arrived here?

A: I was sentenced to prison for a year because I gave someone a bicycle as collateral to borrow money. I did it for a friend, but it was a stolen bicycle. My friend had brought someone's bicycle with him and said, "Ko Gyi [*Big Brother*], pawn this bicycle for me, it is my bicycle." I believed him and did it for him. My friend was a Burman named *aaaa*. He is about 18 or 19 years old. The police came and arrested me because it was a stolen bicycle, and they accused me of profiting from stolen goods. I was punished by being sent to prison for a year. My friend also had to go to prison in Mandalay. I had stayed there for seven months already, but at the beginning of the eighth month, they sent me here because I could not give any money. They [*the Army*] came and called us from the prison.

Q: What did you have to do in prison?

A: When I was in prison I had to dig the ground and plant and water flowers, cabbages and other vegetables. Those are the only things we had to do in prison.

Q: Could you eat what you had planted?

A: Yes, they cooked them for other people. We had enough food in prison, but it was not very good food.

Q: Did they beat and kick the prisoners?

A: Yes, they beat and kicked people if they didn't listen to orders. They asked the other prisoners to beat us.

Q: Did the Army or the Police take you from the prison?

A: The Army asked for us, so the police took us to the Army unit. It was on May 18th [2000]. That unit was Brigade #22 [*Light Infantry Division #22*], Battalion #81 [*Infantry Battalion*]. I don't know the name of their commander. They usually called each other Bo

Forced Labor

Gyi or Saya Gyi [*words used by soldiers addressings officers*], so we don't know their real names.

Q: How many prisoners did they take from the prison?

A: All of the prisons sent prisoners, so there were around 500 people. They divided us and sent 25 people to each battalion.

Q: How much money did you have to give to not go?

A: If we could give 5,000 or 10,000 kyat, we didn't need to go. In two more months I would have been released. I was to be released after ten months because they had decreased my sentence. I just needed to stay there for two months to be released, but they sent me here.

Q: Where did they divide you?

A: After we left the prison, we went to the Army camp to be divided. They gathered all the prisoners from Mandalay and Meiktila prisons together. There were about 500 prisoners at that time. They divided us at Pa'an *Won Saung* 2. They divided all of us and gave us to the Army units, so the Army units took us and ordered us to carry loads over the mountains. They ordered us to carry shells, bullets and rations. If we could not climb up the mountains, they beat and abused us. Some of the porters' arms were broken and one porter died at that time.

Q: How heavy was your load?

A: We had to carry 30 or 40 viss [*48.99 kgs / 108 lbs or 65.32 kgs / 144 lbs*]. We had to carry shells, bullets and bags of rice. There are about 8 bowls of rice in a bag [*12.504 kgs / 27.56 lbs*].

Q: Did they take the bags of rice from the villagers or their Army camp?

A: They got those bags of rice from over there [*the Army camp they left from*] as their rations. After we arrived at their Army camp, they ordered us to gather all the paddy from the Karen villagers' hill fields and to take it to the top of the mountain. They ordered us to pound that rice on the top of the mountain.

Q: How many soldiers were in the unit you went with?

A: There were approximately 200 soldiers. That is including the majors, captains and sergeants. There were 25 [*prisoner*] porters for them and 25 villagers carried for them also.

Q: Do you know the names of any of the soldiers?

A: We don't know and we couldn't ask their names because if we asked their names they scolded us and asked us why and slapped our faces. They shouted at us, "*Ma Aye Loe [Motherfucker]*. Do what we order and what you need to."

Q: Were you the only Karen among the prisoner porters?

A: Yes, among the 25 prisoners I was the only Karen person, but I stayed with the *Pa Tee* [*Uncles; a Karen term referring to middle-aged men*] and villagers on the way. Those *Pa Tee* and villagers ran to escape also. They were the Karen people who stayed in some of the villages here. They were also captured by the Army unit.

Q: They had prisoners already, but they also took villagers?

A: Yes, they also captured people from the villages. They were mostly men. They had also called women to go with them and at one time they had over 50 women with them. There were 25 or 30 women with them from the villages and they were ordered to carry rice bags. At the monastery where their *Byu Ha [Operations Command]* camp is, they released them. The soldiers did not order them to carry through the forest, but they ordered them to carry through the villages and took them from those villages. The name of the village where they took the women is Ngan Kyeh village, but I'm not sure exactly because I have never been here before. It sounded like Ngan Kyeh village, but I'm not sure. It is very far from here to the west. It is a Karen village.

Q: Did they call those women or capture them?

A: They went and talked with the village head first. Some people didn't want to go, but they were forced to go. They had to continue carrying for three days until they arrived at the place where there were no villages and then they were released to go. The men had to continue carrying to there. The women asked the villagers in the village where they were released to send them back step by step through each village.

Q: How did the women sleep?

A: They told the women to sleep in the same place [*in the same temporary camp*] but separate from them [*the soldiers*]. Their soldiers guarded next to that place.

Q: Did you hear if they raped any of the women?

A: I don't know because we had to sleep in a different place from the women.

Q: What were the ages of the women porters?

A: Most of the women were between 30 and 40 years old, but there were some 18, 19 and 20 year olds. Most of the young women were 18 or 19 years old.

Q: What about the men?

A: The youngest of the men were 20 or 25 years old. There were no very old porters.

Q: How old were the oldest porters?

A: The soldiers did not care about the age. They even saw an old man with two children and they ordered the two children to stay away and pulled the old man to go with them. Those children were left there crying. It was in one of the Karen villages. That old man was about 60 years old, but they took him as a guide to show the way and ordered him to carry two backpacks. They thought that if they are comfortable, then that is fine for them. They shouted at the children to leave the old man, so the children were afraid and crying. When they arrived at their camp they released him. We felt sorrow for them [*the two children*] when we came.

Q: How far did you walk?

A: The distance was very far because it was a whole day's walk. We had to start walking in the morning and set up a small camp in the evening.

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Q: Did they only feed you boiled rice?

A: Yes, we only had boiled rice. They didn't put salt in the rice, they just boiled it. It was tasteless. They fed each of us just a small tin of that boiled rice. They fed us one time in the morning and another time in the evening.

Q: Did you have to boil the rice yourself?

A: We had to pound it and boil it ourselves. The rice we pounded, we also had to cook for them. After we cooked rice for them, if they asked us to put the rice in their bowls, we had to do that also. They just washed their hands and ate. After they ate, we had to wash their bowls, gather them and put them in the right place. They were very rude because at that time we were in their hands so we had to fear them and couldn't stay without fearing them. If we didn't fear them they slapped our faces and we couldn't speak anything against them. We had to do what they said and stay where they let us stay.

Q: Did they burn down any villages?

A: After we passed through the villages, we heard that the soldiers burned them down. After we fled, that man *[indicating another porter who fled later]* told us they had burned down the villages. I don't know the names of the villages, but they are just on the other side of this hill. There are some small houses they burned down. They didn't burn down the villages when we were with them.

Q: Did they go into the villages and steal things?

A: Yes, they stole, ate, beat and demanded people, even women.

Q: What about the chickens?

A: They stole the chickens to eat. Even if they had asked, those Karen people could not understand or speak Burmese, so they just caught the chickens, cooked them and ate them. We had to cut and cook them for the soldiers, but we could not eat it *[the chickens]*.

Q: Did they shoot any villagers?

A: They didn't shoot any villagers, but they did scold the villagers and shouted at them.

Q: Did they rape any women in the villages?

A: We did not see that in front of us, but maybe they did it in a secret place. Their behavior and attitude was awful and they never had pity or a sympathetic heart. They *[the Army]* say the Army was founded by civilians, but they are not of the civilians because they only know how to oppress the people and to use their anger. They are carrying guns, so they want people to stay under their hands and do whatever they demand without thinking and eat what they provide without question. They always behave like that so we can't do anything about it.

Q: Did the soldiers try to frighten you when you went with them?

A: Yes, they threatened us, like: "If you run to escape, the Karen *Nga Pway* [*'Ringworm'* - a derogatory term used by the SPDC soldiers when referring to the KNU or KNLA] will kill you and we also will shoot to kill you if you run. *Ma Aye Loe Dway!* [*Motherfuckers!*] Be careful with yourselves, you don't need to think about going to run." If two people were

standing up to urinate together not far from each other, they kicked us and shouted at us, "None of you stand up." They did not allow us to stand up. If they allowed one of us to urinate, we had to stand up very close to them to urinate. They did not allow us to urinate at the same time. They allowed us to urinate only one at a time. You can't go very far to urinate, you have to urinate very close to your sleeping place. If we wanted to urinate while we were walking with them we had to wait until we reached the place where we sat down.

Q: Did the porters walk separately from the soldiers or between the soldiers?

A: They put a soldier between two of the porters while they were walking. Some of the soldiers went ahead and didn't carry their backpacks with them. For us, we had to follow the group that went ahead of us and if we could not follow them they beat us with the butts of their guns, kicked us with their boots and slapped our faces.

Q: How many hours did they walk between breaks?

A: At first, we would get time for a break after walking two or three hours. After we came to this area it wasn't the same. We couldn't take a break, just carry up and down, up and down over the mountains. If we could not walk and joined them late, they ordered their soldiers to wait for a while, but we did not have a break time [*once the porter group caught up with the rest of the soldiers, they just continued walking*].

Q: Did they wait for you when you couldn't carry?

A: Some people who were carrying were very far behind and faced problems, so they asked us to wait but the battalion commander told the commander to start walking again and we had to start again. We did not have much time to take a rest. We just waited a while and then started again. We did not have a special time to take a rest.

Q: Did anyone get sick when you were portering?

A: Yes, there were some sick people who were staying on the top of the hill [*at the Army camp*]. They threw the dead down the hill. The soldiers also left some people along the way because they couldn't go on anymore, such as the people they had beaten and their arms were broken. We don't know the people whose arms were broken, but there were two of them and they were from Meiktila Prison. The soldiers had beaten them with the butts of their guns. If people collapsed on the mountain, they beat them.

Q: Did they give you medicines if you asked for them?

A: They didn't give us medicine or treat us. We went to ask them for some medicine to drink or smear on our wounds. My back is broken and split like this because I had to carry a lot of shells and because I am a Karen. If other people had to carry five shells each, I had to carry seven shells. They told me it was because of my Karen people that they had to face problems and the said, "*Nga Loe Ma, Nga Pway*, better to die!" [*'I fucked your mother, Ringworm'; Ringworm being the derogatory term used by the SPDC Army for the KNLA or KNU*] I had to face problems even though I have no contact with the KNU, so I could not tolerate it anymore and I thought if we have to die, we will. Three of us then ran down the hill and passed through some very thick brush and crossed this river [*the Moei River, border with Thailand*].

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Q: Did they give the soldiers medicine?

A: They said they did. We carried medicine for the soldiers who got sick. One of their Saya Gyi [*‘Big Teachers’*, i.e. *senior officers or Non-Commissioned Officers*] told us, "This is not for you, if you want to die, you die. We already see you as dead people."

Q: Do you know how many porters were left on the way?

A: There were two porters whose arms were broken and one porter whose forehead was cracked and another who was sick.

Q: How did the porter crack his forehead?

A: They said he fell down, but some porters said the soldiers had beaten him with the butt of a gun. The sergeant told the battalion commander he collapsed off the top of the mountain and his forehead was cracked, but really they beat him and it was broken. Because as we were carrying everything on our shoulders, if we collapsed accidentally off the mountain, our entire body would be broken also, not only our forehead.

Q: Do you know the name of the dead porter?

A: I don't know the name of the dead porter because he was from a different prison. As for us, they took us to their Army camp and on the way ordered us to carry paddy from the villagers' fields or huts. They ordered us to pound it for them after we had dug holes in the ground [*to use as mortars to pound the rice in*]. They fed us boiled rice and ordered us horribly.

Q: Did they tell you they would release you when you arrived at their Army camp?

A: Yes, they said they would release us as soon as they arrived at their Army camp, but when they arrived there, they said, "If we have to stay for 6 or 8 months, you also have to stay with us and you can go back when we go back." I just had two months left before completing my punishment but now I'd have to stay for 6 or 8 months there, it would be extra. As for the extra time, it would be better to run and escape because staying there I was starving and had nothing to eat or drink and my wounds on my back were very painful. Because my back was cut and very painful, I thought it better to run, so I organized some friends and three of us ran to here.

Q: How many days did you have to carry as a porter before you escaped?

A: We had to carry for 9 or 10 days if you include sleeping in the villages. They let us sleep separately from them, but when we started travelling, they ordered us to sleep together under the monastery.

Q: Which monastery?

A: One of the Karen monasteries, but we don't know its name because we have never been here before. When we arrived at this Army camp [*Pu Lu Dtu Army camp*] we didn't have huts, but they had tents with them. They gave us a very small piece of plastic sheet and we had to cover ourselves with that while sitting together in the same place. We had to sit with bent heads in the rain until morning arrived.

Q: Did they guard you when you were sleeping?

A: When they were sleeping they had some guards for their security. We couldn't urinate

when we wanted to or shit as we wanted to. They stopped us and were oppressive like that. If we wanted to urinate, we had to do it in the place where we were sitting. As for shitting, we had to do it in a plastic bag and throw it in the forest the next morning.

Q: Can you tell me how you escaped?

A: They had ordered us to cut bamboo and when they started to patrol on their operation to fight the rebels [KNLA], they asked us to carry paddy and heavy things. They were staying at the top of the hill and carried nothing themselves, and if we couldn't carry they beat us. After we arrived at the top, they kicked us with their boots and beat and swore at us and asked us to dig holes in the ground and to pound the paddy for them. After that we had to boil the rice and had a small tin of boiled rice to eat, but they ate the rice which we had pounded. That is why we ran, we knew we were going to die soon and we couldn't tolerate it anymore. If our wounds became worse and we asked for medication, they said, "Die if you have to, but we do not have medicine for you. We only have enough for our soldiers. We see you as dead people."

Q: Did they have a medic?

A: Yes, they have medics among the soldiers, but they did not give any medicine for our wounds. Afterwards we could not tolerate that so when they ordered us to carry water for them and pointed where to go, we thought, if they are going to shoot, let them shoot, and we ran down the hill quickly.

Q: Where?

A: At the frontline camp over there. We don't know the name of the camp, but we slept there for two nights. After we slept there for two nights, we started to run down to here.

Q: How many people escaped with you?

A: Three of us, but another friend fled after we escaped because he couldn't stay there anymore also. Four of us arrived here, but five or eight people ran from the top of that mountain. There are only three or four people still in the Army camp.

Q: Can you tell me the names of your friends?

A: They are "Naung Soe", "Tin Hla", "Myo Lwin" and "Than Htun" [not their real names; see other interviews]. Two of us are single and two of us are married. "Naung Soe" has a child and I have three children. All of us came here at the same time. One of us is a *Kalah* [an Indian], one is Karen and two are Burman. Three of us are from Mandalay Prison and the other one, "Naung Soe", is from Meiktila Prison.

Q: Did they see you escape and try to find you?

A: They told us that if they found us, they would kill us. They tried to find us, but we were afraid so we hid in some bushes. It took us one day of walking to come here. We started to run at 12:00 noon and arrived here in the evening.

Q: How do you feel about the KNLA now as opposed to what the Burmese told you?

A: If we compare them [the SPDC soldiers], the people here [the KNLA] are much better. They have more pity and sympathy than them [the SPDC soldiers] and treat us like their family. Really, they [the Burmese soldiers] are very bad and only have the attitude to oppress and torture us because they have guns in their arms. They never think about how to

feed people, just how to force us to work. They kept us like cows and dogs, but the people here [*the Karen resistance and villagers*] do not divide us by our skin or appearance. They just deal with us as their siblings and eat, sleep and live in equality and they have good hearts.

Q: How were you treated when you arrived here?

A: We have had a good time here with the Karen people because as soon as we arrived, they called us here and gave us clothes and fed us rice. They cooked us enough rice to feed us and then gave us a very comfortable place to stay. They gave us some medicines for our wounds also. We have a good bed to sleep on. They have given us a good place because they have good character, they treat us as people from their country and do not separate us, they have pity on us.

Q: What do you plan to do now?

A: I think I will ask for help from the people here and then go back to my place.

Q: Do you dare to go back?

A: Yes, I have to go back whether they arrest me again or not, because if I stay here, one day I will die. I can't be happy or provide for my family because my wife's health is not good and she has heart disease. My eldest son is just 12 years old, the next one is 8 years old and my daughter is 5 years old and all of them have to beg from other people to eat. They can't go to school and had to leave school because their mother has heart disease and she doesn't have any relatives in the town she moved to. My wife lives in xxxx. My parents-in-law live in yyyy [*village*], Monywa [*Sagaing Division*] and it is very far from there [*Mandalay*]. My parents live in zzzz [*in the Irrawaddy Delta*] and I live in xxxx and they are very far from each other so we can't contact each other.

Q: What will you do for a living when you go back?

A: I am a ground digger. When people want to build a building, I have to dig the holes for the posts. I got 300 kyat per day for it and it is just enough for a day. I never have extra money because goods over there are very expensive. For one 'bowl' of rice it is 170 or 180 kyat. We have to buy rice and other food to eat so that money is really not enough for us. The price is going up so we can only afford a little bit of food for ourselves.

Q: What do you think your wife and children are doing now?

A: The news I heard when I was in prison before I came here was that they have to beg from other people's houses for leftover rice and rice soup. I had thought that it would be better if I could be released, so I didn't care what happened to me and agreed with them to go to the place they sent me. The Army and the officials said as soon as we arrived there after carrying loads for them, they would release us. When we came there [*to the Army camp*] they told us that if they had to stay for eight months then we also had to stay for eight months. We could go back when they could go back. They didn't release us to go back, but tortured us and gave us only boiled rice without salt in a small tin. They beat us and we didn't have any medicine to heal our wounds and we could not sleep very well. If it rained, the plastic sheet they provided for us was not enough to cover ourselves and they didn't make a hut for us. We just had to sit like that. It was also not easy to urinate or shit. We thought that it was the same as being dead, and it would be better to escape, so we

made up our minds and ran to here. Every time I think about my family, I see my troubles and that my children are faced with troubles too, so I thought, if I have to die, it is better to die after I have had some good rice. We didn't care whether the *Nga Pway* [KNLA] killed us or not, so we struggled to run here.

Q: How will you go back?

A: We really want to go back, but after arriving here we didn't know which way we had to go. We don't know the way, so we don't have any ideas about how to go back. All of us rely on the Bo Gyi [*one of the KNLA officers*] and do what he asks us to do. If he has work he asks us to do it, but we apologized to him and asked him to send us back and to show us the way.

Q: Do you think the Army or the Police will arrest you again?

A: I need to stay two more months in prison, so maybe they will arrest me again, but at the moment, because of my wife's health and the problems my children are facing, I would go back even if they arrest me. I don't want to die here without any benefit, so I decided in my heart that I would go back. When I started to come here I was unhappy and when I arrived there [*at the Army camp*] I also had to face many problems, so I thought nothing was different there. Before, I tried to be patient and work for them [*the SPDC soldiers*] as I could and they said they would release us when we arrived at their Army camp, so I worked for them for two days at their Army camp also. I did everything they asked me to do.

Q: What was the situation when you were staying in the town?

A: When we stayed in the town all the civilians had to work to afford meals and if we were tired from working and drank alcohol and got rowdy and made noise, the police would come and arrest us. They sent us to court and sentenced us to jail. Sometimes when we were late in coming back from work and it was dark, they accused us of *Maung Yake Koe Muh* [*committing a crime by doing something in the dark of night*] and then arrested us again. All of the civilians have to face problems and we have to work hard jobs to earn money, so sometimes we get tired and came back late from drinking. Like me, I am a ground digger and sometimes I drink alcohol, then they said I was drunk and annoying people so they took me to the police station and sentenced me to jail. The police arrest us and send us to jail and when we arrive at the jail, they send us to work camps and order us to do what they want us to do. Some of the Chinese people can give money, so they have good places to sleep in the jail, but for the people who do not have money, they have to sleep on the floor with no mat. I would like to say that as we are human, we would like them to have sympathy and pity and do not divide the ethnic groups in our country and let all of us stay with love and peace.

Q: What else do you want to tell to other countries about your feelings?

A: If I give my thoughts freely about the SPDC, I don't think they rule the country peacefully and with equality. They do not have pity on the people and do not act like parents towards us. Why do I speak like this? Because they are *Thu Min Thu Kyin* [*'their government for themselves', the government helps only itself*]. When they call the civilians, they don't need to oppress them. If they need help, they just have to ask for help, but instead of asking, they torture, abuse and make problems for the civilians. They live, eat and sleep in very good conditions but we do not get good food to eat, just boiled rice, and we were

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beaten and made to carry very heavy loads. We want to ask them to have pity in their hearts, sympathy, see our needs and to change their rules and laws.

Q: What else do you want to say?

A: We have never liked this government because they don't have good behavior like our parents. They are the high leaders but they oppress the grassroots people, so we can't agree with this government. We don't like their policies also because they do what they want to do. They think they have power and weapons and they will do what they want and demand from the people what they want, beat as they want and kill as they like. They have this policy of no sympathy for other people, and we can't agree with the policy.

Q: Do you have anything else?

A: I don't have anything else to tell.

Q: Thank you very much.

A: Thank you.

Name: "Than Aung"

Sex: Male

Age: 28

Ethnicity: Burman

Religion: Buddhist

Occupation: Day Laborer

Marital Status: Married, two children, ages 1 and 3 years old

Address: xxxx section, Pegu town, Pegu Division

Date of Interview: July 2000

Source: KHRG

[He had been a prisoner in Lashio Prison in Shan State. He was interviewed after escaping from portering in Dooplaya District.](HRDU note: for first part of interview regarding prison conditions in Lashio prison please refer to the chapter on arbitrary arrest and detention)

Q: Did you come to porter after you were in prison?

A: Yes. They called us from Lashio to here in Karen State to go as Army porters. We left from Lashio on May 24th. We started leaving on May 24th and slept one night in Mandalay on the 24th, then on the morning of the 25th we went to Toungoo Prison. We slept one night in Toungoo Prison and came to Pa'an from there. We slept two nights on the way. They sent us with big blue trucks. We arrived at Pa'an *Won Saung 1*. They left 50 prisoners in Thaton and the rest, 100 prisoners, they took to Pa'an *Won Saung 1*.

Q: How did you know it was *Won Saung 1*?

A: All the people from the prisons called it that. I saw it written, "*Won Saung 1*."

Q: How many prisoners came from Lashio to porter?

A: There were 150 prisoners. They limited the number of prisoners from Lashio who had to come to be porters. There are 150 in a group.

Q: Couldn't you say something?

A: We couldn't. We also didn't have any money to pay *[to get out of having to go]*.

Q: When they wrote down the names in the register, was there anyone who didn't go?

A: Many people wanted to go. When they called us they said if the sentence was for one year, it would be reduced by four months. They told us, "We are releasing you from prison." After they said that, we were confused. We thought they had released us, but later it wasn't true. They shackled our feet with iron chains and took us by truck. The car looked like a pig truck *[trucks commonly used to transport pigs in Burma]*. They closed the door and took us. There were 22 prisoners in each truck. There were no soldiers guarding us, there were three guards from the prison. They didn't allow us to go to the toilet. They gave us one plastic bag for each of us and the one who had to go asked for it from them and we had to go inside. After we finished we had to throw it out, beside the car road.

Q: Did the prison give you anything when you left?

A: Lashio Prison gave us one blanket, one tarpaulin, the standard flat plate and slippers. They also gave us two sets of prisoner's uniforms. They were not the ones we had worn in prison. They gave us blue uniforms when we went out *[prisoners in Burma usually wear white uniforms]*.

Q: Did you bring the uniform here?

A: No, I didn't bring it. The villagers were worried the Army would see the blue colour of the prisoner's uniform, so they gave us civilian clothes and asked us to burn the uniforms.

Q: Do you have the blanket and plate?

A: I didn't bring them. The warders at Pa'an *Won Saung 1* confiscated it all.

Q: Please continue telling about it.

A: We arrived at *Won Saung 1* at night and then they took off our feet chains. The dawn came while they were still taking them off. That morning, after they had finished taking them off, we had to follow the battalion.

Q: Were there other prisoners from other prisons like you at *Won Saung 1* when you arrived?

A: Yes, there were. Some were from the 100 prisoners sent from Mandalay. They sent at least 100 prisoners from the other prisons, some from Moulmein. There were all about 500 prisoners there.

Q: Were there any political prisoners who went with you to porter?

A: No, they didn't include the political prisoners.

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Q: What was the most common offence among the prisoners?

A: Drug offences.

Q: Were there any Army deserters among the prisoners?

A: Yes, there were. There were about 20 from Lashio Prison. They are still staying with the column because they don't dare to run away.

Q: Continue telling about it.

A: Early in the morning of the 28th [May 2000], when they had finished taking off the feet chains, we were taken by trucks from an Army unit. We crossed two long bridges and before dark the trucks arrived at Kya In Seik Gyi. We slept there for one night. We kept going the next day and they forced us to carry baskets. They put the bullets and bombs they used into the baskets and gave them to each porter. They showed us the basket we had to carry.

Q: What did you have to carry?

A: They said the load I had to carry was mines. They were shaped like a rectangle [claymore mines, command detonated mines used to spring ambushes or for perimeter defences at camps]. They put 12 mines in my basket and put in 5 bowls of rice on top [7.815 kgs / 17.225 lbs]. I think it weighed about 20 viss [32 kgs / 70 lbs]. I couldn't carry it. I couldn't stand up myself with the basket. We asked them to hold it up so we could stand up.

Q: When did you leave from there to go porter?

A: We started a little after 6 a.m. on the 28th and on the 29th we came to the jungle. There is a big car road which goes into the jungle and we had to go along it. When we were walking there were many people like me who couldn't carry. They carried bombs and other things.

Q: Do you know the battalion you had to go with?

A: Light Infantry Battalion #708. They told us that when they came to get us. I don't know the name of the commander, but one of the officers with one star [2nd Lieutenant] was named Myo Win.

Q: How many porters went with LIB #708?

A: There were about 50 prisoner porters who went with #708 [LIB]. There were only 7 porters in our column and about 180 soldiers. [SPDC battalions regularly divide into columns when on operations. His column had only 7 porters but many more soldiers. The battalion took 50 porters with them in all.]

Q: Who led the convict porters?

A: He is a soldier with 3 chevrons on his arm and one small star [sergeant major]. I didn't know his name.

Q: How did the soldiers treat you?

A: At first, when they called us, they treated us well. They told us to live and eat as they did, but when we started to carry from Kya In Seik Gyi, they kicked our buttocks. When we couldn't climb or follow them, they beat us.

Q: How did they feed you? Did you eat as the soldiers ate or separately?

A: They fed us separately and there was not enough. After one plate of rice we couldn't get any more. There was only 1 milk tin of rice [*a condensed milk tin*] for three people. They fed us sometimes with raw fish-paste and sometimes with beans. They cooked for themselves in their mess tins. For us, they put it in an aluminium pot for each group of seven people. We ate little, but they ate well.

Q: Did anyone get sick?

A: Yes. People went to ask them for medicine, but they didn't give it. Sometimes, when the porters had a serious fever, they were given half a tablet, but that was all. Some people couldn't walk.

Q: What happened to the people who couldn't walk?

A: When you couldn't walk, they punched, beat you with a stick and kicked you from behind. I not only saw this, I suffered it myself.

Q: When could you take a rest in the jungle?

A: They didn't have a time limit. If it was dark, we slept. We slept in the jungle. When we slept, the prisoners had to sleep in one group. After we were asleep, they took security beside us. If it rained while we slept, we didn't have a tarpaulin. We had to sleep like that on the earth, on the grass. As for the soldiers, they built a shelter with their tarpaulin and they were comfortable. When their soldiers rested, I had to fetch water and cook. After they got up in the early morning at 5 a.m., they queued their troops and I had to carry the basket of mines again.

Q: What about when you had to pass urine or stool?

A: We had to do it there [*where they sat*].

Q: Did they say they would give you any money?

A: They told us they would give us 100 kyat per day, but I don't know if they [*the other porters*] got it. I don't think they [*the porters still with the column*] will get it. There were big brothers who were imprisoned before us and some of them came back and said they didn't get it.

Q: How many days did you have to carry for?

A: For two days.

Q: Tell me about the person who died on the path.

A: He was a Chinese sent from Lashio. I don't know his name. He was a drug offender, but I don't know his sentence. At first he was also carrying. He carried whatever they forced him to carry, but he couldn't do it. They kicked, punched and beat him. Later, when he couldn't carry any longer, they kicked his head and beat him with a gun. He fell down and was shaking. They tried to force him to carry but he couldn't. When they couldn't force him

to carry at all, they kicked him with their heels. I passed him at that time. We asked the porters who came behind us, "Is there a young brother who fell behind?" They said he was dead. The porters said it to each other, I didn't see it [*see also interviews #4, #7, and #1*].

Q: Were there civilian porters also?

A: I didn't see that. They had some big weapons, very big. It looked like a blowpipe [*a large mortar, probably 120mm*]. They carried them on bullock carts which they demanded from Kya In Seik Gyi village. They also carried very big bombs and rice sacks. The column demanded 2 or 3 bullock carts. The villagers were not happy to go [*the bullock cart owners have to go along to drive the carts*].

Q: Why weren't they happy?

A: When they couldn't drive their bullock up a hill, the soldiers behind them said, "Drive like you mean it." Sometimes the nose harnesses [*ropes through the bullocks' noses used to pull them*] broke, but the bullock still didn't go. The Burmese forced them to work, they forced them to drive. They said, "If it is going to die, kill it and eat it."

Q: Did you see the soldiers give them any money?

A: I didn't see that.

Q: Where did you arrive at?

A: From Kya In Seik Gyi we crossed over the mountains on the 28th and slept one night at 18- Mile. We continued going on the 29th. My legs were in pain and the wounds on my back were bruised. I couldn't follow and I told them that, but they didn't allow me to stop. They told me, "You go." They hit me on the back, they beat me. I was crying and telling them I couldn't go. Before we reached Kyaikdon I couldn't walk anymore. We were not so far from a village. My cheek was trembling badly. I told them I couldn't carry anymore and I fell down with the basket of mines. They picked up the mines, the basket and me, then kicked me with their feet. When they saw I was tired, they pounded me on the back with their gun butts and I turned face up. They took off my basket and put it beside me. It is still painful when I am talking. They stepped on my neck three times and they kicked my buttocks many times. They left me like that. I don't know if they thought I was dead and left me, because I lost consciousness and later I remembered nothing. I had been left there.

Q: What happened after you lost consciousness?

A: I lost consciousness in the evening, after 6 p.m. It was a little dark. When I regained consciousness in the morning I was in the flat fields and there were some huts. The big brothers from the huts in the flat fields helped me. One of them told me, "Yesterday we saw you on the path and brought you here." When he saw that I was wearing the blue prison uniform, he asked me, "Are you a Won Dan [*'servant', meaning porter*]?" I told him he was right and I explained my story to him. He asked me, "What are you going to do? Do you dare to go back the way you came?" They [*the soldiers*] had beat me and I was in pain, so I couldn't go anywhere. He said, "You can't stay here any longer. Their troops are moving about. If they know about you, they will kill you." That big brother gave me his torn shirt and sarong. He burned my prison uniform.

Q: What was their nationality?

A: They were Karen. They were talking in their own language and when I regained consciousness they fed me rice and medicine. In the village they said, "The soldiers also come to this village and in the forest. It is no good if they see you. You will be killed. It is also not good for us. You will go straight away to xxxx." *[Some details of his escape are omitted here to protect the people who helped him.]*

Q: How long did you stay at xxxx?

A: I stayed there for more than six days. When I had stayed there for three days, these brothers *[indicating "Myo Myint" and "Phone Shwe"]* arrived at xxxx. After six days the Karen soldiers arrived. When the Karen soldiers arrived, the villagers from xxxx told them a group of porters was staying there. They came to call us nicely.

Q: How did you know they were Karen soldiers?

A: The others told me. They also had guns and wore uniforms. I don't know the name of the first unit which called us.

Q: How did you feel when you saw the Karen soldiers?

A: I was afraid. The Burmese soldiers told us this when they took us: "Don't you escape. If you escape and the Karen soldiers capture you, they will cut your throats." They said that. They told us that because they didn't want us to flee. They gave us this speech when they took us from *Won Saung 1*.

Q: How did the Karen soldiers deal with you?

A: They treated us well. They told us, "We are going to send you, tell us where you want to go." They were going to take us themselves. They called us to here. At first they didn't believe us in their hearts. We were also afraid of them because they tied us with ropes at first. After they tied us we came to a small village. When we arrived, they untied the ropes and fed us well with rice. When we got sick they gave us medicine. Step by step, in the hands of these Karen soldiers, they sent us here.

Q: How many days were you tied up?

A: They tied us up for four days. They questioned us but didn't do anything to us. They questioned us a lot, but they didn't beat or scold us. They just didn't trust us.

Q: Where did you arrive to?

A: We crossed to this side of the river where the Karen soldiers summoned a Karen man we called "Bo Gyi". We went with Bo Gyi and Saya *aaaa*. When we got here, the Saya *[term of respect for teachers or leaders]* from here gave us clothes and treated us with medicine.

Q: How many days has it been since you fell down until now?

A: Since May 30th, but I don't know what today is. It has been over one month. We left on the 28th, and since then I have written it down. They sent me to xxxx on the 30th.

Forced Labor

Q: Do you dare to go back?

A: Right now, I can't go back. For that reason, if there is work here, I will work and then save some money. I will go home when I decide.

Q: What kind of work can you do?

A: I can do masonry work.

Q: Does your wife know you are here?

A: She doesn't know. I don't have any contact with my home. If I had contact, I could go back.

Name: "Hla Shwe"

Sex: Male

Age: 26

Ethnicity: Burman

Religion: Buddhist

Occupation: Construction Worker

Marital Status: Single

Address: Mandalay city

Date of Interview: July 2000

Source: KHRG

(HRDU note: For the first half of the interview regarding prison conditions in Lashio prison, refer to the chapter on arbitrary detention)

Q: How many prisoners from Lashio had to porter?

A: There were 150 prisoners. They chose the prisoners who had sentences less than five years, but they didn't get enough people. When they chose people who had less than 10 years, they were able to get the 150 people they wanted.

Q: Did they give any choice to the porters?

A: They asked, "To whom are you going to donate your life? Really, when you die, to whom are you going to give your heritage?" Some people who had a mother and a father said, "To my mother and father." They asked this since the time we stayed in prison. They specified that we would get 100 kyat per day. We ran away *[they fled from portering]* so we didn't get it. If we hadn't run and had stayed nicely, we would have gotten it. They said that, but I never saw whether anyone actually got it or not.

Q: Did they decrease the sentence?

A: They decreased it by half. If the sentence was for three years, they reduced it to one and a half years. I was imprisoned only this one time so I don't know if it is true or not. The convicts and deserters who ran away from the Army never came back. Now we have run. Only the people who are not clever go back to the prison. On the path there were about 100 prisoners given as convict porters. Only two people went back *[to prison]*.

Q: Where did you leave from to follow the soldiers as a porter?

A: I followed them from Pa'an Won Saung 1. We started to porter from Kya In Seik Gyi [*they were taken by truck to Kya In Seik Gyi, then began walking from there*]. I don't remember the Army unit, I only know Company #1.

Q: How many days did you have to carry from Kya In Seik Gyi?

A: We had to carry 3 days from Kya In Seik Gyi to Azin.

Q: What did the soldiers force the convict porters to carry?

A: Mostly, they forced us to carry the shells for the big weapon. They also forced us to carry rice pots and rice.

Q: What did you have to carry?

A: I had to carry 7 shells for the big weapon [*mortar rounds*], 5 bowls [*7.815 kgs / 17.225 lbs*] of rice and 3 small bombs [*probably grenades or mines*]. It was between 30 [*48.99 kgs / 108 lbs*] and 40 viss [*65.32 kgs / 144 lbs*]. I couldn't stand up by myself. They had to lift it for me.

Q: How many convict porters followed the Army troops you went with?

A: There were over 20 prisoners who came together with us. In all there were 30 or 40 people. There were only six porters with 30 soldiers.

Q: What were most of their cases?

A: Mostly they were opium smoking offences or soldiers who had run away from the Army. There were about 20 deserters. They don't dare to run. If they run and don't go back, it will be worse for them.

Q: Were there any political prisoners with the soldiers?

A: No.

Q: How did they feed the convict porters?

A: They cooked and after the rice was cooked, they called us and fed us. They fed us beans. They fed us enough. We ate together with them.

Q: Did they give you tarpaulin, clothes and blankets?

A: They didn't give them. They gave them to us when we stayed at Lashio prison, but when we arrived at the Won Saung they took it.

Q: You ate together with them, but didn't they give you anything when you slept?

A: It was not the same when we slept. We had to sleep in the rain. We didn't have tarpaulin or anything. We got wet and sometimes we sat in the rain and slept. We didn't have anything. We slept on the earth. They didn't guard us, but they did keep a sentry. We slept where we wanted. We sheltered in a hut and slept. If there were three people, we slept three people, and if there were two people, we slept two people. When they told us to sleep, we had to sleep.

Forced Labor

Q: Where did you keep your basket?

A: When I arrived at the place where we would rest, I took it off. I slept in one place and kept the basket in another place. If a battle occurred, I was to go to take my basket, but I wouldn't have taken it, I would have run.

Q: What did they do for you when you were sick?

A: They did nothing for us. They had a medic but we couldn't ask for help from him.

Q: What did they do for you when you couldn't carry?

A: You must carry. When the people couldn't get up, the soldiers gave them a walking stick and ordered them to go on.

Q: What did they do when you couldn't get up and walk anymore?

A: I never suffered this, but I saw it. They kicked him and said, "*Nga Loe Ma*" [*I fucked your mother*']. The convicts had to carry their things and they punched them with their fists.

Q: Did you see anyone die on the way?

A: I saw two people who died. I didn't know them. I saw it with my own eyes when I came up the path. I don't know if he was dead or not, but he had fallen down. He was lying on the path because he couldn't carry.

Q: What do you think his nationality was?

A: I think he was Burman. He couldn't carry. On the first day, when we were climbing up. Nobody could climb and carry. We had to climb for a long time. Nobody could climb the hill. Even me, I had to climb on my hands and knees. It was not a car road. It was very rough. He [*a Burmese soldier*] said, "You can't carry and go." Then he kicked him, "*Dine*" [*making the sound of the man being kicked*]. I don't know if he fell down or not. They kicked him off the side of the mountain. I think he is dead. He was about 45 or 50 years old. It was when we left Kya In Seik Gyi and were climbing up [*into the mountains*].

Q: Was it a soldier or the commander who kicked him?

A: A soldier. He kicked him with his military boots.

Q: Didn't the commander see it?

A: The commanders pretended as though they didn't see it.

Q: Didn't the commander stop when the soldier did that?

A: They didn't say anything. They also didn't say anything when the soldiers punched us. They didn't say anything when the soldiers reviled us, "*Nga Loe Ma Tha*" [*I fucked your mother*']. The soldiers reviled us more in front of them. When the officers passed in front of them, the soldiers reviled and kicked us.

Q: Did you see them kick the prisoners?

A: I saw it many times. I saw them do this to many people along the road. They also kicked me two or three times in the mud. When I protected myself, he kicked me again.

They tried to kick my face, but I didn't allow it and protected myself. They kicked my face about three times. If they want to kick, kick somewhere else on the body. Isn't that right?

Q: Do you think it is just?

A: I don't think that is just.

Q: Was your back bruised?

A: Yes, here. It looks like there is pus, and also on this side. It is bruised in three places. I couldn't endure the weight of the basket.

Q: Did they put medicine on your wounds?

A: They didn't have any medicine. When we were following them, there were a few people who had wounds. They just stayed like that.

Q: If the soldiers had wounds, did they give each other medicine?

A: I didn't see it.

Q: Who was in charge of the porters?

A: Saya Gyi Sit Kyu controlled the convict porters. He had three chevrons and one star. He is a Sit Kyu. He is not a sergeant and not a sergeant major yet [*he may be a Deputy Warrant Officer*]. He said, "If you are faithful, you can do it. It is very important that you must be faithful to us." Later they didn't deal with us on the same level. Slowly and slowly we were becoming farther and farther apart. They weren't interested in feeding us. At first they fed us but later they were groaning about it. Later, we couldn't eat together with them.

Q: Did any battles occur when you were portering?

A: A battle never occurred. After I fled I constantly heard the sound of shooting, "*Dine, Dine, Dine, Dine.*"

Q: Did you ever rest in any of the villages?

A: We took a rest for only three minutes. We never took a long rest.

Q: What other work did they force you to do?

A: They forced us to fetch water. Always they were travelling. That is all the daily work. When we took a rest, they cooked rice. If they asked me to find firewood, I had to find it. If they asked me to take this or take that, I had to take it. If they asked me to fetch water, I had to run and fetch it.

Q: Did you arrive at Azin?

A: Yes, I arrived at Azin.

Q: Where did you flee from in the end?

A: I fled from xxxx village.

Q: How did you get to xxxx [*village*] from Azin?

A: Their operations troops went to the frontline. There were about 30 soldiers.

Forced Labor

Q: Why did you flee from them?

A: I had walked for 10 days and my legs had become big and swollen. Then I went to tell the medic to treat them. I asked them for medicine. "Saya, my shoulder is bruised, my feet are very swollen and I can't walk." He told me, "Hey, *Kaung!* [*a Burmese term used only for animals*] No, you have to walk. Smear it when you arrive there." I said, "No, I can't. I must smear it now." Then they kicked me. They pushed me from behind and forced me to go with the basket. Then I tied my legs with rope tightly and carried the basket. I put the basket on my back and picked it up. At that time a soldier said, "Hey, get up, get up, get up, let's go." I told him, "Don't you see here? Saya, I can't continue going." He said, "The Colonel will come. Get Up." Then I got up and he told me to walk quickly. I said, "I can't walk anymore." He said, "No, you can't stop. Walk until you can't." Then I said to myself, "*Nga Loe Ma Tha!* [*Fuck your mothers!*] You have only one of me to force. The other people have fled." And I fled [*he actually fled later*].

Q: How did you escape after that?

A: I thought that if I continued, I would become swollen and I would get a problem. That is why when they [*the soldiers*] were sitting down, I fled. I went to shit in the jungle and looked at the situation. I was alone. They were sitting and talking to each other in a long, low building. I entered the jungle. When I fled I lost my way in the jungle for two hours. I climbed up the highest mountain and in the afternoon, at 2 p.m., I looked down and saw a hill field. Then I came across a path and I saw two Karen people. They asked me, "Did you run away from portering?" I said, "Yes." The daughter of the field owner stayed and her brother-in-law went to call someone who could speak Burmese. I was hungry then. I told him I hadn't gotten any food to eat. He said, "Here is some rice. Cook and eat it. Don't worry about anything." They told me, "Tonight sleep here. Eat and drink and you will be well again tomorrow morning." [*Some details of his escape are omitted here.*] Then I came to the Nga Pway [*a derogatory term used by the SPDC to refer to the KNU/KNLA*].

Q: What did you bring with you when you fled?

A: I brought only the set of clothes on my body.

Q: What was the uniform you were wearing?

A: The prisoners' uniform.

Q: When did you flee?

A: In the middle of May [*2000*].

Q: Who did you meet with?

A: I met with the Nga Pway. I fled one day and on the next day, I met them. They dealt with me nicely. They asked me where I live and where I stay. They fed me the same as they ate.

Q: Were you afraid when you met them?

A: I wasn't afraid. They are very different from the Burmese soldiers. When the Burmese fed us they forced us to go and come, it was very different. Sometimes, the Karen soldiers

would carry the loads that we couldn't carry. Later, the Chinese man and the Shan man [*other escaped convict porters*] arrived. They were fleeing. I thought they were good friends, so when they came here I followed them. We collected the people [*other escaped porters*]. One is Chinese and one is Shan. The other four arrived in the night. Later, I came here. It was about three or four days ago.

Q: Who sent you here?

A: The resistance people. They said they were the resistance people. They treated us well.

Q: Did the other porters flee?

A: The other porters fled. Before I fled there were only four porters left in our unit.

Q: How did you know they fled?

A: I didn't know they had fled, but the villagers said that all of them had fled. Nobody was there. I heard that but I don't know exactly.

Q: Where do you want to go?

A: I want to go to a good place. On this side I don't have any contact with home. If I have contact, I want to go back. I'd dare to go back and stay.



Forced Labor

Appendix # 1

To.

Chairman

Quarter Peace Development Council (QPDC) – xxxxx village

(18.9.2000)

Subject: Informing you to cut bamboo.

For the military base that is on security duty for Lai Ba factory, (300) bamboo poles are to be supplied by xxxxx village for the walling of the base camp. It has also been found that the chairman has failed to report the situation of the area and so the chairman is to come to the military base to explain, on August 18 by the latest.

Without fail.

Sd/-

Army Camp in charge

Lai Va

Appendix # 2

Dated : 19.8.2000

Subject — Request for help.

You are requested to provide (2) chickens to the camp for breeding by 21.8.2000.

Remark: Send the remaining bamboo poles on 21.8.2000.

sd/-

camp in charge

Lai Va Camp.

Appendix # 3

Stamp:

#xx [IB], Company x

7/3/2000

Date: 7/3/2000

To: [blank]

xxxx [camp]

Subject: Calling for loh ah pay

Regarding the above subject, Gentleman's village must send 4 people to build on Ka Na Soe Bin road construction, come to xxxx Camp on 10/3/2000 at 10 o'clock in the morning with 3 days of supplies and mattocks and machetes. Be informed that if [you] fail, it will be the Gentleman's responsibility.

[Sd.]

(for) Camp Commander

xxxx Camp

[Mattocks are large hoes used for digging. On the back this order is marked "**Urgent**" and "**Send this quickly**". The stamp has a blank unit number which the officer has written in by hand.]

[This order was also published as Order #3 in "SPDC & DKBA Orders to Villages: Set 2000-B" (KHRG #2000-04, 12/10/00)]

Appendix # 4

Stamp:

xxxx Village Tract
Peace & Development Council
Than Daung Township

To:
Chairperson / Secretary

The condition of the Pa Leh Wah - Baw Ga Li Gyi [*Kler Lah*] vehicle road is no good at all. Therefore, as a show of public strength, one person per house with mattock [*large hoe*], machete and food for 3 days must come without fail from Gentleman's [*your*] village to the Ya Ya Ka [VPDC] office tomorrow at 6:30 a.m.

[Sd.]

Chairperson
Village Tract Peace & Development Council
xxxx Village Tract, Than Daung Township

[This order was also published as **Order # 120** in "[SPDC & DKBA Orders to Villages: Set 2000-A](#)" (KHRG #2000-01, 29/2/00)]:

Appendix # 5

Order # (Papun)

[Note: this order is written on a piece of stationery torn off of a pad; the references to Army Day and the Armed forces shown in bold at the top are part of the stationery. The rest is handwritten. Army Day is celebrated on March 27th each year by the SPDC.]

Year 2000

Date: 4-9-2000

[Armed Forces 55th Year Anniversary of Army Day logo]

Place: yyyy

To: Mother Head Daw *aaaa*

Respectfully writing a letter. The subject is to send 15 men, each with a machete, from Mother's village as soon as you receive this letter.

Send them along with the messenger who brings this letter now. The Battalion Commander said that the roadside was not cut clear enough by Mother's village. Must send [*the men*] without fail. If [*you*] fail, it will be the responsibility of Mother Head.

[Sd.]

Capt. *bbbb*
Frontline IB #xx
yyyy [Army Camp]

[Villages are routinely ordered to cut and clear the scrub along the roadsides, and this village has not managed to satisfy the Battalion Commander with their work.]

Appendix # 6

Order # (Pa'an)

Stamp:

#xxx Light Infantry Battalion
Battalion Headquarters
26-9-2000

To:

Chairperson / Village headwoman
xxxx village

The Elder's village is required to send 40 *loh ah pay* workers including carpenters to repair bridges and resurface the road, so be informed to send them to #xxx Light Infantry Battalion on 27-9-2000 at 7 o'clock in the morning.

[Sd.]

(for) Intelligence Officer

Appendix # 7

Order #160 (Nyaunglebin)

Stamp:

Township Peace and Development Council
Kyauk Kyi town

Township Peace and Development Council
Kyauk Kyi town
Letter No. 3 / 42-1 / Yay 5
Date: Year 2000, October 24th

To: Chairperson
~~xxxx ward~~/village tract
Peace and Development Council
Kyauk Kyi town

Subject: To repair the Kyauk Kyi - Nat Than Gwin - Than Bo roads

Regarding the above subject, at the meeting held on 23-10-2000 at the Kyauk Kyi township Peace and Development Council office attended by the Deputy Battalion Commander of Infantry Battalion #60, the Chairperson of the Township Peace and Development Council, vehicle owners and Ward/Village Tract Peace and Development Council Chairpersons, it was decided to resurface the potholes along the Kyauk Kyi - Nat Than Gwin - Than Bo road as follows.

1) The following wards/village tracts must load and unload gravel by rotation and get the specified number of *kyin* [1 *kyin*=100 cubic feet] of gravel starting on 25-10-2000.

No.	Village Tract	Number of <i>kyin</i>	Duty Dates
a)	In Net tract	14 <i>kyin</i>	25-10-2000 to 27-10-2000
b)	Ywa Gyi In tract	6 <i>kyin</i>	28-10-2000 to 29-10-2000
c)	Naung Gone tract	5 <i>kyin</i>	30-10-2000 to 31-10-2000
d)	Nat Than Gwin tract	20 <i>kyin</i>	From 25th until finished

2) Aung Soe Moe village, Tha Pyay Gone village, and Kywe Chan village should collect 10 *kyin* of sand from Aung Soe Moe bridge, carry the sand with *taw la gyi* [small rice-ploughing tractors], and place it where gravel has been piled.

[page 2 of the original begins here]

- 2 -

3) Thay Gone, Seik Gyi, Ma Oo Byin Seik, Naung Gone, Yan Myo Aung, Lay Wain Gyi, and Nat Than Gwin villages located along the road must cooperate in the resurfacing process with the People's Construction department.

4) Vehicle associations and *taw la gyi* associations must transport gravel from the *loh ah pay* villages. The type of vehicle, number of *kyin* of gravel, and the quota of fuel and oil should be listed and reported to the Strategic Command, #60 Infantry Battalion, and the Township Peace and Development Council office.

[Sd.]

Chairperson

(U Kyit Hlaing - Bpa/2449)

Copies to:

- Strategic Commander, Southern Command Headquarters, Kyauk Kyi town
- Battalion Commander, Frontline #60 Infantry Battalion, Kyauk Kyi town
- Township engineer, People's Construction department, Kyauk Kyi town
- Executive officer, Township Municipal Board, Kyauk Kyi town
- Chairperson, Vehicle Association, Kyauk Kyi town
- Chairperson, *Taw La Gyi* Association, Kyauk Kyi town

*[Nat Than Gwin is on the Sittaung River, about 20 kilometres southwest of Kyauk Kyi in eastern Pegu Division. Than Bo (also spelled Thaung Bo) is an SPDC Army base about 5 kilometres north of Kyauk Kyi along the road heading east into Karen State. For locations see the map of Nyaunglebin District in **KHRG Information Update #2001-U3** (9/4/2001) or in "**Death Squads and Displacement**" (KHRG #99-04, 24/5/99). Notes: Each village tract consists of 5-10 villages. Nat Than Gwin is being forced to provide the most gravel and also do forced labour on the resurfacing (paragraph 3), and Nat Than Gwin has a higher proportion of Karen people than the other villages. The 'vehicle associations' and 'taw la gyi associations' are used by the SPDC as a way to systematically commandeer cars, trucks and tractors on a regular basis. The listing of the meeting attendees at the beginning of the document shows a hierarchy, for example that the Deputy Battalion Commander is considered higher than the Township Peace and Development Council Chairman. One 'kyin' is 100 cubic feet, usually measured off as 10 feet by 10 feet by 1 foot deep of gravel or sand.]*

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223 2

ရန်ကုန် / ဇွန် ၁၁ ရက်

சைவரீ: அடியை ரெ: தர்த்து: ரெ: னைதீரீ

ကျေးဇူးတင်ပြီး ဖို့တယ်

မာရ် ၁၆: ၁၁

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සාක්ෂි: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839.

ဘေဝိဒ္ဓိ: ပိုး ငါးကား၊ ဇာတ်၊ ဖုန်ပျား၊ ကို (၃၀) ကျင်း ရသေ့ကန်

සේනාධිපතිතුමා: ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ: කොට: කළු කොටසක්: තිබේ:
නමුත්: නමුත්: ලෝකය: 95%:

Forced Labor

Appendix # 8

Stamp:

To:

20-11-2000

#xxx Light Infantry Battalion

Chairperson

Battalion Headquarters

xxxx village

Subject: To cut the scrub 50 feet wide on the left and right of the car road

In accordance with the subject, starting from today Chairperson's village must cut and clear all the bushes 50 feet from the left and 50 feet from the right along the yyyy car road over the area that was specified last year. If anything happens along the road, it will be the Chairperson's responsibility so [you] will have to pay compensation.

With friendliness,

[Sd.]

Captain bbbb

LIB xxx

[The villagers are forced to clear wide 'killing zones' on both sides of all roads used by the military; each village is assigned a specific length of road every year. 'If anything happens along the road' means that if there are any ambushes or mines on the road, the village will be punished with fines and possible arrests and other punishments.]

Appendix # 9

To:

Chairperson / Village Head

Date: 14-12-2000

xxxx village tract (tttt / uuuu / vvvv / www / yyyy / zzzz villages)

The Elders' villages must take responsibility to lay stones / lay sand / make ditches / clear the ground along the Yin Kweh Taung to Nat Zin Gone road. One person from each family and 8 bullock carts must come and wait at the LIB xxx rubber plantation field tomorrow, 15-12-2000, at 0800 hours, and do not work [i.e. wait for further orders].

May you have peace in your mind and be able to serve the work of the country.

Respectfully,

[Sd.]

Mobile LIB xxx

[illegible]

Forced Labor

Appendix # 10

Stamp:

Date: 13-5-2000

Peace and Development Council

To: Head

Date: 13-5-2000

yyyy Village Tract

Subject: *Loh ah pay* matters

Regarding the above subject, to build the yyyy (VPDC) office, 10 male *loh ah pay* people from the Head's village must come on 14-5-2000, ~~Saturday~~ Sunday, at 6 o'clock in the morning, you are informed.

Note

[Sd.]

Bring along short bamboo ties / long bamboo ties.

Stamp: Member

Village Peace and Development Council
yyyy village tract, Papun township

[With the exception of the 'Note', this entire order is written in red ink, which is commonly used by SPDC units to indicate urgency/threats, and is definitely interpreted that way by the villagers.]

Appendix # 11

To

Chairman

_____ Village

Subject: To help sending unpaid labor

1 As the subject mentioned above, your _____ village must send the required villager laborers accordingly to the following instruction and dates:

(a) On September 18, 2000, to send about 50 men to weed out the paddy plants,

(b) On September 19, 2000 to send about 50 women to grow paddy plants.

2. To manage doing these types of works, one village leaders must lead the group of the villagers.

Signed –

(a Commander)

LIB No. 545

Appendix #12

To

Chairman

_____ Village

On August 18, 2000, we asked your help to provide about (50) villagers as laborers to work in our LIB No. 545 farms, to take seedling plants and grow them in farms. But you didn't send any villagers to the workplaces, and you must explain why you could not send the set number of villagers. As our works in farms is quite important and we are busy, we really need some villagers to grow the paddy plants.

Signed –

A Commander, LIB No. 545

Date: August 18, 2000

Appendix #13

To: U aaaa

16-8-2000

Send 3 people from the Elder's village to carry supplies to zzzz [Army camp] on 17-8-2000.

[Sd.]

Chairperson
yyyy [village]

[This was followed by Order #314 the following day.]

Appendix #14

Stamp:

8-1-2000

#xxx Infantry Battalion To:

Company #x

Chairperson

As soon as you receive this letter now, to build the vehicle road sentry huts and to sentry, send quickly 5 villagers from the Elder's village with full rations. Chairperson, come to send 1 cart to the Company Commander at yyyy on the Kway Thay river. If [you] fail, it will be the responsibility of the Elder, you are informed.

[Sd.]

Stamp: Company Commander
Company #x
#xxx Infantry Battalion

[On the back this order is addressed "To Chairperson, xxxx village. Important/Urgent."]

Appendix #15

No. 343 Light Infantry Battalion
Ye Township, Aru-taung village,
Letter No. 343/12/Htut 4
Date: June 20, 2000

Chairman

Village Peace and Development Council
_____ Village

SUBJECT: Informing you to send laborers.

1. For construction work at the battalion base, we inform you that you must send village laborers according to the listed dates, and the set number of villagers as shown below:

- (a) Taung-bon village, (from June 28 to June 30) to send 20 laborers,
- (b) Kwan-du village, (from June 28 to June 30) to send 7 laborers,
- (c) Thaung-pyin village, (from July 1 to July 3) to send 20 laborers,
- (d) Zar-ga-le village, (from July 1 to July 3) to send 7 laborers,
- (e) Aru-taung village, (from July 4 to July 6) to send 20 labours,
- (f) Hnin-son village, (from July 4 to July 6) to send 20 laborers,
- (g) Son-na-thar village (from July 7 to July 9) to send 5 laborers,
- (h) Ah-plaing village, (from July 7 to July 9) to send 5 laborers,
- (i) Taung-zun village, (from July 7 to July 9) to send 5 laborers,

2. We inform you that as the battalion has important work to do, the set number of village laborers from every village must come. Everyone must bring tools with them.

Signed/- Lin Oo
(on behalf of) Battalion

Commander

Copies to:

- Office copy - IB No. 106

(Source: HURFOM)

Forced Labor

Appendix # 16

VPDC

Sa-Kan-Gi group, Ka-Lay Township

Date July 10 2000

To

Members of the school committee

Subject Invitation to supervise forced labor

According to above, we have asked 27 people to give their labor on July 11, 2000 (Tuesday), at 7 AM, to move the (middle school) fence. We invite you to come without fail to supervise this forced labor.

(Sd)

VPDC

Sa-Kan-Gi group, Ka-Lay Township

Members of school committee

1) *****

2) *****

3) ***** (Source: Inside Burma)



Appendix #16 (Original Burmese version)

Date: September 29 2000

We invite the people listed below to come to the Sakan Gyi Village PDC office on Saturday, September 30, 2000, at 7 AM, to move the office 100 feet further from the road.

- 1) xxxxx (to organize)
- 2) xxxxx
- 3) xxxxx
- 4) xxxxx
- 5) xxxxx (to work as carpenters)
- 6) xxxxx
- 7) xxxxx (carpenter group)
- 8) xxxxx

[illegible]

131

Forced Labor

Appendix #18

Stamp: Township PDC Date: October 6, 2000
xxxxx, Kalay Township

To: All village headmen

Subject: Laborers to build a oxen-lane beside the car road

The village leaders listed below are responsible to collect one person from every household to come to the Township PDC office on October 7, 2000 at 6 AM. You must bring your own machetes, hoes, and shovels.

Group leader

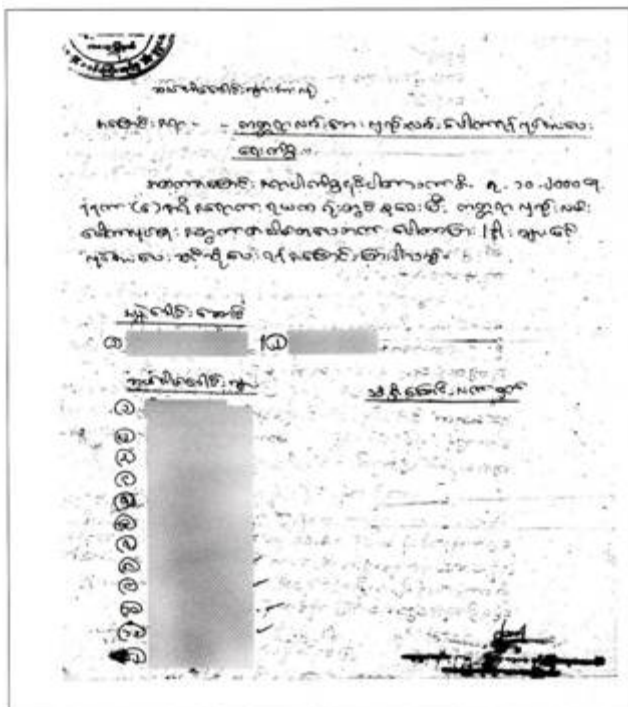
xxxx and xxxxx

Ward Leaders

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1) xxxxx | 9) xxxxx |
| 2) xxxxx | 10) xxxxx |
| 3) xxxxx | 11) xxxxx |
| 4) xxxxx | 12) xxxxx |
| 5) xxxxx | |
| 6) xxxxx | |
| 7) xxxxx | |
| 8) xxxxx | |

(Signed)

Village Peace and Development Council
xxxxx, Kalay Township



Appendix #18 (Original Burmese version)

Appendix # 19

No. (10) practicing Military Unit
Quartermaster Department

Ka-Lay City

Bulletin 1002/ 10/ ***** 1

Date May 8 2000

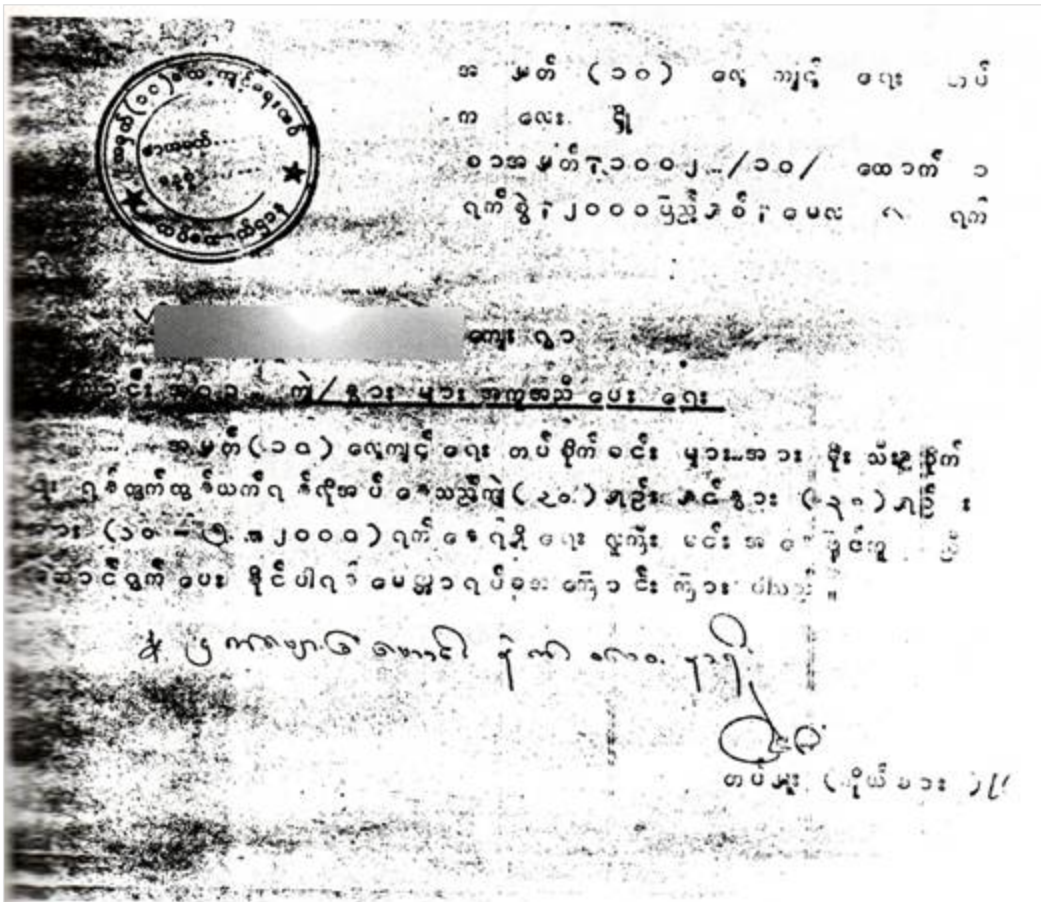
To xxxx. yyy villages

Subject: To help with buffaloes and cows

We inform you that we are in need of gentlemen's help. In order to grow the rainy season paddy crop for the fields of Practicing Military Unit No. 10, we need 30 pairs of buffalo and 30 pairs of cows on May 5 2000 to harrow the fields.

The old banana garden, morning at 6 o' clock
(Sd)

On behalf of the Military Unit
Commanding Officer



Appendix #19 (Original Burmese version)

Forced Labor

Appendix # 20

Stamp:

LIB (546)

Commander

To-

Chairman

_____ Village

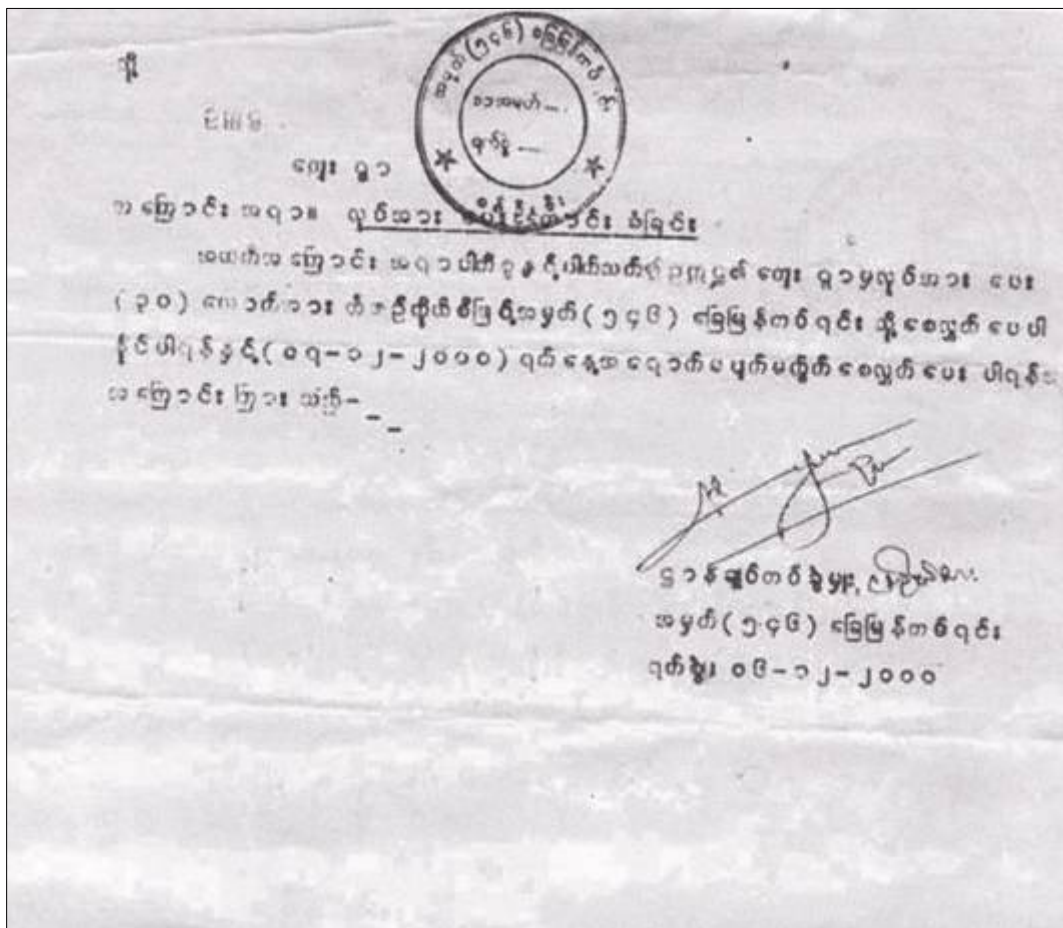
Date: December 6, 2000

Subject: Asking for forced laborers

Your village must send thirty laborers, with food, to LIB 546 on December 7, 2000. Severe penalties will be given if you fail to abide to this order.

(Sd) Headquarter commander For LIB (546)

(Source: Yoma3)



Appendix #20 (Original Burmese version)

Appendix # 21

Stamp:
Township Peace and Development Council
Pekhon Town

Township PDC
Pekhon Town
Bulletin No. 4/39-7/00-6
Date: February 25, 2000

To:
Chairman
Xxxxxx village/ Pekhon town

Subject: Villages within a 20 mile radius of Inle Lake will be required to plant trees

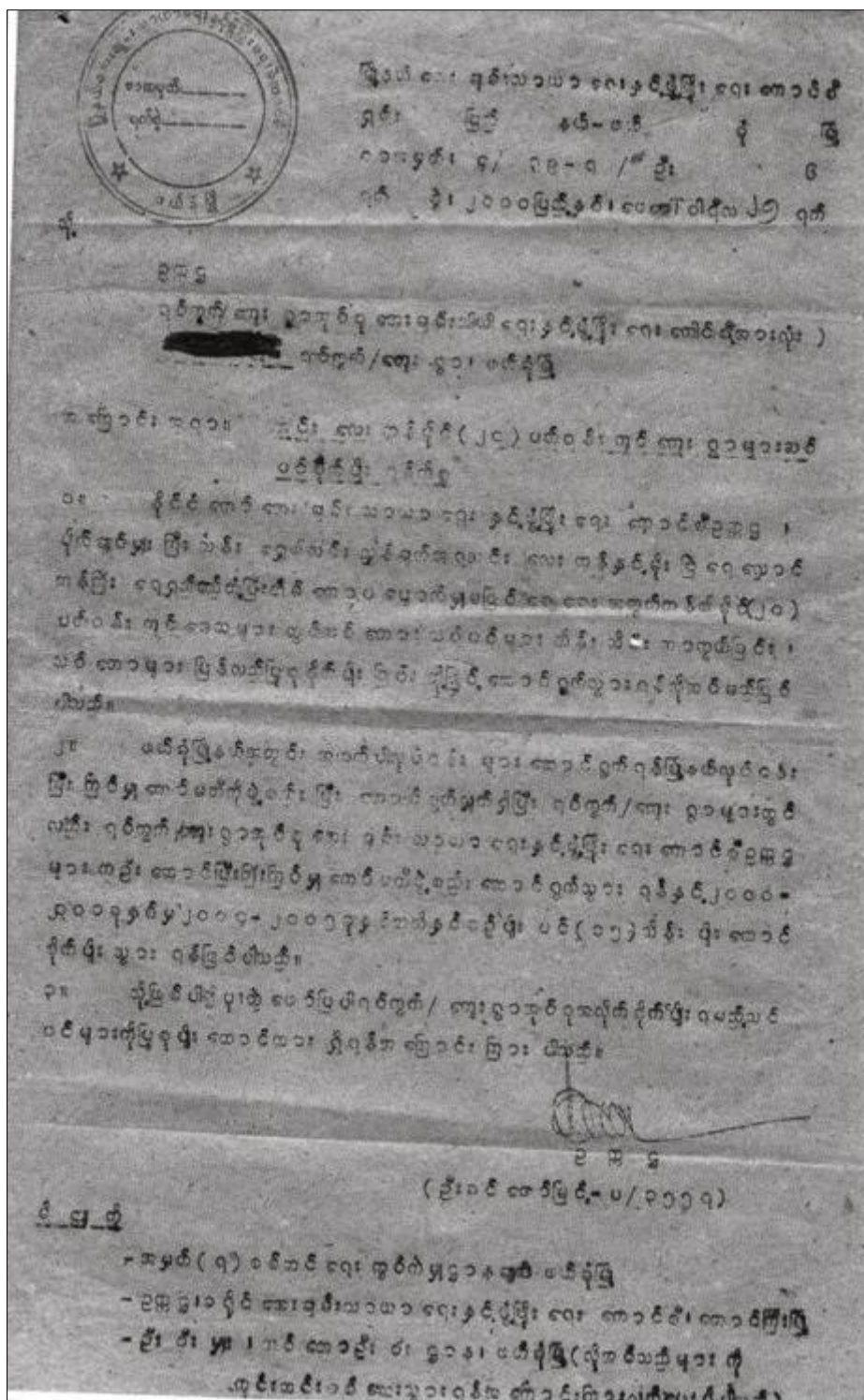
1// According to the order of General Than Shwe and the chairman of the NPDC, there is a need for reforestation of a 20 mile surrounding area, for the conservation of Inle Lake and Moby Dam.

2// Regarding carrying out the above task, township administration committees are being organized; the chairman of the PDC need to organize committees for wards and villages to plant 1.5 million trees from 2000-2001 to 2004-2005

3// Therefore, the wards and villages listed below are required to plant the tree saplings to grow.

(Sd.)
Chairman
(U Khin Zaw Myint - P/3557)

CC -
- No. 7 Operation Headquarters, Pehkon Town
- Chairman, District PDC, xxxxxx Town
- Head of the Forestry Dept. , Pekhon Town



Appendix #21 (Original Burmese version)

Appendix # 22

To:
Chairman
Xxxxxxx village

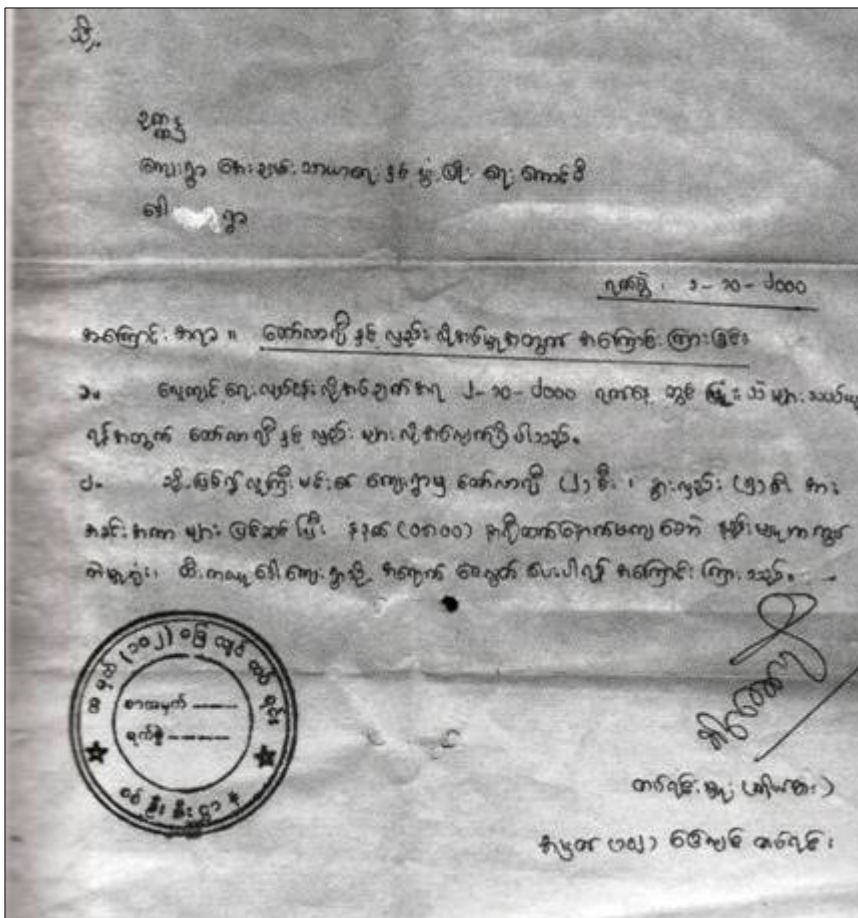
Date: 1-10-2000

Subject: Informing you that we need a trolley and bullock carts

1// On 2-10-2000, we are in need of a trolley and bullock cart for carrying gravel and sand for practicing our duty.

2// Hence, 2 floor and side covered trolleys and 5 bullock carts need to be sent from your village to arrive no later than 08:00.

(Sd.)
for the Battalion Commander
Frontline IB 102



Appendix #22 (Original Burmese version)



Photos this page and following page:

Villagers, including elderly people and children, were forced to labor for the building of a government middle school without pay in Kyun Hlar village, Mudon Township, Mon State in March 2001. They had to pay fines of 500 Kyat/day if they failed to show up. (Photos: Yoma3)





Child forced labor in Mudon Township, Mon State. (See previous page) (Photo: Yoma3)



Villagers forced to clear bushes along the Ye-Tavoy road in Tenasserim Division by IB 299 in October 2000. (Photo: HURFOM)

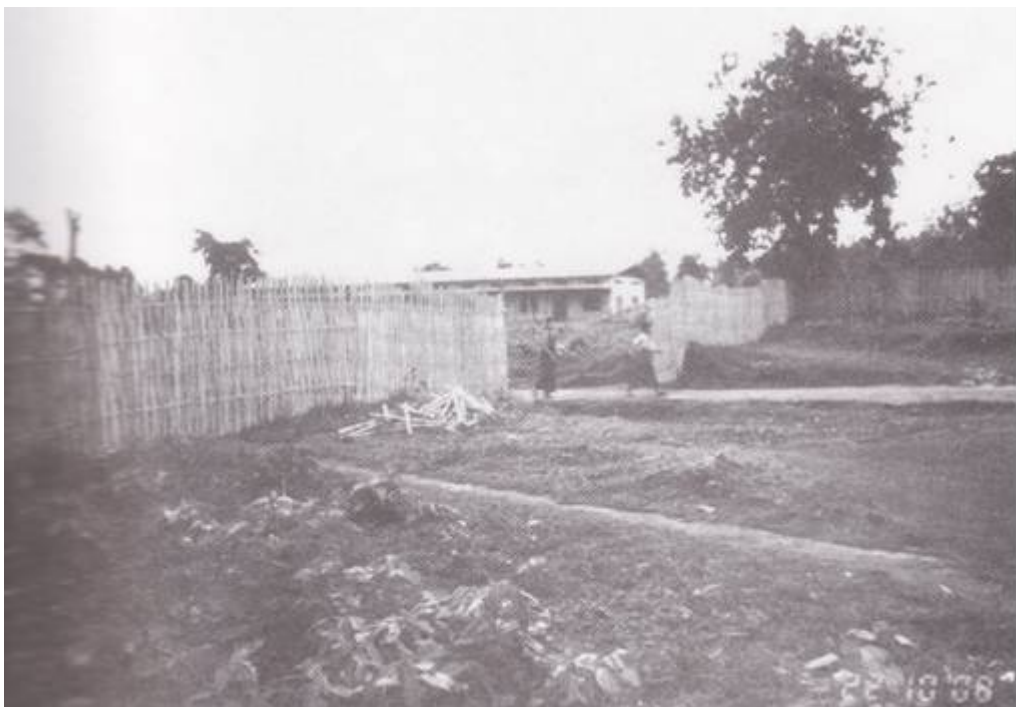


Villagers forced to take security along the Ye-Tavoy Railroad and major roads. (Photos: Yoma3)





Klaw Maw village, just west of the hills in Kyauk Kyi township, Nyaunglebin District, Karen State. The villagers are forced to break rocks and carry them in sacks to forced labor sites where Buddhists, Animists and Christians are all forced to build pagodas for the local DKBA and SPDC troops. *[Photos: KHRG researcher]*





Klaw Maw village, just west of the hills in Kyauk Kyi township, Nyaunglebin District, Karen State. Villagers are taking a break during the forced labor to build a sentry hut, which is half-constructed on the right. *[Photo: KHRG researcher]*



Forced labor on the Ye to Ka-Zar Road, Tenasserim Division. (Photo: HURFOM)



Women who have been rounded up by SPDC troops to serve as unpaid porters in Karen State (Photo: KWO)



Villagers who have been forced to carry supplies for LID 88 troops for a military operation along the Thre Pagoda Pass-Thanbyuzayat Road. (Photo: HURFOM)



Six prisoners were taken from prisons throughout Burma to be porters in Karen State but escaped in early June 2000. They all described to KHRG their extremely brutal treatment at the hands of the soldiers. In this they are still in prison uniform. Most of them have wives and children who do not know that they are still alive. *[Photo: KHRG researcher]*



A prisoner who escaped in June 2000 from used as frontline porters by LIB 706 and 708 in Dooplaya District, Karen State. In this photo, the escaped prisoner points to some of the (circled) wounds on his back and shoulders from carrying heavy loads in bamboo baskets and from beatings. *[Photo: KHRG researcher]*



Three former SPDC soldiers who were jailed for deserting the army and later had to serve as porters in late May 2000. They managed to escape in June 2000, but with substantial wounds and scars. (Photo: FTUB)



A 46-year-old Karen man from Mandalay who was 2 months from the end of a 1-year prison sentence for possessing a stolen bicycle when he was taken from Mandalay Prison to Karen State to be a porter for SPDC frontline troops. He escaped in Pa'an District in early June 2000 after 10 days of heavy portering. The photo shows wounds on his back and shoulders from carrying heavy loads in bamboo baskets. He has a wife and 3 children back home who do not know if he is still alive. *[Photo: KHRG researcher]*



Prisoners working at a prison labor camp in Mon State in mid-2000.
(Source: Yoma3)

2. Extra-judicial Killing, Summary or Arbitrary Execution

2.1 Background

The summary or arbitrary execution of individuals in SPDC controlled Burma continues to be one of the most gruesome and obvious evidences of the gross violations of human rights violations committed in the country. In 2000 there continued to be numerous reports of summary or arbitrary execution of civilians, especially in the border areas of armed conflict. The military officers and rank and file soldiers of the SPDC army battalions, leaders and members of the SPDC endorsed people's militias ("pyi thu sit"), and other SPDC officials including MI, Police and USDA officials were the perpetrators of these crimes. This clearly shows SPDC's complete disregard for the human rights and humanitarian law treaties it has signed.

Many arbitrary executions are carried out in line with SPDC's "Four-Cuts" policy, which is practiced in the areas of armed ethnic conflict against the ethnic minority villagers. According to this policy, the SPDC army has aimed to cut support to the opposition through mass relocations of villagers to areas under army control, and through detaining, torturing and executing villagers and village elders and leaders considered to have any contact with the opposition. Villagers found outside of SPDC controlled areas, including villagers in hiding from the army, and villagers outside of forced relocation sites are often assumed to be rebels or rebel supporters. Indeed, accusing a villager of being a rebel soldier, a relative of a rebel soldier, or helping rebel soldiers in any way is a blanket accusation punishable by death; the implicit SPDC threat to other villagers is to renounce suspected rebels before innocent villagers pay the price for their subversion. Villagers in resistance areas fear traveling outside their village for any reason, especially to tend their hill fields in the jungle, because they risk discovery by SPDC troops on patrol and the inevitable accusation of rebel activity. Villagers seen outside of SPDC controlled areas or villages are often shot on sight by patrolling troops without any kind of warning. As most accusations of rebel association are unfounded, this system can be used to execute almost anyone; for example, woman found in a village without their husbands are often accused of being 'married to a rebel soldier'. Villagers can also be executed for simply carrying food in areas outside SPDC control, as the army assumes that the food is to supply rebel troops.

The SPDC often orders the army battalions to hunt down and kill villagers in hiding as well, during "Search and Destroy" operations. In 2000 many such IDPs in hiding were discovered and summarily executed.

The case number of arbitrary and summary executions is high. For the year 2000 the HRDU compiled reports of over 600 individuals who had been arbitrarily or summarily executed by personnel associated with the SPDC. This number includes 16 individuals who were executed by, or after torture, 25 women who were executed following rape or gang-rape, and 62 individuals who were executed while being forced to porter or labor for the military. These numbers are low and do not indicate the actual number of people who were summarily or arbitrarily executed by SPDC personnel, as this number is the reported

incidents as compiled by the HRDU. It can be affirmed that many more such incidents occurred in the year 2000 which were not known of or reported. It is horrifying to note that these numbers are only indicative of how serious the problem is in Burma under SPDC control.

Massacres in Shan State in 2000

There were major massacres of displaced people which occurred in the Shan State in 2000. On January 30, a group of villagers were returning to their village in Keng Kham village tract with permission and passes from IB 246 in Kun Hing relocation site when they were stopped by an SPDC patrol from IB 66. Nineteen people were executed, including three women. On February 12, a group of 20 male villagers from Kun Pu village tract who had been living in hiding in the forest were spotted by a patrol from IB 246, and all 20 of them were executed; the same patrol later killed five women and children who were hiding in a nearby hut. On March 27, 2000, 13 relocated farmers, 8 men and 5 women, were shot dead by a column of 80-90 troops from Company No.5 of LIB514, under the command of Capt., Pan Aung. They were surrounded and gunned down without any questions or warnings as they were clearing a plot of land for growing rice near Murng-Kern town.

Then on May 23, 2000, a column of 90-100 SPDC troops from IB 246 led by Capt. Htun Aung rounded up 64 displaced people, including men, women and children of all ages, working in the rice and sesame fields near the deserted village of Hueypu, Hsaimong Tract, Kunhing Township and executed all of them. An estimated 40-50 other people were reportedly also killed in the area by the same troops around the time of the May massacre.

Summary executions and deaths during forced labor and portering

Summary executions also took place in the course of capturing villagers for the purpose of forced labor and portering, or during the villagers' forced labor and portering duties. When porters attempt escape or can no longer work due to over-exhaustion or illnesses, they are nearly always beaten and often killed or abandoned in the jungle without food and medicine. In the case of prisoner labor and prisoner porter duty death rates are high and many such cases were reported in 2000. Escapees of prison labor camps have reported death rates as high as 4 people per day. According to one former prisoner who escaped a prison labor camp,

"Many prisoners died- at least four or five prisoners died every day. The bodies of the dead couldn't be buried well and their legs and hands showed above ground. When we had to bury a body, we could see other bodies buried everywhere, so we had to bury them on top of each other."

This subject is covered more extensively in the chapter on forced labor, and a list of incidents of deaths due to forced labor and porter duty is included in that chapter.

Women executed after being raped

Women are commonly killed by soldiers after being raped, for fear that survivors of these double crimes will report or publicize the sexual assaults. A list of the women who were reported to have been killed after rape can be found in the chapter on women,

Death as a result of torture, or execution following torture

Torture is widespread in Burma and affects many people who are legitimately or arbitrarily arrested and detained by SPDC or SPDC aligned individuals. Political and convict

prisoners, and those suspected of having contact with the armed ethnic opposition are routinely captured and tortured. Often the torturers are so severe in their methods that death, intentional or occasionally accidental results. Other times, after the interrogators/torturers have learned everything they desire to know, or have given up the interrogation/torture, they proceed to kill the victim. More information, as well as a list of incidents of torture leading to death in 2000 is included in the chapter on torture.

Death in Custody

In addition to the death of prisoners in prison labor camps and in the front lines as porters, there are also cases where prisoners have died in jail as a result of the poor prison conditions in Burma. This is covered more extensively in the chapter on arbitrary arrest and detention.

Execution of SPDC army deserters

On May 17 2000, Lance Corporal Soe Wai and Privates Aung Ko Oo and Myint Thu from LIB 280 based in Zayetni, Tavoy Township fled along with three G-3 rifles because they could no longer tolerate the abuse by their superiors. Lance Corporal Soe Wai and Pvt. Aung Ko were killed during a prolonged clash with soldiers from their battalion who pursued them, and Myint Thu, who was wounded, was captured. Later, he was shot dead on the spot by the SPDC troops. (Source: DVB)

2.2 List of Incidents

On January 1, 2000, at 5:00 a.m., a column of 70-80 troops from IB66 led by Capt. Htun Mya fired at a farm hut in Kho Lam area, Nam-Zarng township, Shan State without knowing whether or not it was occupied, and shot dead Lung Aw-Zinna, m, age 45, and Naang Tha Mya, f, age 22 at a farm. The farmers were from Kho Lam relocation site. 2 other farmers, Naang Suk, f, age 25, and Zaai Su Zinta, m, age 20 were caught alive while trying to run away. They were taken with the column for 90 days, during which the soldiers beat and tortured them and raped the woman. Then Capt. Htun Mya ordered Sgt. Tin Hla and 5 troops to send them back to Kho Lam relocation site. Naang Suk died at the relocation site 5 days later from the injuries she suffered from the beating and raping by the SPDC troops. (Source: SHRF)

In the first week of January 2000, a Burmese Muslim villager, U Soe Thein, reported to the commanders of IB 202 and 203 how his village had been relocated by police inspector U Tun Kyaing. He was then arrested and shot dead by U Tun Kyaing. (Source: MICB)

On January 7, 2000, troops from IB 246 shot villagers Loong Nya Mi, age 60, and Nai Mai, age 35, from Wan Sa Harn in Wan Tong tract of Kunhing township, Shan State.(Source: TIR)

On January 7 2000, SPDC troops from IB 246 shot 2 innocent villagers to death. Loong Nya Mi, (m), age 60, and Nai Mai, (f), age 35 were from Wan Sa Harn, Wan Tong tract, Kunhing Township, Shan State. Source: SSANews)

On January 7, 2000 a troop from SPDC IB 76 headed by Battalion Commander Oak Ka, shot dead Saw Po Kla, 46 during their patrol of deserted village Panwepoklo in Palaw township, Mergui district, Tenasserim Division. He had been hiding behind the village at

Extra-judicial Killing, Summary or Arbitrary Execution

Nya Pla Hta (Panwepoklo village tract) since the SPDC had forcibly relocated the village. (Source: KNU Mergui-Tavoy)

On January 9 2000, after the Karen New Year ceremony held in Wa-Paw village of Ye-township, about 60 troops from the Ye-township based # 299 battalion, led by Lt. Col. Aye Tun came and arrested Ko Ohn Myaing from Wa-Paw village. Lt. Col. Aye Tun accused him of having contact with the KNU, and shot him dead in front of the villagers. The Lt-Col then threatened the villagers that he would kill them all if they contacted or supported the KNU. (Source: YOMA3)

On January 11, 2000, a patrol of 80-90 SPDC troops, accompanied by 26 forced civilian porters, from Co. 2 of IB102 led by Capt. Saw Hpyu beat to death 3 men and raped and shot dead 2 women along the banks of the Nam Paang river, a tributary of the Salween river, in Kun-Hing township. The 3 male farmers were beaten, tortured and interrogated one by one until they died by the SPDC troops who demanded to know the whereabouts of Shan soldiers in the area. They were: Sai Nu, aged 38, originally from Kun Keng village, Loi Keng tract, Sai Zitta, aged 36, originally from Kun Kyawng village, Loi Keng tract, and Sai Nya-Lintta, aged 40, originally from Nam Pa Man village, Kaeng Lom tract. (See also chapter on women) (Source: SHRF)

On January 13 2000, SPDC troops from Loi Kaw, Karenni State fought with one of the ethnic armed groups at a spot near Kawng Larng village, Parng Phone tract, Kesi Township, Shan State. After the fight was over, the SPDC troops went into the village and accused the villagers of failing to send messages to them and opened fire on the villagers. One of the villagers named Ai Nyo was shot dead on the spot and another villager, named Nai Ing, was wounded but escaped from the firing. The soldiers also captured a villager (name unknown) and made him follow them. (Source: SSANews)

On January 14 2000 troops from IB 246 shot and killed the village headman of Nampa Marn, Wan Phwee village tract in Kunhing township, Shan State. The deceased was identified as Loong Nya Ning, age 35, son of Loong Moo and Nai Pom. (Source: TIR, SSANews)

On January 15 2000, in the evening, SPDC troops from LIB 355, based in Law Kaw Tee, entered and shot into Lay Gay Tah village, Papun District, Karen State. Naw Gyi Paw, age 27, the mother of an infant, was killed. Ma La Win, age 58, Pi Kyaw Aye, age 70, and Naw Si Paw, age 6 were wounded. (Source: KWO)

On January 17, 2000, 4 displaced farmers were shot dead 2-1/2 miles from the town of Kun-Hing by 50-60 SPDC troops from Co.4 of IB246 led by commander Than Oo, who ordered the shooting. Before they were shot, the troops tied the villagers up, beat and tortured them, and interrogated them as to the whereabouts of Shan soldiers in the area. A local villager who was serving as an interpreter was ordered to keep silent about the incident or face severe punishment, possibly death. The victims were Loong Nya Mi (m), aged 60, Sai Pan-Ti (m), aged 47, Sai Oong (m), aged 40, and Naang Num (f), aged 25.(Source: SHRF)

On January 19 2000, troops of LIB 516 entered Kayeh Kee village, Karenni State and killed an innocent family. Saw Tatee, 37, his wife who was five months pregnant and their two children had tried to escape, but the troops recaptured them and killed them all with a paddy pestle. (Source: KNAHR)

On January 19, 2000, Kya Pa (m), aged 31, Kya Po (m), aged 28, and Kya Ha (m), aged 49, all Lahu villagers of Waeng Long village, Murng yarng tract, Murng-Yarng township, Shan State were shot dead by SPDC troops from Co.2 of IB 279 at Waeng Long village. (Source: SHRF)

On January 19 2000, a company of troops from LIB 516 entered Kayeh Kee village, Lopwakoe province, Karenni Sate at 10:12 am and suddenly opened fire on the village. Due to the raid, villager Saw Dah Tee was killed and Saw Htoo Hae was wounded. In addition, before leaving, the Burmese troops set fire to the village. (Source: KNAHR)

On January 24, 2000, 30 SPDC troops of Co.3 of IB66 led by Capt. Khin Maung Win accused a villager of setting fire to the market place and shot him dead in the military camp at Kho Lam village, Nam-Zarng township. The victim was interrogated and tortured for some time before being shot. The troops searched his house and took away 14,600 kyat of money, 4 baht weight of gold ornaments, a cow worth 3,600 kyat and 1 tape-recorder worth 5,000 kyat. (Source: SHRF)

On January 26 2000, Kyint Maung, 41, and Ai Tun, 43, villagers of Linphon, Karenni State were killed by troops from LIB 516. They were killed in retaliation for a battle which had occurred earlier that month near their village between the Karenni forces and LIB 516. The troops of LIB 516 continued to round up villagers in the vicinity of Linphon in order to search for more people who they suspected to be involved in supporting Karenni forces, and arrested tortured and detained another 21 villagers the following day. (Source: KNAHR)

On January 28 2000, a patrol from IB 332 killed Loong Nar Ling, (m), age 45, a villager of Wan Kung Teng, Wan Nong tract, Mong Nai Township. He was shot at a place north of Wan Yod, Wan Nong tract and then robbed of 23,000 kyats and his belongings. (Source: SSANews)

On January 30, 2000, 19 relocated villagers, who were given permission to return to their former village of Kaeng Kham by the local SPDC military authorities (Kun-Hing-based IB246, led by Col. Kyaw Aye), were killed by SPDC troops from Nam-Zarng-based IB66 led by Capt. Zaw Thein, at Kaeng Kham village, Kun-Hing township. The villagers had paid 50 kyat each for their passes to leave the relocation site. They were clearing a part of their old village, which had virtually turned into jungle, when the column of about 85-90 SPDC troops, with 40 forced civilian porters, saw the villagers clearing the deserted village, and then surrounded and shot them. The SPDC troops claimed that they had shot at a group of rebels. (Note: Another witness stated that the troops surrounded, arrested and interrogated the villagers even after they showed the pass to them, and eventually shot all of them dead) (Source: SHRF)

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Name	Age		Name	Age
Loong Kyawng Su (m)	57		Sai Min (m)	27
Loong Ka-Ling (m)	51		Sai Awng Sa (m)	24
Loong Aw-Zae-Ya (m)	49		Sai Nu (m)	20
Loong Pan La (m)	47		Sai Man (m)	17
Sai Ma-La (m)	45		Sai Lao (m)	16
Sai Kyaw La (m)	44		Sai Mu (m)	15
Sai Woon (m)	41		Naang Ing (f)	34
Sai Zaam Khur (m)	36		Naang Nyunt (f)	26
Sai Thun Awang (m)	33		Naang Thun (f)	22
Sai Mint (m)	30			

On February 2, 2000, a group of SPDC and DKBA officers led by Captain Na Khan Mhwe and Captain Rambo arrested five Muslim villagers {(1) Siddiq Meah, age 35 (2) Salim, age 20 (3) Abdul, age 25 (4) Suleiman, age 23 and (5) Soe Naing, age 25} of Khwet Phoe Village, Hlaing Bwe Township, Karen State. They accused the 5 men of having contact with insurgents and brought them to their army camp and shot them dead there at about 8.00 P.M. the same day. The families of the deceased and some villagers left the village for refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border. (Source: MICB)

On February 6, 2000, a patrol from IB 246 shot and killed Loong Phaw Ka, age 40, a villager of Wan Pang Inn, Weing Phwee tract, Kunhing Township, Shan State. Loong Phaw Ka is survived by his wife, Nang Khong. (Source: KNU Mergui-Tavoy, SSANews)

On February 8 2000, Khu Soe Reh, 20, of Daw Tamadu village, Deemaw Soe Township, Karenni State was killed outside the village by a unit of IB No. 72 which was encamped in his village. He was shot on sight at 06:30 AM while on his way to the paddy field.(Source: KNAHR)

On February 10, 2000, a patrol of 7 SPDC troops from Co.3 of LIB316, led by Lt. Myint Oo, shot at 2 villagers from Nam Kai village at a place between Kaw Kaw and Wan Laan villages in Pa Leo tract, Ta-Khi-Laek township, killing one and wounding the other. The 2 villagers were shot, without any warning, while walking in opposite directions on the same trail. The 2 victims were: - Zai Teet (m), aged 20, from Nam Kai village, Pa Leo tract, was killed instantly - Zai Lao (m), aged 19, from Nam Kai village, Pa Leo tract, was wounded in the left shoulder (Source: SHRF)

On February 10 2000, a SPDC troop operating in the Naw Ter Hkee area, east of Tenasserim River, shot dead a female villager hiding in the jungle. The victim was Naw Blah, age 20, whose original village was Klot Ta Kwat (Kyauktakwa) in Theyetchaung

Township, Tavoy district, Tenasserim Division. (Source: TIR)

On February 12, 2000, 20 male villagers were massacred by a column of about 80-90 SPDC troops from IB246, in Kun Pu tract, Kun-Hing Township led by Capt. Hla Khin. These villagers were among those who had been forcibly displaced a few years ago by the SLORC/SPDC troops and had been in hiding since then, trying to survive by secretly growing small plots of rice and foraging for wild vegetables, game and fish. On the day of the incident the villagers were conducting an annual respect-paying rite at the altar of a territorial guardian spirit at Loi-maak-hin-taang. After the massacre, the troops ate all the food they found among the offerings and continued to patrol the area. Later the same day they shot dead another 5 women and children who were hiding in a makeshift hut in a forest in the area. Their names were: Mae Thao Mya (f), aged 65, Naang Kya Yong (f), aged 37 (wife of Lung Saw of Paang Khaa village who was killed earlier in the group of 20), Naang Awng (f), aged 18, Zaai La Khin (m), aged 15, and Zaai Thun (m), aged 11.

The following is the list of the names of the 20 male victims and their original villages:

Name	Age	Village	Name	Age	Village
1. Zaai Yunt	21	Kun Pu	11. Zaai Pan-Ti	33	Loi Yaang
2. Zaai Awng	30	"	12. Zaai Ka-Ling	24	"
3. Zaai Mu	41	"	13. Zaai Taan	26	"
4. Zaai Kaw	36	"	14. Zaai Wi	37	"
5. Zaai Maw-Nae-Ya	25	"	15. Zaai Maad	40	"
6. Zaai Thun Nae	22	"	16. Zaai Taw-Ya	23	"
7. Zaai Lon	34	"	17. Lung Lam	51	Naa Ke
8. Lung Saw	47	Paang Khaa	18. Lung Paan La	53	"
9. Zaai Khur Seng	43	"	19. Lung Laan	44	"
10. Zaai Mu-Ling	34	"	20. Zaai Zi-Ni	31	"

(Source: SHRF)

On February 15, 2000, Soe Aye and Po Nee, members of the SPDC guerilla unit led by Captain Maung Maung, came to Nga-lauk-tet village, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State and arrested villagers Saw Thay Ko Htoo and Saw Htoo Baw. On February 16, 2000, they executed the 2 villagers by cutting off their heads. (Source: KIC)

On February 15, 2000, troops from 4th Company of the SPDC IB 355 led by Soe Myint and Kyi Thwin, Ku Win, Shwe Man, Maung Kyi Yangon and Par Ga, from the Anti-Insurgent Unit went to Kaw-tee-see village, Tha-ton District, Karen State, and shot to death villager, Naw Kaw Ree, 40, daughter of Tee Toe Ray, without reason. (Source: KIC)

Extra-judicial Killing, Summary or Arbitrary Execution

On February 27 2000, combined troop from SPDC LIB 560 and 589 led by Nay Linn Soe and Se Sein entered Keh Chaung village in Tenasserim Township, Mergui district, Tenasserim Division and summoned all the villagers. They accused them of killing one of their officers from LIB 560 on February 25. The officer had, in fact, been killed by 4 soldiers from LIB 560. They interrogated all the villages and later arrested two villagers: Saw Ba Saw, age 60, and Saw Ya Kyaw, age 40, the son of Saw Kya Din, and killed them both. (Source: TIR)

On February 29, 2000 LIB 560, 589 killed five villagers at Ba Kwa Hkee in Tenasserim township, Mergui district, Tenasserim Division during their operation to search-kill and destroy hiding villagers (IDPs). The victims are:

1. Saw Ka Shwe Yin, 30 yr., son of Saw Pleh Waw
2. Naw Paw Dee, 30 yr., daughter of Saw Aung Sein
3. Pee Haw Po, 50yr.
4. Saw Tin Htun Aung, son of U Shwe Than
5. Saw Kay Thaw, around 30

(Source: TIR)

On March 1 2000, LIB 560 and 589 arrived to an IDPs hiding site in the Manorone village area, Tenasserim Township, Tenasserim Division, and killed 2 villagers, whose names were still unknown at the end of March 2000. (Source: TIR)

On March 9 2000, troops from LIB 376 headed by Major Kyaw Shwe, executed three villagers at Hsa Mu Taw village, located on the banks of the Tenasserim River in the east of Tavoy township, Tenasserim Division. The troops captured and killed the villagers after they found them in the deserted village of Hsa Mu Taw, which had been forcibly relocated to Myitta village in 1997. The villagers had been hiding from the relocation site. They were:

1. Saw Hto Kee Say, 17 years, son of Saw Hla Shwe, Seiku villager.
2. Saw Hto Tay, 37 years, son of Pu Ni Plo, Hsa Mu Taw villager.
3. Saw Bo Lu, 40 years, son of Pu Ni Plo, Has Mu Taw villager. (Source: TIR)

On March 10 2000, about 6 AM, a patrol from IB 120 based in Mong Yong killed an innocent villager of Wan Loi Lomp, Kho Ood tract, Mong Nai Township, Shan State. The victim was an ethnic Palaung named Paw Sarng La, age 22. (Source: SSANews)

In the evening of March 13 2000, IB 495, which was patrolling between Au-Tu and Ka-Zee villages in Thaya-Chaun Township, Tenasserim Division, killed 2 villagers without asking any questions. The two villagers U Tin Ngae and U Ngaw Aye Kyaw were from Ka-Zee village and had been fishing and hunting between the two villages. The troops assumed that the two men were members of an opposition group and killed them. However, there are no opposition groups which operate in this area, and the villagers were only 20 miles out of Thaya-Chaun Town. (Source: THRF)

Extra-judicial Killing, Summary or Arbitrary Execution

On March 13, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 14 came upon villagers near Au-po-hta village, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State, carrying paddy to their hiding place. The troops shot at the villagers, killing Naw Eh Moo (F, 40) daughter of Saw Pa Hsay. The rest escaped by running away, dropping the paddy they were carrying. On the same day, the troops destroyed by burning 50 rice fields of Au-mee-hta and Au-po-hta village. (Source: KIC)

On March 13, 2000, troops from LIB 6 came to Maw khee village, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State, and randomly shot at villagers, killing Saw Ko Maung (M, 70), from U-po-kee village and Naw Dah Dah (F, 15), daughter of Saw Ta Lay of Maw-khee village. Two women and an infant were wounded. In addition the troops looted various items from the villagers. (Source: KIC)

On March 15, 2000, at about 13:00 hours, SPDC troops fired on the villagers hiding in a place between Per and Ler-klo farms, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State, killing Naw Hgay (F, 32), wife of Maung Tin Tin of Tu-lay-soe village. Her daughter Has Ku Pa, 4 years old, has since then been disappeared. (Source: KIC)

On March 17 2000, Eid ul Adha day (sacrificing day of Islam), two Muslims were stabbed to death by seven members of USDA, a pro-SPDC organization. The two, carrying beef, were about to enter their home when seven USDA members led by U Sein Han, 36 attacked them. The victims, U Soe Naing, 28 and his brother U Ar Nu, 24 lived in Thaketa (A) block, Rangoon and the USDA members also lived in the same block. The matter was reported to the authorities, but no action has yet been taken against them. (Source: MICB)

On March 25 2000, at 9:20 AM, a combined troop of soldiers from IB 30 and LIB 350 shot and killed 2 villagers from Htee Law Plo Day village, Nyaunglebin District, Mone Township, Karen State. After the troops killed Saw Kya Po, age 65, and Naw Bu Gay, age 76, they burnt down their houses. (Source: TIR)

On March 27, 2000, 13 relocated farmers, 8 men and 5 women, were shot dead by a column of 80-90 troops from Company No.5 of LIB514, under the command of Capt, Pan Aung. They were surrounded and gunned down without any questions or warnings as they were clearing a plot of land for growing rice near Murng-Kern town. The farmers were originally from Yaang Loi village, Yaang Loi tract, Murng-Kerng township, Shan State and had been forced to relocate to the outskirts of Murng-Kerng town by SLORC/SPDC troops in 1997-1998 (Source: SHRF)

Name	Age	Name	Age
Lung Nyaa (m)	51	Zaai Khin (m)	25
Zaai Ma-La (m)	38	Naang Awng (m)	27
Zaai Khat (m)	33	Naang Lao (m)	31
Zaai Wi-La-Sa (m)	31	Naang Kya (f)	33
Zaai Zan-Da (m)	30	Pa Mon (f)	41
Zaai Na-Long (m)	40	Pa Mai (f)	44
Paw Thao Pan-Ti (m)	54		

Extra-judicial Killing, Summary or Arbitrary Execution

On March 27, 2000, a Loi-La man, Ai Lao, aged 28, of Kui Nam Ngaw village was accused of stealing a cow and beaten to death near his village in Huay Pha tract, Murng-Yawn township, by SPDC troops of Company No. 2 from LIB334, who were stationed at the bridge on Nam Luay river. After they had killed Ai Lao, the troops went to the village headman of Kui Nam Ngaw village and threatened the villagers that anyone else who stole a "military" cow would be beaten to death like Ai Lao, then they immediately left the village. (Source: SHRF)

On March 27 2000, at 4 PM, 95 soldiers of IB 336 captured and killed 2 innocent villagers without trial. San Ta Ling, age 38 and Sai Wisa, age 31 were villagers of Wan Pha Sont, Loi La tract, Mong Nai Township, Shan State. (Source: SSANews)

On March 29, 2000, an unidentified SPDC troop killed a villager as part of their operation to search, kill, and destroy the villagers hiding in the jungle at Gaw Pe Plaw, in the Tenasserim Riverside area, Tenasserim Division. Saw Pla Ko, age 36, was found in this area and shot on sight. (Source: TIR)

On April 2, 2000, SPDC troops from IB 246 led by Capt. Aung Htay saw 5 people working in a farm at a remote spot near an old village of Naa Hawng, in Wan Lao tract, KunHing Township, Shan State. Without warning, the troops opened fire on the villagers. 2 men, Zaai Aw, age 25 and Zaai Mon, age 23 and 2 women, Naang Kui, age 24, and Naang Awng, age 21 were instantly killed. The other, Zaai Zitta, managed to run away, but received a fractured skull from falling down while running. After they killed the farmers, the troops looted their makeshift camp Source: SHRF)

On April 4, 2000, a column of about 170 SPDC troops from IB 72, from Loi Kaw township in Karenni State, led by Maj. Aung Win, killed 3 displaced farmers from the Kun-Hing relocation site and burned their camps and granaries 2-1/2 miles south of Kun-Hing town, Kun-Hing township, Shan State. The farmers had been trying to grow crops at an area somewhat distant from the site, as there was no farmland near the site. Lung Sara Wi (m), aged 62, was hit with a bullet in the head before he could run and was instantly killed. Lung Na-Ling (m), aged 35, was wounded in his upper right thigh while running away and died before he could reach his house Zaai Zit-Ta (m), aged 21, son of Lung Sara Wi, was caught alive by the troops and beaten to death on the farm (Source: SHRF)

On April 6 2000, a troop from LIB 539 under controlled of 1st Tactical Command, Operation Control Headquarters 9, while operating in the outskirts of Kaw Htee Lor (Thamyuchang) village, in Tavoy Township, Tenasserim Division captured 4 villagers who had been hiding from the military in the jungle. The troops killed all of them, and afterward confiscated their two baskets (1 basket = 21 kegs) of rice and 30,000 kyat cash. (Source: KNU Mergui-Tavoy)

On April 8 2000, Three Karenni hideout dwellers (IDPs) from Klaw Tuleh, Hsoe Tasha district, Karenni State were found and killed by troops of LIB 66. They encountered the Burmese troops at May Yu Stream and were immediately shot dead. The killed persons were Soe Reh, 18, Koe Reh, 20 and Saw Reh, 17. (Source: KNAHR)

On April 13 2000, a Muslim cattle trader, Mr. Mali Meah, along with his 5 workers was stopped at a checkpoint during their journey to purchase cattle in Nyaunglebin Township, Pegu Division. SPDC authorities at the checkpoint, led by Lt. Tin Tun Oo robbed Mr. Mali Meah of 1.7 million kyat and then shot him to death. Two of the workers, who were Muslim were detained for at least 2 weeks, and their families feared their lives, the other 3 non-Muslim workers were released. (Source: MICB)

On April 18 2000, SPDC troops entered Day Paw Plaw area, Papun District, Karen State and shot indiscriminately. Naw Dah Dah, age 13, and Naw Yway Htee, age 42, were killed. (Source: KWO)

On April 21 2000, SPDC and DKBA soldiers led by Lt. Saw Kaw of DKBA arrested two Muslim fishermen, Mr. Mohammad and Mr. Nor Uddin. The men were accused of having contact with the KNU, shot to death, and then their bodies were thrown in the river. The troops were from the Taw Lay Hta SPDC and DKBA camps in Papun District, Karen State adjacent to Mae Sam Lat, Mae Sarieng District, Mae Hong Son province of Thailand. (Source: MICB)

On April 28, 2000, between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m., 3 SPDC troops from IB227 shot dead Zaa Khe, male, aged 26, as he was returning from hunting near his village, Nam Maw, in Nam Yaang Long tract, Murng-Khark township. The troops shot at him without warning or asking any questions. After shooting Zaa Khe, the SPDC troops went into Nam Maw village and told the village headman that they had shot a rebel, they didn't know from which group, and that he was lying at the head of their village for them to bury. After the troops left, the village headman and some villagers went right away to the site of the incident only to find an innocent fellow villager, Zaa Khe, who had gone out to hunt that morning, lying dead in a pool of blood. (Source: SHRF)

On April 29, 2000, at Htee-nya-moe-klo place, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State, troops from SPDC IB 54 shot to death, without reason, Par Hgaw Hkeh, 35, of Naw Po Lah of Ler-wah village. (Source: KIC)

On April 29 2000, LIB 560, led by Thein Kyaw Moe, killed, without reason, Naw Nu Yee, age 21, the daughter of Saw Kya Dee, and Naw May Aye of Kya-Chaung place, Merqui-Tavoy District, Tenasserim Division. (Source: KWO)

On May 1 2000, U Kadir, age 25, Soe Myint, age 20 (both of Myin Zee village) and Mae Tee, age 22 of Tha Kwet Poe village were accused of contacting the KNU and shot to death by Bo MoJo of DKBA. They had been summoned to a meeting in Tha Kwet Poe village, Pan District, Karen State by the Commander along with other villagers. After the commander threatened the villagers to abide by the laws or meet the same fate. (Source: MICB)

On May 1 2000, 3 fishermen, Ali Meah, age 30, Raw Zan, age 26, and Tin Oo, age 21 were arrested by SPDC and DKBA troops of Taw Lay Hta military camp in Papun District, Karen State. They were robbed of their fish and nets, brought to the camp, and then shot dead. The next day, the mother of Ali Meah and the wife of Raw Zan while looking for the men, were shown the bodies, arrested and then raped by the troops. (See chapter on women) (Source: MICB)

Extra-judicial Killing, Summary or Arbitrary Execution

On May 4, 2000, troops from SPDC L1B 383 came to Poe-po-kee village, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State, and shot to death, without reason, villager Saw Kalaw, M, age 55. (Source: KIC)

On May 4, 2000, a group of 15 men from SPDC People's Militia of Pawat Htee Hta village, led by Kyaw Moe, came to Pawat Plaw Pataw area in Tenasserim Township, Tenasserim Division, and shot indiscriminately at villagers Naw Ma Aye and her husband who were picking wild vegetables. Naw Ma Aye, age 35, the mother of a young child, was killed instantly. The villagers were among those who had been relocated to the Pawat Plaw Pataw relocation site in 1996, and were shot because they had been found outside of the relocation site. (Source: KIC, KWO, TIR)

On May 9 2000, a Burmese patrol from LIB 377, under the command of Operational Commanding HeadQuarter's No.1 Tactical command # 9, met a Karen family while patrolling the surrounding area of their Tactical Command Headquarters. Spotting the family 500 yards from the headquarter as the family was heading to work on their rice field, the troops accused the family of attempting to supply food to the rebels and killed all of them on the spot. The family was from the village of Kataungni where the No.1 Tactical command had set up its headquarter in the east of Tavoy Township. The victims were:

- (1) Saw Wah Htoo, 25 years: Son of Saw Sanet
- (2) Naw Spider, 20 years: Wife of Saw Wah Htoo, who was 4 months pregnant.
- (3) Saw John, 3 years: son of Saw Wah Htoo.
- (4) Saw Joy, 2 years: son of Saw Wah Htoo.

They were shot to death and abandoned on the footpath to their plantation. Though knowing that the family was killed and abandoned on the path, their relatives from the Kataungni village were afraid to retrieve the bodies because of the Burmese soldiers. (Source: TIR)

On May 11, 2000, two Lahu men on their way back from selling chickens at the market in Kaeng-Tung, Shan State saw SPDC troops from IB 225 coming towards them. Fearing that the troops would rob their hard-earned money, the men started to run away. The troops shouted for them to stop, and shot their guns into the air. Kya Pa, age 40 stopped while his friend ran into the forest. The troops then beat Kya Pa, tied him up, robbed him of his newly earned money, and then released him and told him to run away. When he did, they shot him dead on the bank of the Nam Khawn River. (Source: SHRF)

On May 14 2000, 2 Muslim villagers were shot to death by SPDC troops when they went back to collect hidden belongings near their old village. Their village, Zarthabyin, in Pa-an Township, Karen State had been destroyed on April 4 2000 to make way for an army pig farm. (Source: MICB)

On May 19, 2000, a patrol of 12 SPDC troops from LIB 334 stopped and searched 3 Akha villagers who were returning from their farm near their village, Ho La, in Tong Noi tract, Mung-Yawng township, Shan State. As the soldiers were aiming their guns at them, Aa Zer, male, age 46, was so terrified that he tried to run away and was shot dead on the spot. The troops continued to search the 2 remaining women and when they found nothing

illegal or unusual after searching the women and their baskets, the troops beat and kicked them so hard that they fell down, and then the troops left. (Source: SHRF)

On May 21, 2000, SPDC troops from Loi Kaw, Karenni State captured an old villager named Loong Wi Lar Sa at Wan U Marng, Parng Phone tract, Kesi township, Shan State. This old man had served the SPDC troops by gathering porters to carry supplies for them and he himself was also captured by the SPDC as a porter once but he escaped. The SPDC troops accused him of having connections with the SSA and supporting the SSA, and shot him dead the next day, May 22. (Source: SSANews)

On May 22 2000, SPDC officers led by Sgt. Hla Moe of a military camp between Pa-an Township, Karen State and Bilin Township, Mon State under the command of Bilin Strategic office extorted 150,000 kyat from 3 Muslim cattlemen before allowing them to drive their 45 oxen towards the Thai-Burma border. Soon after, the 3 men, 1) U Han Tha, age 28, 2) U Imam, age 26, and 3) U Win Naing, age 34 were shot and killed by the same troops and all their oxen seized. (Source: MICB)

On May 22 2000, SPDC and DKBA officers led by Lt. Bo Myint entered Minzi village, Pa-an township and began to search and loot houses. Two Muslim villagers, Maung Tun Kyaw, age 28 and Maung Than Win, age 30 who had been former SPDC army personnel, requested that the officers not harass the villagers. As a result, the officers shot them to death. Their bodies were found 2 days later by villagers. They had been thrown into a creek. (Source: MICB)

On May 23, 2000, a column of 90-100 SPDC troops from IB 246 led by Capt. Htun Aung rounded up 64 displaced people, including men, women and children of all ages, working in the rice and sesame fields near the deserted village of Hueypu, Hsaimong Tract, Kunhing Township and people working in fields near the main road. They brought all the people together at a place between Hsaimong village and Kun-Hing town, about 20 meters south of the main road. The SPDC troops separated all the men from the women and children and lined them up, while some of them made the women and children stay together in a group, and shot all the men dead. The women and children were so terrified by the gruesome scene that they cried and screamed and tried to run away. The troops then turned their guns and fired at them until they all fell dead on top of one another in a pool of blood. The relatives of the victims discovered them when they went in search of them in the fields later. It was also learned that one of the porters made an appeal on their behalf and was shot along with the ill-fated villagers. Others found in isolated fields were also shot on sight.

All the victims were displaced people who had been forcibly moved from villages in the Hsaimong area to relocation sites near Kun-Hing town in 1996-97. These people, who had no land for cultivation in the relocation sites and near the town, had been permitted since 1998-99 by the military authorities in Kun-Hing to farm at places within 3 miles of the town and along and near the Kun-Hing - Nam-Zarng main road. The following is the list of the names of some of the victims and their original villages.

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	Name	Sex	Age	Original village
1.	Lung Pu	(m)	54	Saai Mung
2.	Zaai Kam	(m)	31	"
3.	Zaai Nyunt	(m)	30	"
4.	Zaai Thun	(m)	22	"
5.	Zaai Mya	(m)	21	Huay Pu
6.	Zaai Ku	(m)	19	"
7.	Lung Zaang La	(m)	49	"
8.	Lung Kan-Na	(m)	53	"
9.	Lung Mai	(m)	57	Pa Pha
10.	Zaai Thawn	(m)	41	"
11.	Naang Kya U	(f)	47	"
12.	Naang Seng	(f)	30	"
13.	Naang Ung	(f)	25	Huay Maak Pha
14.	Naang Paang	(f)	23	"
15.	Naang Pan	(f)	21	"
16.	Pa La	(f)	50	Naa Maw
17.	Pa Pang	(f)	49	"
18.	Pa Khur Wan	(f)	52	Naa Zok
19.	Naang Seng Hawng	(f)	33	" (daughter of Pa Khur Wan)
20.	Naang Yunt	(f)	7	" (daughter Naang Seng Hawng)
21.	Zaai Awng	(m)	4	" (son of Naang Seng Hawng)

(Note: So far the names of 21 of the victims have been confirmed)

Not very long after killing the 64 villagers, the troops continued to search the area and shot dead many more villagers. At least a total of 40-50 people were believed to have been killed in other places by the same troops. Sources told the S.H.A.N. correspondent that the killings were carried out in revenge for the deaths that occurred during a May 8-9 ambush

of an SPDC army truck caravan along the Kunhing -Takaw stretch of the same highway by a SSA strike force. Reports at the time indicated that at least seven of those traveling in the convoy had been killed and five others wounded, including some high-ranking officers. (Sources:SHRF, S.H.A.N.)

On May 28, 2000, 7 villagers originally from Wan Phid village, Naa Poi tract, Kun-Hing township, Shan State were shot and killed by a column of 90-100 SPDC troops from IB 246 led by Capt. Htun Aung. This was the same troop who had committed a massacre of 64 people earlier the same week. The villagers were shot at their farm 2-1/2 miles south of Kun-Hing town. Naang Pawk, (f), age 31, was also shot at, but managed to escape. She had been returning from gathering firewood and saw the troops from afar and managed to run away, but was shot after and was wounded in her right arm. Naang Pawk was too afraid to go to the town hospital and secretly treated her wounds herself. (Source: SHRF)

On May 29, 2000, a column of about 60 SPDC troops surrounded Paeng Nim village, Paeng Nim tract, Murng-Kerng township, and shot at the houses at random, killing 3 villagers and wounding several others. (Source: SHRF)

On June 1, 2000, As Ku, aged 31, an Akha villager from Aa Yae village, Murng Ko tract, Ta-Khi-Laek township, was beaten to death by 6 SPDC troops from LIB526 on the road just outside the entrance of his village. He had been cutting sticks to make into stakes and sell in town when the troops arrested him and took him back towards the village and beat him to death on the road near the village entrance. The troops then entered the village and told the village headman that they had caught a rebel in the forest near the village and they had killed him after he refused to answer their questions. After saying that the villagers should go and bury him, the troops immediately left the village. When the villagers went to bury the dead rebel, they were shocked to find that it was their fellow villager, Aa Ku, who had nothing to do with any rebels whatsoever, who had been cruelly beaten to death at the foot of his own village. (Source: SHRF)

On June 4, 2000, about 30 SPDC troops surrounded the market place on a market day in Ham Ngaai village, Ham Ngaai tract, Murng-Kerng township, and randomly shot their guns at the crowd of people who were doing their shopping, killing 1 and wounding 5. The dead victim was Lung Paem, male, aged 51, from Paeng Kham village, Ham Ngaai tract, Murng-Kerng township. (Source: SHRF)

On June 5, 2000, a troop from SPDC IB 557 entered Pawat Htee area, Mergui District, Tenasserim Division. They saw Pawat Htee Thoo Day villager, Maung Pan Aung, age 20, son of Oo Ohm Nyut and Ma Htah and captured him. The troop killed Maung Pan Aung on their way back to their camp by the jungle path because he was a Christian. (Source: TIR)

On June 9, 2000, SPDC troops seized Tay-mu-doe villagers Saw Klo Moo, M, 25, near his village and shot to death Li-pwe-kee villagers, Saw Hsa Pah Htoo, M, 14, without reason, at a place between Saw-lor-klo and Khu-lah-kho villages, Pa-pun District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On June 9 2000, soldiers from LIB 343 and a group of militiamen entered Kyauttai village, Ye township, Mon state and arrested four people separately while they were in a religious ceremony at a monastery in the village. U Sai Win Htut, U Nyan Soe, Saya Tartee (a Karen medic from the village) and a Karen boy were accused of being members of the KNU. After

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arriving in Kai-Daw village, the soldiers badly tortured the four and asked them to dig their burial holes. The Karen boy escaped just before the execution of the other three. Some villagers from Kai-Daw village saw the event but asked not to mention their names. (Source: Yoma3)

On June 12, 2000, a patrol of 12 SPDC troops from Murng-Khark-based IB227, led by Lt. Min Oo, shot dead 2 Akha men for failing to pay 'tax', or protection money, for growing opium in their farm in Paa Khaa Long tract, Murng-Khark township. The 2 Akha villagers who were killed were: Aa Jur, age 46 from Huay Yong Long village, and Ai La, age 40 from Huay Yong Noi village. (Source: SHRF)

On June 18 2000, troops from LIB 284 entered Tawae-Pauk village, Kya Ein Seik Gyi Township, Karen State and shot into the village monastery, thinking KNU rebels were inside. A novice monk, age 12, and 2 other villagers were mortally wounded as a result of the attack. (Source: HURFOM)

On June 24, 2000, a troop from IB 262, headed by Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Kyaw Myint, arrived in Pawat village, Mergui District, Tenasserim Division. They accused villager Saw Wa Khu, age 21, of being a spy of the resistance forces and shot him to death between Htaw Ma and Mee Laung Gwin villages. (Source: TIR)

On June 26, 2000, CHRO field monitor Mr. Zothang and two other villagers Pu Zadun (32 years old) and Mr. Siamhmingthang (24 years old) of Bungkhua village, Thantlang township, Chin State were killed by the Burmese soldiers from LIB 266 of Lungler army camp. led by Captain San Lwin. The Burmese army came to the village and surrounded the house while Mr. Zothang of CHRO was talking with the villagers. Mr. Zothang tried to escape as soon as he saw the army, but he trembled and was captured by the army. He was shot death near the bush shortly after they arrested him. After that the two villagers Pu Zadun and Mr. Siamhmingthang were arrested and shot death where Mr. Zothang was killed. The dead bodies of the victims were buried by the soldiers and they planted land mines near their graves. The villagers asked the soldiers for permission to bury the victims at the village cemetery. They got permission from the soldiers to take the dead bodies of Pu Zadun and Mr. Siamhmingthang and rebury at the village cemetery, but the Burmese soldiers refuse to clear the land mine they planted at the grave of Mr. Zothang of CHRO. In addition, Capt. San Lwin and his troops stole kyats 24,000/- from Pu Mang Hlun and a tape recorder from Pu Chan Hre of Bungkhua village. (Source: CHRO)

On June 26, 2000, a patrol of 30-40 SPDC troops from IB64, led by Capt. Win Myint, was patrolling the relocation site near Lai-Kha town, Lai-Kha township, Shan State. Three of the soldiers, led by Corporal Tin Hla entered the house compound of Lung Kham Leng, age 51, and took away an ox. When Lung Kham Leng tried to stop them, Corporal Tin Hla shot him dead. The troops then proceeded to loot the dead man's house. Naang Swe Ing, a daughter of Lung Kham Leng, who was pleading and crying, was slapped several times so hard that she lost consciousness. (Source: SHRF)

On June 28, 2000, at about 12:30 p.m. in Toun-goo District, Karen State, troops from SPDC IB 55, while transporting wounded members of their unit to Tharn-daung, shot randomly at workers in the orchards, killing villager Naw Mi Kyaing, F, 45.(Source: KIC, KHRG)

On June 29, 2000, SPDC troops (battalion unidentified) came into villager's paddy fields at Bu Tor Hta, Shwe Gyin Township, Nyaunglebin District, Karen State and shot at villagers in a hut, killing Naw Mya Kyaing, age 35. 3 other villagers were also lost, and had not been found as of October 2000. (Source: KIC, KAWU)

On June 29, 2000, Capt. Myint Oo, from the SPDC Lai-Kha-based LIB515, Company No. 3, raped Naang Zing U, aged 18, and shot dead her brother, Zaai Maai, who tried to intervene, at a rice farm in Lai-Kha township. (Source: SHRF)

On June 30, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 367, led by Aung Kyaw Oo, went to Du-baw village, Pa-pun District, Karen State and killed 2 villagers at hut in a field. The victims were Saw Pa Htoo, M, 25 and Di Tu, M, 30. They then forced all the villagers to move to Mae-wain village. (Source: KIC)

On July 2, 2000, a patrol of about 35 SPDC troops from Company No.4 of IB246 led by Capt. Kyaw Myint beat to death a man they met in the forest who was carrying some dried fish and vegetables. The man was Zaai Wun, aged 29, originally from Nawng Khawn village in Ho Yaan tract, Kun-Hing township, Shan State who had been hiding with his family on an islet in Nam Paang river since their village had been forcibly relocated by SLORC/SPDC troops 3-4 years ago. At their hiding place, his family fished and grew some vegetables, some of which they sold and used to buy rice in the town. On that day, Zaai Wun was taking 4 viss of dried fish and some vegetables secretly to the town to sell and buy rice for his family. But before he reached the town and was still in a forest at some distance, he ran into the said SPDC troops who seized him, searched and interrogated him, took away all his food stuff and possessions and eventually beat him to death in the forest. (Source: SHRF)

On July 2, 2000, in Tha-ton District, Karen State, Lieutenant Aye Shwe of SPDC LIB 9, Battalion 2nd in Command, Pine Myeh Soe, and others arrested the following villagers:

1. Maung Aye, M, 49
2. Maung Tin Aye, M, 40
3. Hlaing Shwe, M, 55 From No-plaw-plu village:
4. Maung Kyaw, M, 47
5. Kyaw Aye, M, 40
6. Saw Gabaw, M, 27 From Pyin-ma-bin village:
7. Par Tee Gar Doe, M, 60 From Win-yor village:
8. Two unknown villagers

They were put in a pit at night. On July 4, 2000, they executed the 9 villagers without any trial. (Source: KIC)

On July 2 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 360 entered Bu Baw Tah village, Nyaung-Le-Bin Township, Karen State and shot into the villager's huts. Naw Man Myine, age 35, Naw Mu, age 35, and Naw Eh Wah, age 4, were killed, (Source: KWO)

In the first week of July 2000, IB No. 9 - a regular SPDC regiment based in Thaton township, led by Maj. Nyan Htun and Maj. Aung Lwin - killed 12 Mon, Burman and Karen villagers from three villages, Pein-ne-taw, Min-lwin and Payit-kho, with the accusation that they were rebel-supporters or KNU members. The villagers who were killed by SPDC soldiers were: U Thein Aye (38 years), U Maung Aye (46 years), Saw Kyaw Kapaw (34

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years), U Nan Ba (~ 60 years), Saw Pha Hla Shin (~ 50 years), U Kyaw Wai (41 years old), U Kyar We (~ 30 years) and other five villagers from these three villages. They were killed near their own villages. These killings happened after a KNU defector had surrendered to the SPDC and interrogated to provide information on KNU supporters. However, the soldiers who arrested and killed the above 12 men killed them without trial or strong evidence. Many were merely local farmers. (Source: HURFOM)

On July 7, 2000, troops from a Pa-O militia captured a villager named Sai Aw, aged 31, son of Loong Su and Pa Awng who lived in Wan La village, Murng Paeng township, Shan State. He was captured on the way to the market of Wan Ja Lai village. After his capture he was killed at a place east of Wan Ja Lai. The Pa-O militiamen took away 70,000 kyat in cash and one golden necklace from his dead body. (Source: SSA)

On July 8, 2000, a patrol of SPDC troops from Company No.4 of IB246 led by Capt. Kyaw Myint beat to death a displaced man and a woman, who was also raped before being killed, in a forest some distance from Kun-Hing town, Shan State. The man, Zaii Pan and the woman, Pa Mung, aged 40, were displaced persons who were in hiding and on that day they were taking some vegetables and 3 viss of dried deer meat to sell and buy rice in the town when they met the SPDC troops. The troops stopped them, took all their belongings and interrogated them, and raped Pa Mung. Some time later, they beat and interrogated them until they both died. (Source: SHRF)

On July 10 2000, a group of soldiers from LIB 81, based in Papun District, Karen State, led by Lt. Win Naing killed a cattle trader from Kyaik Hto town, Mon State. After they killed him, they took his 4 oxen. (Source: MICB)

On July 11, 2000, a combined force of troops from Column 1 of SPDC LIB 314 and Column 1 of SPDC LIB 340 came to Meh-nyo-ta village, Pa-pun District, Karen State and shot to death Saw Eh Say, M, 55, and burnt down his house. (Source: KIC)

In mid July 2000, 15 Burmese men who had been sent to Zar Det Gyi island, Tenasserim Division to cut wood by their Thai employer were summarily executed for illegally cutting wood by SPDC soldiers from LIB 326. Ko pauk Gyi, age 30, Hnote Khun Hmwe, age 25, Ah Tit, age 20, Ko Yaung, age 26, Ko Shwe Ar, age 23, Ar Yu, age 27, and 9 other people (names unknown) were killed, and their bodies were seen later, by a sailor, floating in the ocean. In accordance with existing SPDC laws, the illegal woodcutters should have been brought to court and sentenced to imprisonment, yet the soldiers decided the fate of these 15 people without bringing them to trial. (Source: Yoma3)

On July 14, 2000, in Doo-pla-ya District, Karen State, a column from SPDC LIB 703, led by Major Moe Kyaw Tway, killed the child of Saw Par Ler, a Mer-ta-pwee villager, without reason. (Source: KIC)

On July 14, 2000, a patrol of SPDC troops from Company No.4 of IB246 led by Capt. Kyaw Myint beat to death 5 displaced persons-in-hiding who were returning from Kun-Hing town, Shan State after buying rice for their families, in a forest some distance from the town.

The 5 victims were:

1. Zaai Thun (m), aged 43
2. Zaai Nyo (m), aged 37
3. Zaai Maat (m), aged 29
4. Zaai Ka-Ling (m), aged 31
5. Zaai Mon (m), aged 41 (Source: SHRF)

On July 15, 2000, a troop of 30 'Pyi Thu Sit' (SPDC's people militia) from Le Thit village tract, Mergui District, Tenasserim Division, headed by Khin Maung Tint, entered the compound of Saw Hpo Nu and shot at his house. His wife was in the house. After entering the house and learning that Saw Hpo Nu was not there, they told Saw Hpo Nu's wife that her husband was a rebel informer shot Saw Nu's son, age 1, to death. (Source: TIR)

On July 15 2000, SPDC soldiers from IB 337 based at the Naung Taing gate, Hliang Bwe township, Karen State murdered a cattle trader named Ko Soe Naing, age 21 from La Da Wei village, Hliang Bwe township. After they killed him, the soldiers took 500,000 kyat from the dead body. (Source: MICB)

On July 16, 2000, a Lahu villager named Ja Yae, age 36, was shot dead by a patrol of 30-40 SPDC troops from Murng-Sart-based LIB527 on the way between his farm and his village, Loi Khaw, in Loi Sawng tract, Murng-Sart township, Shan State. A few days after the incident, the same SPDC troops came to Loi Khaw village and asked for food. They told the villagers that when they came to the nearby village 3-4 days ago they shot dead a man who tried to run away from them and they did not know which village he belonged to. The village headman told the troops that it was his villager who had been shot dead and that his funeral had just been finished. The commander of the troops told the headman to tell his villagers not to run away next time they saw SPDC troops because if they did they would also be shot. (Source: SHRF)

On July 17, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 705, led by battalion commander Aung Hein Chan and second battalion commander, Zaw Naing Moe, arrested Thet-pyu-chaung villager Saw Tho Tho, M, 21, and shot him to death, without reason, on their way to Shwe-po-hut-ywa-thit village, Doo-play-ya District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On July 20 2000, IB 262 soldiers entered Pawat village tract, Htee Thu Day village, Mergui District, Tenasserim Division, and captured a villager named Saw Thwe Swe, age 37, the son of Saw Hpo Toke and Naw Ka Maying. They accused Saw Thwe Swe of cooperating with the resistance force, brought him to a place called Kamalay, and shot him to death. (Source: TIR)

On July 20, 2000, a group of SPDC troops came to Thee-thu-khee village, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State, and shot to death 3 villagers. They also destroyed the houses and hill paddy fields of the three. The villagers killed were: (1) Saw Oh-kler, M, 70, (2) Saw Wah Kay, M, 23, and (3) Naw Nelly Paw, F, 19. (Source: KIC)

On July 20 2000, SPDC troops (battalion unidentified) entered Toe Thoo Khee village, Shwe Gyin Township, Karen State and shot at villagers killing Saw Oh Kler, age 70, Saw Wah Khin age 23, the son of Saw Htan Shwe, Naw Nelly Paw, age 19, the daughter of Saw Thi Htoo and the small baby of Naw Nelly Paw. (Source: KAWU)

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On July 27, 2000, at about 3:30 PM, troops from IB 104, led by battalion commander, Aung Htun Oo, of column 2, came to Pa-ko village, Pa-pun District, Karen State and for no reason beat Saw Maw Dwah M, 25 and killed Pa Kaw Lah M, 20. (Source: KIC)

On July 28 2000, SPDC military officers from IB 338 led by Lt. Myint Oo, arrested U Mohammed Yasin, age 36 of Pa-an town, Karen State and shot him dead after accusing him of contact with anti-SPDC groups. (Source: MICB)

On July 30, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 360 came to a place in Ta-kweh-hta, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State and shot to death 3 villagers, including villager Pah Ta Klo. (Source: KIC, KAWU)

In August 2000, soldiers from IB 31 arrested Naw Laung (about 50 years), on her way to home in Win-laung village, Kya Ein Seik Kyi Township, Karen State and raped and killed her under the accusation that she was a rebel informer. (Source: HURFOM)

On August 1, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 343, led by battalion second commander Khin Maung, came to Ma-tha-yaw village of Kya-in Township, Doo-pla-ya District, Karen State and, for no reason, seized villager Saw Maung Aye. On August 11, 2000, they shot him to death. (Source: KIC)

On August 2, 2000, a patrol of 45-50 SPDC troops from Company No.4 of LIB 520 led by Capt. Aung Hpe entered the farm of a family from Wan Nyawng, Ho Lin tract, Murng Pan Township, Shan State who had been staying and working at their rice farm since June of this year without trouble. The troops ordered the head of the family, Lung Pan-Ta, a 59-year-old man, to gather his family together. Capt. Aung Hpe then accused them of collecting intelligence for SSA troops and, before they could make any response, ordered his troops to shoot them. All 6 of the family members gathered were shot dead together at the same spot. Naang Nae, a 14-year-old girl, who was returning from fetching water and nearing to the farm, heard the sounds of the gunfire and ran away from the farm.

The family members who were killed are: 1. Lung Pan-Ta (m), aged 59, head of the family, 2. Pa Thun Nae (f), aged 47, 3. Zaa Thawn (m), aged 22, 4. Zaa Man (m), aged 20, 5. Naang Mon (f), aged 19, and 6. Naang Ung (f) aged 17. Later, after burying the bodies of the dead, some village and community leaders went to complain to the Commander of LIB332, yet they were told that the troops from LIB520 might have mistaken them as rebel soldiers and misinterpreted the situation and shot the villagers dead, and to go and look at the dead and bury them properly. (Source: SHRF)

On August 3, three villagers from Ha Min Kyi village in Tavoy District, Tenasserim Division were travelling to the Thai-Burma border to sell some cattle. When they arrived to Mo Kyi Pyan Mountain, they were stopped and arrested by a group of 15 SPDC soldiers from Column No. 2, IB 285, which takes security at the Thu Ka border pass. The soldiers arrested the three villagers, U Pu Lu, 45 yr. (male), Ma Chaw Su, 18 yr. (female), and U Aung Than, 40 yr. (male), with their six cattle and took them to the Thuka border pass. It was later learnt that all 3 of them were shot dead by these troops. Ma Chaw Su was repeatedly raped before she was killed. All their cattle were taken by the soldiers. During a 3 day period, from August 1 to 3 2000, SPDC IB 285 killed 10 traders and confiscated more than 30 cattle in the Thuka border pass. It is a route that the Burmese people use to

trade cattle and travel to work in Thailand. (Source: TIR)

On August 4 2000, SPDC troops (battalion unidentified) shot to death Saw Tin Win, age 30, son of Pah Tha Say and Naw Mu Po, at Htee Bla village, Shwe Gyin Township, Karen State. (Source: KAWU)

On August 4, 2000, SPDC soldiers from IB 109 patrolling on the way from Wang Murg arrived at the west of the market in Ham Ngai village and they shot down one of the villagers in the market place without asking any questions. The victim was Loong Yord from Wan Kung Kham, Ham Ngai tract, Murg Kerng township, Shan State. After killing him the SPDC troops took clothes from his body, and some money. (Source: SSA)

On August 8, 2000, ten men, led by Mu Nor Dway from DKBA Brigade 999 came to Kaw-thu-kee village, Pa-an District, Karen State and shot at the medical team, killing Naw Chay Ywa, 28, daughter of Par De Pler, and wounding a child, Par Pay Wah, age 1. They looted all the medicine distributed by the medical team and burnt down a field hut. (Source: KIC, KWO)

On August 10, 2000, at (1:00) p.m., 25 troops from SPDC IB 283, IB 32, and LIB 343, led by No. 2 column commander Aung Thein Myint and LIB 343 No. 3 company commander Khin Maung, seized Tee-po-than villager Saw Doo Shay (a) Saw Thein Hla (M, 42). They accused him of having a gun and then hit him in the head and killed him. They then buried him in the south of Aung-cha-tha village, Doo-pla-ya District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On August 10 2000, police officers of Kyauk Se main police station in Kyauk Se, Mandalay Division arrested a Muslim man from Latpun village in the township, U Khin Maung Win, age 36. The police demanded 5,000 kyat as a bribe for U Khin Maung Win to be released, and when he said he could not afford to pay the money, the police officers considered that he was being "stubborn" and shot him dead. They also arrested his brother when his brother reported the case to the police captain, and his whereabouts remained unknown as of September 12, 2000. (See chapter on arbitrary detention) (Source: MICB)

On August 10, 2000, at about 8:55 p.m., 20 troops from DKBA Brigade 555 led by Moe Gyo, came to Si-pa-day-kee village, Pa-an District, Karen State and shot to death Pa Mo Lo M, 25, his wife, Naw Mu Thay 20, and his friend Pa Ta Day, M, 30, at Ma-klaw-kee's farm hut. The troops looted a gold ring and a pair of gold earrings from the dead and burnt down the hut. (Source: KIC, KWO)

On August 11, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 365 entered Htee Threh Khee village, Shwe Gyin Township, Karen State and shot to death Saw Khin Maung, age 50. (Source: KAWU)

On August 11, 2000, SPDC LIB 365 troops in Nyaung-lay-gin District, Karen State shot at Tee-ta-rat-kee villagers, who were planting rice, killing villager Saw Kyin Maung (M, 40). The troops then looted rice from the villagers. (Source: KIC)

In mid August 2000, 3 Lahu men were shot in front of their families for failing to relocate within the specified time frame. Jalaw, age 27 from Nati village, Jashay, age 42 from Panghawk village, and Lawsha, age 31 from Panghawk village were among the 6 villages which had been ordered to relocate in Kunhing township between August 10 and 15 by Major Kyaw Lin, commander of a military column (unit unidentified). (Source: LNN)

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On August 14, 2000, a column of 50-60 SPDC troops from LIB514 led by commander Hla Myint shot dead a displaced farmer, Lung Paan Zing, age 47 and stole his 2 oxen 2-1/2 miles west of Murng-Kerng town, Murng-Kerng township. Lung Paan Zing had been gathering and transporting bamboo to make a new fence. He had been a displaced person from a relocation site near Murng Kerng. On hearing the news, Lung Paan Zing's relatives went after him and found his dead body on the road, near his ox-cart loaded with split bamboo and with no draught-oxen. Even though they were sure that Lung Paan Zing was killed by the SPDC troops, they could not and dared not complain to anyone for fear of further abuses. (Source: SHRF)

On August 15, 2000 SPDC troops led by Column Commander Maj. Soe Aung, from SPDC LIB 2, Division 44 entered Boh Ma Heh, Papun District, Karen State and shot into the village. Naw Gaw Gaw, age 20 and her husband, Saw Pa Sa Law, age 25, were both killed, leaving their 2 children behind. (Source: KIC, KWO)

On August 16, 2000, in Pa-pun District, Karen State, troops led by Battalion Commander Aung Soe from SPDC LIB 2 of LID 44, shot to death Poe-ma-heh villager, Saw Par Kyaw Law, M, 25, and took 7,000 kyat found on him. (Source: KIC)

On August 20, 2000, troops from Column 2 of SPDC IB 59 arrested and then executed Saw Ka Pru Mu of Thet-tant village, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State, without reason. They also looted 10 flashlight dry cells, some medicine and 3 guitars from the villagers. (Source: KIC)

On August 28, 2000, combined troops from SPDC IB 96, led by Sergeant Thein Win and a DKBA unit came to Theh-kaw-ta village, Tha-ton District, Karen State and violently beat to death villager Saw Paw Soe, 30. (Source: KIC)

On August 28 2000, Lt. Thein Han of Company No. 5, IB 24 executed 3 Burmese Muslim men and cut them into pieces on the allegation that they were in contact with the KNU. The men were U Mohhamad, age 45, U Saleh, age 40, and Noor Hassein, age 24 of Kaw Yint village, Pa-an Township, Karen State (Source: MICB)

On September 3 2000 the village chief of Hteepawsoe village in Karenni State, Thya Poe, aged 45, was killed by troops from LIB 428 in retaliation for fighting which had occurred in Hteekhu Daw earlier that month. Thya Poe's wife demanded that the troops return the bones of her husband for burial in the village graveyard, but the troops replied that they had nothing to do with the death of her husband, and that he had killed himself. (Source: KNAHR)

On September 10 2000, military officers led by Capt. Aung Hla of IB 80, under LID 77 arrested 3 Muslim traders with 70 cattle at Nut village military camp near Khayan Ywa Gyi village, Kyaik Hto township, Pegu Division and forced them to pay 70,000 kyats before they were allowed to proceed. However, later the same 3 men were arrested again by IB 80, this time led by Capt. Aung Hla and Sgt. Win Shwe. The second time, the traders were all shot, and their cattle taken by the troops. The men were: U Kasim, age 34 and U E Sia, age 37 of Tha Nat Pin village, Kyaik Hto township, and U Maung Tun, age 28 of Papun township, Karen State. (Source: MICB)

On September 15, 2000, at 11 PM, Column No. 1 from SPDC LIB 705, led by Zin Yan Naing, came to Mae-tha-kret village, Kya-in Township, Doo-pla-ya District, Karen State and shot at villagers. Saw Kyaw Bleh (M, 30) was killed immediately and Maung Aye Shwe (M, 50) was wounded. (Source: KIC)

On September 16 2000, at (8:30) p.m., troops from LIB 202, led by battalion commander, Ka Nyunt, came to Ta-blu-ko-kee village of Kaw-ka-reik Township, Doo-pla-ya District, Karen State and shot to death Saw Dee Tha (M, 32) for no reason. His son, Saw Si Bet, was wounded in the leg. They then looted from the villagers. (Source: KIC)

On September 21 2000, a patrol of SPDC troops from LIB418 entered a Buddhist temple in Hai Kuay village, Murng Nai township, Shan State at midday. A villager, Zaai Yawn, aged 18, was visiting and talking with some of the novice monks at the temple when the SPDC troops suddenly came into the temple and asked the abbot questions about Shan soldiers. The boy, who had been previously tortured while serving as a porter, was so frightened at the sight of the soldiers that he quickly entered a monk's room to hide there. The troops saw him and ordered him to come out to the center of the temple. Zaai Yawn was so afraid of the troops that his face clearly showed signs of extreme nervousness and the troops shot him dead in front of the monks, at the center of the temple. The troops then threatened and warned the monks that if they harbored any rebel like this again, they would have to face severe punishment, and left. The monks were shocked by the gruesome sight and were very sad, but all they could do was call the villagers of Hai Kuay village to take care of the dead body and conduct a Buddhist funeral for him. (Source: SHRF)

On September 24, 2000, a patrol of SPDC troops from LIB515 led by Capt. Aung Hpyu killed a farmer Zaai Zaling, age 26 and raped his wife, Naang Mon, age 21 at a farm 2-1/2 miles south of Lai-Kha town. They took the wife away with them for 10 days during which she was repeatedly raped. The couple had been from Kun Hung village, Wan Saang tract, Lai-Kha township. (Also see chapter on Women) (Source: SHRF)

On September 25 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 362 shot to death Saw Ta Ku Kaw (M,16) at Pwo Hta while clearing weed in his paddy field. Saw Tu Ku Kaw was a villager of Ler Shu Kho village, Kyaukkyi Township, Nyaunglebin District, Karen State. (Source: KAWU)

On September 29, 2000, in Tha-ton District, Karen State, troops from SPDC LIB 1, led by Bo Kyaw Myint Lwin, shot to death Ta-Eu-Khee villager Saw Maung Day, 26, with out reason. (Source: KIC)

On October 5 2000, at 08:00 hrs, SPDC troops from the 315th LIB, 99th Brigade led by Captain Win Shwe besieged one of the farm huts north of Wan Nam Nur village and opened fire on a hut causing an innocent civilian to die on the spot. The victim was known as Nang Mart, aged 42, daughter of Loong Yan Naa and Pa Long of Wan Koong Yoam village, Hai Lai tract, Nam Zarng township. The bullets hit the victim in the breast, in the waist, in the chest and in the thighs. (Source: Freedom News)

On October 10, 2000, a patrol of 7 SPDC troops from Ta-Lur-based LIB316, led by Lt. San Lin, summoned and arrested 2 villagers from Wan Zaang and Ta Pe villages in Kaeng Laab tract, Ta-Khi-Laek township, Shan State. The 2 villagers, Zaai Lawng, age 27 and Zaai Zang, age 29 were accused of being SSA recruiting agents, interrogated, beat and tortured and then eventually shot to death on the bank of the Nam Khawng (Mekong river). (Source: SHRF)

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On October 14, 2000, the guerrilla troops of SPDC, under the control of Bo Chet Te, shot and killed, without reason, Naw Law Kaw, F, 39, daughter of Saw Way Ber, at her cardomon plantation, Toun-goo District, Karen State. (Source: KIC) On October 19 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 60 came to Baw Paw Klo and Moe Gi Po Khee, Shwe Gyin Township, Nyaunglebin District, Karen State and captured 3 villagers namely (1) Saw Pah Blai (2) Saw Maw Kyi Na and (3) Saw Soe Tin while carrying rice. Those troops beat them all to death without reason. (Source: KAWU)

On October 23, 2000, a combined column of SPDC LIB (2) and anti-insurgent troops shot at villagers in their paddy field huts of Ta-eu-khee village, Tha-ton District, Karen State, killing a man and a woman. (Source: KIC, KWO)

On October 30 2000, SPDC company commander Captain Aa Kar from LIB 559 combined with Pyi Thu Sit (people's militia) from Taung Nge village headed by Win Bo (50 men strength) entered into Manorone village, Tenasserim Township, Mergui District, Tenasserim Division. They captured a villager named Saw Htun Hla Thain at deserted Manorone village and accused him as rebel and killed him. Manorone village had been deserted according to an SPDC order. (Source: TIR)

On November 11, 2000, troops from SPDC tactical command (1) LIB 340, led by company (1) commander Win Myint, without reason shot to death Maw-hta villager, Saw Pah Kyaw, 15, son of Saw Too Loo, while he was carrying cardamom seeds. The troops were in the area of Kay-kor, Doh-kho-wah, Maw-hta and Mar-lay-ler, Pa-pun District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On November 15, 2000, in Toun-goo District, Karen State, SPDC troops led by Battalion Commander Myo Aung and 2nd in Command Saw Mya Aung shot to death, without reason, Ket-waing villager, Saw Ba Win, 20, son of Saw Ler Bweh. (Source: KIC)

On November 25, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 289, led by Battalion Commander Soe Min, came to Wa-soe area, Toun-goo District, Karen State, and shot to death 2 villagers without reason. The victims were Saw Poe Hla Win, M, 20, son of Tee Ler Ku, of Wa-soe Village and Bu-hsa-kee villager Saw Taw Lay Htoo, M, 17, son of Tee Ler Poe, of Bu-has-kee Village. (Source: KIC)

On November 25, 2000, a column of about 60 SPDC troops from IB66, with 25 civilian porters, led by Capt. Khin Zaw Win shot dead a couple who were gathering rice at their farm in Loi-Lem township. The couple, Zaai Zin-Ta, aged 30 and Naang Nae, aged 25, was originally from Khong Laang village in Paang Hu tract, Loi-Lem township, which had been forcibly relocated to Pang Long town by SLORC troops in July 1997. Like many other displaced farmers in the area, Zaai Zin-Ta and Naang Nae had been trying to survive by growing rice on a small plot of land at a remote place. On the day of the incident they were gathering rice to take back to their house when the said SPDC military column came and, without asking any questions, shot them dead. (Source: SHRF)

On November 27, 2000, at 9 p.m., a combined force of SPDC and militia troops came to Da-keh area, Mer-gui-Ta-voy District, Karen State and shot at villagers in Ba-baw-plu-poe place, killing two. (Source: KIC)

On November 29, 2000, at 7 a.m., troops from SPDC IB 75, led by column commanders Than Myint and Aung Myo Lwin, without reason, shot to death Shar-see-bo villager Naw Nay Plu, F, 21, in Ber-ta area, Toun-goo District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

In late November 2000, a Burmese naval vessel from No. 46 fleet under the command of Morrawaddy Naval Headquarters opened fire on a Thai fishing boat which had been granted fishing concessions. After shooting at the boat without warning, the SPDC navy patrol approached the boat, lined up the Burmese crew, shot them at point blank range, and threw their bodies in the water. The boat was then towed to an unknown location. The boat was owned by Mr. Baw Chop from Thailand and left from Thailand to the territory of Burma water on November 20th, 2000 for fishing in its concession area. A local source said that Col. Thein Ngwe from the Morrawaddy Naval Headquarter had issued an order to seize all Thai fishing boats and to terminate crew on board.

The list of the crew killed is as follows:

Name Age Address

1. A Maung 32 Rangoon
2. Kyaw Oo 27 Chaung Sone, Mon State
3. Than Zaw 27 Rangoon
4. A Shay Gyee 30 Moulmein
5. A Nwe 20 Asin, Ye Township
6. Phoe Tharr Lay 27 Asin, Ye Township
7. Ko Ohm 25 Moulmein
8. Pa Kyal 30 Rangoon
9. Ka Larr 26 Tavoy
10. A Ngal 25 Rangoon
11. San Oo 25 Pegu
12. Wanna 25 Moulmein
13. Htun Htun Oo(child) 12 not known
14. Minn Htite 20 not known
15. Zaw Win 30 not known (Source: Yoma3)

On December 11 2000, at noon, SPDC troops of 315 LIB led by Captain Win Shwe arrived at Wan Koong Yoam village, Hai Lai tract, Nam Zarng township and without any questions, they shot dead an innocent villager named Loong Paw Ka, age 48, son of Loong Saw Kwai and Nai Zing. After Loong Paw Ka had fallen down on the spot, they pillaged property in the village while the villagers fled from the scene. (Source: Freedom News)

On December 26 2000, Zaw Ti Ka, an innocent vegetable farmer was killed for trying to prevent SPDC soldiers from stealing his vegetables and his 15-year-old daughter was raped. The crimes were committed by SPDC troops from LIB 333 led by Corporal Khin Maung Soe at a vegetable farm about 3 miles north of Waeng Nur village in Waeng Nur tract, Murg-Sart township. (Source: SHRF)

On December 28 2000, a group of 5 rice farmers were eating their days meal when a patrol of SPDC troops from IB66 led by Capt. Zaw Won shot at them, killing them all on the spot. After that, the troops burned all the rice and left. The victims were all displaced farmers who had been forcibly relocated to Nam-Zarng town in 1999, and later in 2000 to Loi La village,

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Loi La tract, Nam Zarng Township, Shan State. The victims were:

1. Zaai Seng (m), aged 35, the owner of the farm where the event took place, originally from Nam Oi village in Wan Nawng tract; he left a widow, Naang Suay, and a child
2. Zaai Ya Khawng (m), aged 20, originally from Nam Oi village in Wan Nawng tract; leaving a widow, Naang Man, and a child.
3. Zaai Tong (m), aged 37, originally from Nawng Leng village, Nawng Hee tract; he left a widow, Naang Kham.
4. Zaai Khawng (m), aged 31, originally from Ho Naa village, Murng Zid tract
5. Naang Sai (f), aged 26, Zaai Khawng's wife; they left their 4 children, who are now orphaned. (Source: SHRF)



The last remains of villager Saw Eh Wah (male, age 57) from Meh Yeh Hta village after his children found his body and cremated him. He was shot dead on sight near his village on March 24th 2000 by SPDC troops from LIB #6, Column 2, commanded by Than Oo and Aung Soe Win. Saw Eh Wah was a village farmer who was not involved in any political activity. *[Photo: KHRG researcher]*

3. Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

- Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

3.1 Background

In the year 2000 there remained an estimated 2,500 political prisoners in Burma's notorious jails. (Amnesty International and other international NGOs estimated this number to be 1,600) These individuals were being held in various prisons across Burma, suffering as a consequence of their involvement in the Burmese struggle for freedom and democracy. The living and social conditions of these political prisoners are grim and deteriorating daily. As has been the practice of the military regime since its beginnings, the SPDC allowed no person to oppose their authoritarian rule, and maintained an extensive network of MIS, police and government officials ready to detain anyone suspected of such dissent. The military in Burma has established and enforced laws curtailing civil and political freedom and utilized laws that allow it to crush any political opposition. The SPDC's laws and regulations criminalize freedom of thought, the dissemination of information and the right of association and assembly. The most commonly employed laws banning the demonstration of civil and political rights have been the 1923 Government's Official Secrets Act, the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act, the 1957 Unlawful Associations Act, the 1962 Printers' and Publishers' Registration Law, the 1975 State Protection Law, Law No. 5/96. These laws and orders have restricted the civil and political rights of Burmese citizens for years; now, with technological advances available across the globe, new laws have been enacted in order to provide the SPDC authorities additional legal bases to curtail freedom of expression and the exchange of information. For more information on these laws, please refer to the chapters on the freedom of expression and the freedom of assembly and association.

The year 2000, which saw a stepped up campaign to destroy the opposition political party NLD, met with numerous arrests of NLD members. In the months of April and May alone there were 145 members of the NLD who were arbitrarily detained and interrogated. Several of them were then sentenced to years in prison, without a fair or public trial. In August and September 2000 the SPDC twice refused Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the NLD to travel outside of Rangoon. Both times the SPDC ended the travel attempts by arresting large numbers of NLD members, and by placing Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and top members of the NLD under house arrest. In fact, at the time of the final writing of this yearbook in May 2001, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Tin Oo, and U Aung Shwe remained under house arrest. The SPDC also continued to arrest and imprison student activists, claiming through the State run media that the arrested young people had been imprisoned for attempted terrorist activities. In May 2000 several monks were arrested following reports of a planned strike.

SPDC personnel also continued to arbitrarily detain persons across Burma for illegal association with groups seen as anti-government. In areas of ethnic insurgency these detentions were common and in most cases the people suspected of such illegal association

were seized, detained and interrogated, sometimes tortured without warrant or evidence against them. There were also numerous cases reported in the year 2000 of individuals who disappeared following arrest and detention.

In addition to individuals arrested for political reasons, SPDC officials continued to arbitrarily arrest and detain people for "crimes" such as failure to pay army taxes or to sell the required crop quota to the government purchasing centers. Many farmers were arrested in the year 2000 under such circumstances. These farmers were detained, without trial, until the required quota was met. The SPDC also arrested Muslim minority people for various reasons. Many of the people who were reported to have been arbitrarily detained were released following payment of fines set by the official who arrested them. This portrays the extent to which corruption exists within Burma. Indeed, SPDC troops and officials often arrest people for no other reason than to bribe money from them. Many Burmese citizens deported by Thai authorities in 2000 were arrested and forced to pay high fees for "illegally leaving the country", or else face imprisonment or forced labor.

3.2 Denial of a fair and public trial

Although remnants of the British-era legal system are formally in place in Burma, the court system and its operation remain seriously flawed, particularly in the handling of political cases. In 1975 the State Protection Act was passed by the BSPP in order to protect the state from potentially destructive elements. It is directly controlled by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Article 10(a) of this act allows for an individual to be detained for up to three years without a trial. This means that political prisoners in detainment are denied the rights given to sentenced prisoners and are therefore often subjected to extraordinarily repressive measures. For example, under article 10(a) a detainee can be denied visiting privileges and may be put into solitary confinement. If the military regime believes a prisoner to be a threat to the state, after that prisoner has served his/her sentence under article 10(a) he/she can be immediately re-detained.

Throughout 2000, the SPDC continued to rule by decree and was not bound by any constitutional provision providing for fair trials or any other rights. Not only have the people charged under the various law and military decrees been consistently denied fair trials and the due process of law, but also the judicial system itself has been emasculated over the years.

SPDC appoints the Judges of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court selects judges for the lower courts, but requires the approval of SPDC authorities. The Supreme Court is further in charge of supervising the lower courts. The Judiciary Law does not contain any provisions on the security of tenure of judges and their protection from arbitrary removal, thus leaving such issues entirely in the hands of the SPDC and, what is worse, without any guarantees provided by law by which the SPDC is bound.

In addition to the SPDC's unrestricted power in the appointment of judges, the courts are powerless to protect the rights of victims of oppression. This is so because a great number of decrees have been promulgated by the SPDC for the purpose of repressing political activity and the freedoms of thought, expression, association and movement, among others. Moreover, emergency laws are still resorted to. The courts have no jurisdiction to challenge or to discard this repressive legal arsenal.

Unprofessional behavior by some court officials, the use of overly broad laws — including the Emergency provisions Act of 1950, the Unlawful Associations Act, the Habitual Offenders Act, and the Law on Safeguarding the State from the danger of Destructionists — and the manipulation of the courts for political ends continue to deprive citizens of the right to a fair trial and the rule of law.

Some basic due process rights, including the right to a public trial and to be represented by a defense attorney are generally respected, except in political cases that the authorities deem especially sensitive. Without the permission of the intelligence organs, judges cannot even let the family and counsel of the accused know what sentence has been passed. In many cases, the accused is kept in ignorance of the section of law under which he is charged. There have been reported instances where Military Intelligence has passed sentences orally at the time of arrest, before any trial had taken place. More often than not trials are held on camera. Defendants with political charges are given little chance to speak during the trial, let alone present a proper defense. Even where they manage to make a statement, the judges pay no heed to it. Prior to being charged, detainees rarely have access to legal counsel or their families and political detainees have no opportunity to obtain release on bail. In most political cases, trials are held in courtrooms on prison compounds and are not open to the public. In these instances, defense counsel appears to serve no purpose other than to provide moral support, since reliable reports indicate that verdicts are dictated by higher authorities. Political detainees are held incommunicado for long periods. Even after being charged, detainees rarely have benefit of counsel.

3.4. Life of Prisoners

There are 36 prisons in Burma, and of them, 20 detain the estimated 2,500 political prisoners. All prisons have been places of numerous violations of human dignity and brutal harassment. Conditions of detention in prison remain deplorable, and fall far short of international standards such as the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners and the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons Under Any forms of Detention or Imprisonment. In fact, conditions of detention fall short of even established laws in Burma. Under the current conditions of the military junta, political prisoners have been denied the rights entitled to them outlined in the Union of Myanmar Prison Manual. Furthermore, these prisoners are often subjected to extra prohibitive and repressive measures not mentioned in the prison manual. For example, every prisoner has the right to parole. Chapter 11, article 59[5] of the Union of Myanmar Prison Manual states; *‘A prisoner who has acted in accordance with prison regulation has the right to parole at least 60, 70 or 90 days a year.’*

In May 1999 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced that it had begun to visit prisons in Myanmar. In March 2000 the ICRC also began visiting labor camps, where convicted criminals have been held in extremely poor conditions. In addition the ICRC has reported that they have been able to visit prisoners held in government guesthouses, where NLD members have been detained without charge or trial since the party’s announcement in September 1998 that they would convene parliament unilaterally. Yet despite this international monitoring of conditions in Burmese prisons, maltreatment of prisoners continued to be reported in the year 2000. These abuses include torture, prolonged shackling, lack of proper medical care, and insufficient food. (For more information on torture of prisoners, see relevant chapter on torture)

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Prisoners were also subjected to severe overcrowding, conditions that by themselves constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in other parts of the world. It is standard in prisons throughout Burma for 3 or 4 prisoners to be held in small cells measuring 8 by 12 feet (2.6 by 3 meters) for more than 20 hours a day. They are fed an inadequate diet of a thin bean soup or vegetables, sometimes supplemented with a small piece of fish only once a week. In Thayet prison, Magwe Division, where there are a total of 74 political prisoners, 3 persons are placed in each of the cells measuring 12' x 8' where they sleep, eat, and defecate. These conditions are most inhuman and a danger to health of the prisoners which has resulted in the sickness and death of some.

Medical treatment is rarely provided and then only when a prison's illness has reached a severe stage. The most common diseases among the prisoners are: gastrointestinal diseases (amoebic dysentery, bacillary dysentery and diarrhea), jaundice (viral and amoebic hepatitis), AIDS and skin diseases. Conditions in prison allow for the easy transmission of these diseases due to poor sanitation, unclean and semi-cooked food, dirty kitchens, polluted surroundings, and lack of personal hygiene (particularly because of poor water supplies).

Political prisoners who peacefully complain about the abuses and ill treatments of the prison officials and ask for redressing are given both severe punishments and additional prison terms. Political prisoners are not allowed to communicate with one another. In addition, they are only allowed to meet with their families after they have been sentenced. Apart from the political prisoners who are put in the solitary confinement, an unknown number are forced to perform hard labor in their respective prisons on a daily basis.

As a result of the poor food and medical care conditions, prisoners absolutely depend on the support of their families for the preservation of their lives. Some political prisoners have died from the lack of essential assistance such as medicine and nutritious food. The SPDC intentionally tries to break the spirit of political prisoners down by sending them to the remote prisons far away from their families where they suffer psychological and often physical misery from the lack of support from their family. Meanwhile the MI and local authorities of the SPDC regularly intimidate and persecute the family members of political prisoners. The MI frequently confiscates the belongings of the families of political prisoners. They also harass the economic, social and educational lives of the family members of political prisoners. In most cases the family members lose their jobs, so that in the end they find it very hard to provide regular support for their imprisoned family member. They even can not afford the transportation costs to visit their imprisoned relatives. In many cases, as the political prisoners used to be the breadwinners of their families, many families that are left outside can not afford to assist them for a long time.

Moreover, the political prisoners meet even further bitter situations when they are released from prison. The SPDC intimidates and harasses the former political prisoners using all available means, although they have finished their prison terms, to ensure that they can not resume their political activities. When extraordinarily sensitive occasions take place in Burma such as anniversary dates, the former political prisoners are usually detained and interrogated for unlimited periods without reason. The SPDC also utilizes many different ways to isolate them from society. The main weapons of the SPDC to marginalize the former political prisoners are to outcast them from economic and educational opportunities.

Mergui Prison

An Arakanese man who had saved his money working as an illegal immigrant in Thailand, was arrested in Kawt Thaung (Victoria Point) by the Burmese Military Intelligence No. (19) on his way back home to Arakan state. Military intelligence officer Kyaw Win arrested him and confiscated all his belongings. He was interrogated and tortured while he was in the military intelligence's cellar. He was kicked, beaten, and burnt with cigarette light by military intelligence officers Khin Lwin, Kyi Win, and Corporal. Kyaw Naing. He was later charged with a political act and sentenced to four years imprisonment in Mergui jail even though he had no connection what so ever with political activities.

Upon his release, he reported that the condition in the Mergui prison was so harsh and unbearable. They were treated inhumanly. Very small amount of foods were given and no proper medication was provided for diseases. He said that many prisoners were succumbed to death by diseases and inhumane treatments. He reported that Mergui prison was overcrowded with more than 3000 prisoners prison when he was there. (Source: Yoma3)

Myingyan prison

This prison is considered to be among the worst in Burma concerning medical services and treatment of prisoners. A number of political prisoners have died because of 1) severe torture; 2) insufficient food; and 3) insufficient medical treatment. There is a prison clinic, but there is no medicine. Families of ill prisoners must purchase medicine outside of the prison and deliver it to the clinic. Prisoners whose families lack financial resources to pay for medicine are unable to receive treatment. (Source: AAPP)

Thayetmyo jail

There are over 1000 inmates, including both criminals and political prisoners, in Thayetmyo jail, Magwe Division. The odor that pervades the jail is almost as bad as in Insein jail. The SPDC jail authorities fail to comply with the requirements of the Prisons Act and deliberately mistreat, torture and persecute the prisoners. Everyday all but 105 are required to do hard labor. This includes drawing and carrying water without a break, taungya cultivation, carpentry work, chopping and cutting wood, and all kinds of cleaning. NLD member, U Pa Lay from Taungdwingyi township (Magwe division) has suffered very harsh treatment. He originally suffered from a back complaint and has been made to draw water continuously which has aggravated his ailment.

The prisoners are woken up at 3:30 a.m. and forced to skin pe gji (lablab bean). Each prisoner has to skin between one and a half and two pyis (a pyi is a unit of grain measurement equivalent to 8 condensed milk tins.) Punishment is given to those who refuse. For example, a respected NLD Pyithu Hluttaw representative from Mingun township, Magwe division, who is over 70 years old, was punished for not skinning beans. Similarly, the elderly NLD Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Myothit township was forced to skin beans. The revenue for skinning these beans (ten kyats for one pyi), which are sold to private individuals in the business of making fried beans, has been pocketed by the SPDC Thayetmyo jail authorities.

In addition to this, the health care provided to the prisoners is not adequate. Even though medicine has been donated by the International Red Cross for use in the Thayetmyo jail, the prisoners are not given it. There is no jail doctor as such and no adequate medical attention. Though the rule is that prisoners should be medically examined once a month, in practice they are examined every 2 months. The jail authorities fail to issue the full quantity of medicines prescribed by the doctor to some prisoners. When the families of some

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prisoners offer to buy the required medicines the doctor refuses them a prescription.

Those convicted of crimes are often given better treatment in the jails than political prisoners. Though religious literature was permitted in the middle of 1999, presently no books brought by families of the inmates are allowed. Also, English language literature is completely banned. Those who were forcefully removed from Insein jail in July 2000 for no offences on their part and sent to other places were not allowed visitation by their families for over a month. Seven NLD members from Taungdwingyi township who were charged under Section 5(j) and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment were not allowed family visitation for over two months. (Source: NLD)

Mandalay prison

Over 7,000 prisoners were at Mandalay prison. The prison shape is a circle and double walled. There were buildings for male and female prisoners, child prisoners, 5-J (political prisoners), hospital and workshop. Also there were 15 special cells (single and double rooms) for disobedient prisoners, political prisoners, mentally ill prisoners and patients who were infected with communicable diseases. There were many VD and HIV positive patients as well as some leprosy patients and many of those prisoners were made to stay together. The ward number (4) of the prison hospital also had more than (40) VD and HIV positive patients. The hospital did not use disposable syringes needles. All the buildings were too crowded with prisoners. Water was insufficient, pieces of soap provided were too small and food also was insufficient and dirty. Mandalay prisoners had to work at vegetable farms fertilized by faeces and urine; weaving, wood carving and typing (for the prison office) all the work was unpaid. (Source: FTUB)

Pahukku prison

There were over 700 prisoners (300 male and 400 female). All were sentenced under 10 years of imprisonment. Political Prisoners and prisoners sentenced to terms of over 10 years were sent to Myingyan prison. Most of the prisoners were drug addicts and sellers. Food provided in the prison were bean soup and fish paste for lunch and vegetable soup for dinner. On every Monday, there was dried fish curry. In that prison, prisoners had to work joss sticks and to peel beans (for a local fried bean merchant). Prisoners were not paid for their work. In the beginning of April, 2000, thirty prisoners from Pahukku were sent to Meikhtila prison and waited for 45 days to go to Won-saung (prisoner porter recruiting) Camp. (Source: FTUB)

3.5 Health Concern for prisoners

Case of Min Ko Naing



The health condition of Burma's prominent student leader, Min Ko Naing is reportedly deteriorating day by day and it was confirmed in early 2001 that he is now suffering from paralysis. Min Ko Naing alias Paw U Tun, Chairman of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU), was arrested on 24 March 1989. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment (later commuted to 10 years under a general amnesty, but he has not been released) for his anti-government activities. He was initially detained in solitary

confinement in Insein Prison in Rangoon but has been regularly moved from one prison to another and currently he is being held in Sittwe Prison, still in solitary confinement.

According to London-based Amnesty International, Min Ko Naing was reportedly severely tortured and ill treated during the early stages of his detention and his health has suffered as a consequence. In 1993, a United States Congressman visited him in Insein Prison and he was said to be in poor health and appeared disoriented. In November 1994 the Special Rapporteur on Burma was also allowed to visit him briefly in Insein Prison, and described him as being nervous and thin. (Source: Mizzima)

Case of Daw San San New

In December 2000 an arm of Amnesty International appealed for the release of Burmese writer Daw San San Nwe, who is serving a 10-year sentence in Rangoon, so that she can be treated for very worrying health problems. Daw San San Nwe is suffering from high blood pressure, heart disease and hemilegia on the right side, and prison officials have repeatedly denied her the medical attention she needs. San San Nwe was sentenced on October 6, 1994 to 10 Years in jail and is now at Insein prison. She allegedly had met two visiting French reporters in April 1993 and appeared in video they produced. Her daughter, Ma Myat Mo Mo Tun, was arrested in the same year after allegedly contributing articles to a journal published by expatriate Burmese.



Case of U Soe Thein

U Soe Thein, a journalist and MP for the National League for Democracy was admitted, during the third week of September 2000, to the intensive care service of the general hospital of Rangoon. The authorities sent him to hospital only after he had had a heart attack in his cell. According to his family, he is close to death. The stomach disease from which he suffers is also worse. In July 1997, Soe Thein had a first heart attack. The authorities refused to treat him. Since the confiscation of the elections in May 1990 by the army, three journalists have died in detention. 55 years old, Soe Thein has been detained in the Insein jail since May 1996. The authorities accused him of writing texts about "peaceful resistance" for the NLD. He was jailed by virtue of Article 10 of the State Protection Law which provides for indefinite periods of detention without trial. Soe Thein was editor of the official newspaper Botahtaung before being dismissed in 1988 because of his support for the democratic movement. He also published a magazine Ah-Twe-Ah-Myin (The Thought) until November 1990 when he was arrested a first time. (Source: RSF)

Case of U Tun Aung Kyaw

In 1990, U Tun Aung Kyaw, (or) Thakhin Mipwar, age 50 was arrested and sentenced for the first time to five years imprisonment including hard labor. Since that time he has been suffering from tuberculosis. He had therefore visited the jail hospital many times. He was released at the end of 1994.

After being released, although he treated his disease as much as he could, he could not use too much money. As a result his health became worse and worse. He still continued, secretly, to be involved in political movements in accordance with his belief in Democracy and Human Rights. Unfortunately, military intelligence men raided the Hospital he was visiting in 1997 and detained U Tun Aung Kyaw. He was sentenced to seven years

imprisonment including hard labor, under the 5/J law. In the jail hospital, there is not enough medicine, and specialist doctors are not regularly available. Therefore it is very important for him to visit specialist outside of the prison. However military intelligence will not allow this. They give the excuse of security concerns. (Source: AAPP)

Case of U Ohn Kyaw

U Ohn Kyaw , over 70 years old from Shwe Taung Township, Pegu Division, is suffering from heart failure and hypertension, resulting in near paralysis. He is currently serving his sentence in a solitary confinement cell, and has not been admitted to the prison clinic. It is believed that he will die if he does not receive immediate treatment at a hospital outside of the prison. He was sentenced in 1998 to 7 years imprisonment under Section 5/J. He is currently in Myingyan prison. U Oh Kyaw is a retired township education administrator. Two of his sons are political activists working with DPNS. One is a Central Committee Member on the Thai-Burma border, and the other is currently in prison inside Burma. U Ohn Kyaw is not an activist. At the time of his arrest he was running a book rental shop that was popular with young people. We (AAPP) believe he was arrested because of the involvement of his sons in DPNS. His family has been unable to provide regular medical supplies because of their financial situation and because the prison is located far away from their home. (Source: AAPP)

3.6 Death in Custody

On April 30, 2000 U Aung Gyaw, one of four vehicle owners who had been illegally arrested on April 25, 2000 in Taung-tha, Mandalay Division as a result of an appeal they had made concerning the forced labor of their vehicles, died in custody in the Taung-tha Police Station. He had been suffering from High Blood Pressure and fell seriously ill while under arrest. Early on April 30 he asked for medical attention but was refused by the Police in charge of the station. He then fell suddenly giddy, collapsed, then died. (Source: NLD)

On June 29 2000, a female Muslim political prisoner, Daw Htey Myint (40 years) of Myittila, Mandalay Division died of fever in Moulmein central jail. She had not received any medical treatment during her a month-long illness. On June 12 1998, she was transferred from Myittila jail to Moulmein jail. According to a relative of the victims, on June 2 2000, one U Tun Khaing (40 years) and Daw Aye Myint (35 years) died after doing hard labor, from insufficient food and inadequate medical treatments in the same jail. Both of them were from Papun Township of Karen state, Burma. (Source: MICB)

3.7 Prolonged Detention

Extended Prison Term for NLD Representative

On July 1, 2000, Dr. Thein Lwin, was given an extended sentence at the instigation of Sergeant Tin Aye of Meiktila Military Intelligence No 15 under section 5-J of the law. He has been incarcerated since September 6, 1998 when the SPDC took into custody Hluttaw representatives and kept them imprisoned, saying that they are being kept in "guesthouses for the purposes of discussions." Neither they or their families have been given a reason for their detentions. (Source: NLD/CRPP)

3.8 Release of Political Prisoners

Release of Maung Moe Thu

On January 3 2000 Maung Moe Thu, alias U Sein Myint, former CEC member of the NLD, movie director and writer was released from detention. He had also been a journalist for the economic magazine Danna. He had been arrested in May 1996, under Article 10 (a) of the State Protection Law of 1975, after participating in an NLD rally. He was arrested along with U Kyaw Min, architect; U Win Htein, former captain and personal aide of Aung San Suu Kyi; Sayar Maung Wun Tha; and Sayar U Thein Tin, NLD organizer for Yangon [Rangoon] Division. (Architect U Kyaw Min and U Thein Tin have died.) Sayar [honorific] Maung Moe Thu had been imprisoned in Insein Jail without trial and was reported to be in poor health at the time of his release. According to the Burmese authorities, Moe Thu, 62 years old, was freed on humanitarian grounds, following the December 1999 death of his wife. (Source: DVB)

Release of 4 NLD MP's

On June 6 2000, 4 NLD MPs arrested in mid May were released. They are:

- Hla Htun from Kyemyintdine
- Aung Zaw from Dagon
- Dr. Than Win from N-okkala
- Dr. Sein Win from Seikkyi. (Source: Yandu)

8 NLD members arrested at Rangoon Central Railway Station Released

On October 5 2000, a total of eight NLD members were released after they were made to sign pledges that they would no longer engage in politics. Those released are:

U Khin Maung Myint (Central Committee-Youth affairs),
Ko Toe Lwin (in charge of Irrawaddy Division Youth Affairs),
U Kyee Myint and
Daw Win Kyi of Thingangyun,
U Than Win of Kamayut,
U Nyunt Kyi of Mingala-Taungnyunt,
Ma San Htay of Bahan, and one yet to be identified person from Thaketa. (Source: HRDU)

Release of James Mawdsley

In mid October 2000, after 415 days of solitary confinement in Kengtung Prison, James



Mawdsley was released and flown back to London, England. He had been sentenced to a 17-year prison term in September 1999 under Section (13/1) of the Immigration law and Section (17) of the 1962 Printers' and Publishers' Registration Law. He had been arrested on August 31, 1999 for distributing leaflets in Tachilek Township, Shan State. He was released shortly after the heavy international criticism that had come in response a severe beating he had received from prison guards. (Source: HRDU)

Release of Six elderly prisoners

On October 17 2000, the SPDC released six elderly political prisoners following a special request by UN special envoy Razali Ismail. The six prisoners, 5 of them NLD members, were released from jails in Yangon, Mandalay and the south of the country. The prisoners had been serving sentences of between two to 14 years. The six, whose ages ranged from 53 to 77, had been jailed for threatening the security of the state, and most had been jailed at Insein Prison.

U Aung Thein, 72,
U Ohn Gyaw, 69,
U Aye Myint, 55,
U Sein Win, 75,
U Thaung Myint, 75, and
U Chein Poe, 77 (Source: AAPP)

In December 2000 U Than Htun was released from house arrest. (Source: HRDU)

3.9 Political Prisoners - A few Profiles

Ma Thida Htwe aka Ma Thu Zar

Ma Thida Htwe, or Ma Thu Zar, age 28, was sentenced to life imprisonment on December 3, 1999 for violations of the 5-J and 17/1 emergency provisions acts. She was born to U Tin



Htwe and Daw San Kyi in Phyu Township, Bago Division, and has 5 siblings. Her father died when Thu Zar was a young age. In 1990, intending to complete 10th Standard, she was forced to take time off due in order to support her family during their financially difficult times. In 1991 and in 1992, still unable to attend school, she took the completion exams from her home; both times, because of the pressures of holding a job, studying, and maintaining the home, she was working so hard to support herself and her family

that she failed. Finally, in 1993, she passed 10th Standard.

Thuza moved north to Phyu Township to live and work with her aunt. In 1995 she began with her first year of the distance university program from Bago College, majoring in Burmese. She studied and worked for her aunt during the day, soon completing her distance education. She applied for a teaching position in Pate, a village eight miles away. During the week, she worked as a kindergarten teacher, and on the weekends, she returned to her aunt's residence to earn some extra income. However, the 50 kyat income wasn't enough to sustain herself and her mother and sisters, so in the night she worked in a cheroot (Burmese cigarettes) rolling factory. Thuza has an older brother, who also tried to send money home to the family since their father had died when she was young, and her mother needed all the support she could get to raise her five children. Friends reported that she was often ill and suffered from headaches, but she continued to work for her family. In 1995, Thuza attempted to begin a grassroots campaign and to collect information in her small village, a daunting task which she did as best she could. In 1997, after a one-year closure of all Universities/Colleges inside Burma, only the distance education programs were re-opened, at which time Thida Htwe began her second year studying Burmese. In 1998, she took the third year examination, but her health was poor, and she failed the test.

All throughout this time, as she studied and worked for her family, she showed great interest in the political situation in Burma, actively becoming involved in the democracy movement.

In February 1999, she arrived in Mae Sod, Thailand where she remained for a month of intensive political training in political defiance and women's affairs. During her political training she also had many discussions with other activists in the local organizations. She used to express to them a Burmese metaphor, "When we meet the people, we should treat them like cows (with respect, for they are the key to a family's farm), and when we are faced with the enemy, we should treat them like a lion (with strength and courage)." Traveling to the border and working with other activists, most of whom were men, was a very difficult task for a woman like Thuza to undertake. Despite the obvious improvement in lifestyle that Thailand offered, Thuza never considered staying, "She wanted to go back because she knew there weren't many activists inside Burma. She believed that one should work for the struggle and work for her family. She knew that when she went back to Burma, she would be a leader of the women," says Thein Win, a colleague and friend.

In the summer of 1999, leading up to the '9999' planned demonstrations, Thida Htwe was actively involved in organizing the activities in Ago Township, including the 19 July Martyr's Day demonstration. As a result of her activities, Ago Military Intelligence #3 arrested her on July 23, 1999. They accused her of being connected to ABSDF, and therefore on December 3, 1999, the Military Government sentenced Thida Htwe to life in prison.

Thud's imprisonment has affected her family since she was a major provider for the family's income and supporter of her sisters' education. One of her sister's scholarships to study abroad was revoked after Thud's arrest. Her detainment also led the MI to investigate her older brother's activities. He was later arrested to 29 years imprisonment. The decline in the families' income also unfortunately made it nearly impossible to provide any aid to Thuza while she was in prison. They simply can not afford to visit her. Without additional food and medicine in prison, it is certain that she is suffering physically. One message did manage to reach her family through the variety of connections that exist between prisoners and activists. She conveyed to her family "Don't worry about me. I realize that you have more difficulties outside of prison, and I am sorry for that.....I will continue to carry out my duty in prison, and continue to stand on the side of the people."

The Case of U Do Thwang, NLD MP-elect

U Do Thawng, age 61, a Chin Christian, is currently under detention in Mandalay Prison. He was arrested by MI at midnight on May 21, 1996 while preparing to attend the 6th anniversary of the NLD at Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's residence. He was detained for two weeks at No (17) MIS, Kalemmyo and was tortured the whole night of May 27. The MIS seized a number of books from his residence, sentenced him to a 7-year prison term, and sent him to Mandalay Prison. He was sentenced under Article 5 (j) of the 1950 Emergency Provision Act. U Do Thawng's eldest son Za Dawla was also arrested in Homalin Township, upper Chindwin and sentenced two years. Soon after the father was arrested, his two other sons, Dr Ro Ding (now NLD/LA) and Dr Lal Lawm Thanga (Democratic Voice of Burma, Oslo- Norway) fled to India to escape from the MIS.

U Do Thawng was born in Bo Kyone village, Falam Township, Chin State. He passed his 3-year Medic Training in Rangoon in 1962 with the highest mark in the country. From 1963-1971, he worked as Rural Health Assistant in Thantlang, Matupi and Kanpalet Townships of

Chin State. In 1971, he was arrested for the first time with other prominent Chins by the so called Revolutionary Council led by General Ne Win and spent two years in Myingyan Prison. After his release, he was banned from posting in Chin State and was forcibly transferred to the Sagaing Division. Later he decided to retire from civil servant and joined NLD party in 1989.

He was elected from Kalembo Township constituency-1 in the 1990 general elections. He was then democratically elected, within the party, to represent Sagaing Division NLD. His residence in Kalembo became party office and meeting place for Township NLD. However, following his arrest the party signboard and flags were pulled down and removed by the local authorities.

Since he has been in prison, his wife, Pi Lal Than Sungi, 60, has been allowed to visit him twice a month for an hour per visit. They are not allowed to speak in their own Chin language but are made to speak in Burmese in prison visits. Only family members are allowed to visit him.

U Do Thawng was put into the dark cell for a week in November 1998 for refusing to sit in prison-position while the authority was passing by. After representatives of the ICRC were allowed to visit Burma prisons, the authority provides him enough rice and water to cook but he still has to be provided with curries from outside. After a series of argument with the prison officials, he succeeded to celebrate Christmas in prison in 1999. He was once infected with tuberculosis and still has to get follow-up treatments. He is also suffering from ischaemic heart disease, which allowed him to retire after serving 25 years in the health department. (Source: CHRO)

The Case of U Pa Pa Lay and U Lu Zaw

U Pa Pa Lay and U Lu Zaw belong to an "Anyeint" troupe called Myo Win Mar, or Our Own Way. Anyeint is a Burmese performance genre that blends classical dance and music with skits and satire. The tradition dwindled after SLORC/SPDC seized power in 1988, but latterly it has been revived by a celebrated Burmese comic called Zargana, who has also done time for cracking jokes during Anyeint shows.



On 4 January 1996, the 48th anniversary of Burma's independence, Our Own Way performed for 2,000 members of NLD at the home of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Our Own Way sang songs about the generals, state repression and told gags about government cooperatives: *"In the past, thieves were called thieves. Now they are known as co-operative workers."* Burmese humor has to be indirect, because there is such extensive censorship. In a land without an independent press, live performers can reach an illiterate and technologically disenfranchised audience without access to television or the internet. *"The dance troupe will tell the truth,"* said Our Own Way. *"People call us jokers, but now we're going to achieve democracy; we'd rather be called comedians for democracy."* Their aim: *"To open the eyes and the ears of the people. That is our job."*

Pa Pa Lay and Lu Zaw were arrested, denied legal representation, and not allowed to call or question witnesses. They had called NLD members, including Aung San Suu Kyi, but these witnesses were not allowed to travel to the trial in Mandalay; they were told that their train had broken down. When NLD members reached Mandalay, they found the

courthouse closed. The trial took place in prison. Pa Pa Lay and Lu Zaw were given seven years each for spreading "false news", and sent, in shackles, to break rocks in a labour camp. Prolonged sleep deprivation was reportedly used during their interrogation.

Lu Zaw is now believed to be held in Mandalay, where it is thought he is being made to work on an airport construction site. Pa Pa Lay, who was also imprisoned for 20 months in the early 1990s, is in a prison camp in the far north of Myanmar. (Source: 'New Statesman')

3.10 The International Committee of the Red Cross in Burma's Jails

Since May 1999, workers from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have been visiting prisons in Myanmar. The Red Cross has come across 30,000 inmates, of which 1,450 are held for reasons of "security". Among those held for security reasons are politicians, students and rebel fighters, all arrested by the military regime for membership of "unlawful associations."

Since May 1999, when the prison visits started, the Red Cross has been allowed into 25 jails, all the main ones, including the infamous Insein prison near Yangon. Eight prisons were visited twice. Since the beginning of March 2000, the Red Cross has for the first time also been granted access to labor camps. So far it has seen two agricultural labor camps located near the capital. Many more remain unseen. The labor camps are holding common criminals and having them work on roads as chain gangs, in mines or in the fields. The organization has also inspected, twice, three government "guest houses", where members of NLD are detained. In effect, the "houses" are internment centers.

The Red Cross was given permission to open an office in Yangon in October 1998. There followed lengthy negotiations with the junta over obtaining access to all the detention centers. Per standard Red Cross practice, the ICRC also asked to register all prisoners, to hold talks with them in private and to be allowed repeat visits. At the end of each inspection, ICRC workers make recommendations to the local prison authorities and pass their conclusions, confidentially, to the Prison Department. In addition, the Red Cross is paying for families of "security detainees" to travel to the jail where their relatives are held. (Source: AFP)

Prisoners moved before ICRC visit

In late 2000, ICRC and 'Red Moon' members went to Kawthaung, Tenasserim Division to investigate prisons. However, prior to their arrival, political prisoners (prisoners sentenced under 5/J) from the prison at 9 Mile were moved to another place. In addition, prisoners from New Life Camp (prison labor camp) were kept inside the camp, and soldiers under the supervision of Military Operation (13) based in Bookpyin township were substituted for the prisoners to meet with the ICRC and Red Moon members. Prisoners who have escaped from the prison at 9 Mile say that the conditions of food and health care are very poor and only prisoners who can afford to pay bribes receive enough medical treatment. Therefore, many prisoners die monthly. Moreover, the ICRC members were not given the chance to speak with civilians during their visit. (Source: ALD)

3.11 Partial List of arrested Politicians, including NLD MP-elects and NLD members arrested in 2000

In March 2000, 4 members of the of the NLD Organizing Committee were all sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. They are: Deputy Chairman U Tint Lwin, Deputy Chairman U Myo Kyi, Secretary U Mya Thein, and Joint Secretary U Soe Myint of Kawa township, Pegu Division. The 4 were arrested as a result of their response to the threats and oppression they had been receiving from the Ward and Village PDC, the USDA, and the Police that was attempting to force their resignations. In response, the NLD organizing committee, in order to send letters of complaint to the different authorities, they made copies of the letters at the Han Win Photocopy shop in Pegu. Information about this was given to the Military Intelligence and the Pegu PDC by Ma Thitsa, an employee of the shop resulting in prosecution under the 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Law and Section 5 (10) of the Emergency Provisions Law. The trial proceedings were conducted in secret in contravention of the rules and regulations promulgated by the authorities themselves. The right of defense was denied to the accused. The trial was unfair, unjust and the punishment out of all proportion to the offence. (Source: NLD)

On March 14 2000, U Min Swe, a NLD MP of No 2 constituency, Pyapon District, Irrawaddy Division and his son Ko Myo Min Swe were given no reason but were required to report to the Police station. They were accused of taking 70,000 kyats worth of liquor from one Maung Maung, a total stranger, without making any payment. U Min Swe denied the charge and asked that he be allowed to confront Maung Maung , his accuser. The police refused. This Maung Maung is in fact a person closely associated with the Military Intelligence and one who was seeking personal advantage. The case was heard the next day and they were charged under Section 409 of the Penal Code. At the time the offence was alleged to have been committed, U Min Swe was undergoing a sentence of 3 years and 9 months imprisonment for violating Section 22 and 23 of the Private Tuition Law. (Source: NLD)

On March 29 2000, six members of the NLD organising committee of Magwe Division, Aunglan Township Branch were arrested. They were charged under Section 188 of the Penal Code. Their trial was held on March 31, and all six were sentenced by the Township magistrate to 6 months imprisonment. The six organising committee members were the Chairman U Htoon Kyaw, Deputy Chairman U Kyi Nyunt, Joint Secretary U Sein Maung, U Kyaw Hla, U Nyan Paing and Daw Waing Than, the owner of the building in which the office operates. (Source: NLD)

On April 11 2000, Ma Khin Hla Htay, a member of the NLD organising committee, Bassein township, Irrawaddy Division, who also holds the position of Secretary of the NLD Women's Wing and member of the NLD Youth Wing, was arrested. Local authorities arrested her after they entered and searched her residence, and claimed that they had found a bag full of illegal cash and lottery tickets. Ma Khin Hla Htay and her sister denied ownership of the bag, and Ma Khin Hla Htay bravely put on her NLD party uniform and said that if they wanted to arrest her for her political activities she would take the rap and went along with them. She is presently being illegally held in Bassein jail. (Source: NLD)

At midnight on April 12 2000, the eve of the Buddhist New Year, 38 NLD party members

were arrested from their homes on unknown charges. Nine party members from Dagon, 14 from Kyimyindine and 14 from Mingdalon townships and the party's township chairman from South Okkalapa were arrested by security personnel and dragged from their houses in handcuffs. A total of 38 persons were arrested as listed below:-

- In Dagon Myothit township- A female member of the organising committee, (NLD office building owner) and 8 other youths. (9)- In Kyemyindine township - Township chairman and deputy chairman and 12 youths.(14)- In Mingaladon township - The secretary and joint secretary, member and owner of the office building, 2 members of the women group and 9 youths. (14)- South Okkalapa township - Chairman of the organizing committee. (1)

Shortly following the arrests of members of the Mingaladon NLD Youth Wing on April 12, 2000 the Military Intelligence further arrested three members of the Mingaladon NLD Youth Wing. Among those arrested was U Nyunt Aung, a member of the Mingaladon Organising Committee, whose young daughter had recently died. He was arrested before the traditional religious ceremony of the 7th day following her death. (Source: NLD)



U Aye Thar Aung

On April 24 2000, Aye Tha Aung, a member of the CRPP was arrested by SPDC police at his home. It was not known why he was arrested or where he was being held. Aye Thar Aung, a leading member of the Arakan League for Democracy, serves as the chairman of the Committee for Ethnic Nationalities Affairs of the CRPP. *(Two other leaders of minority ethnic parties, 82-year old Nai Tun Shein of the Mon National Democratic Front and Kyin Shin Htan of the Zomi National Congress were*

arrested last November after they spoke with Alvaro de Soto, then the UN's special envoy to Burma. The 83-year Saw Mra Aung, another ethnic minority leader who was elected Speaker of the CRPP, has been under arrest since the committee was formed in September 1998.) A notice posted in a government information bulletin admitted that the ethnic minority leader had been taken into custody. It accused him of being connected with "outlawed armed groups operating along the Thai-Myanmar border" and blamed him for "creating misunderstanding" between the military junta and cease-fire armies in eastern and northern Burma. On June 7 2000 he was sentenced to a 21 year prison term. He was denied the right to a defense lawyer. Following the sentence, Aye Tha Aung's family had only been allowed to see him once, on July 27. (Source: NLD)

On April 30 2000, 41 members of the NLD Youth Wing of Taungdwingyi township, Magwe Division were arrested without arrest warrants, following a meeting at the Youth Wing branch office on April 29. The houses of the Chairman of the organizing committee, U Mya Saing, and the Secretary of the organizing committee, U Tin Win were raided without search warrants. Two other members of the organizing committee, and 37 young men and women from several different villages were also handcuffed and taken away and all were detained at No 3 Taungdwingyi Police Lock Up. Shortly after, 32 of the NLD members including township's NLD chairman U Mya Saing, were taken to the headquarters of the locally-based LIB No. 103 for investigation. Eight of the 32 NLD members were charged and prosecuted by local police and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment with hard labor under section 5/j. They were sentenced at the Taungdwingyi court on May 10, 2000. On May 11, all 32 arrested NLD members were transferred to Thayet Prison. The remaining

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uncharged 25 NLD members remained in detention for further interrogation, and were released 2 months later. See appendix # 1. (Source: NLD, ABSDF, AAPP)

In early May 2000, 4 members of the NLD were detained in Mandalay Division. U Than Lwin (NLD Member of Parliament for Constituency 2, Madaya township, Mandalay Division and Chairman of Township Organizing Committee), U Kyaw Swe (Secretary), U Nyein Maung (Treasurer), and U Tin Aung (Youth Wing leader) were all illegally arrested and taken away by the Military Intelligence. Burmese press reports said local constituents had expressed no confidence in U Than Lwin, and the others were accused of threatening peace and stability. On May 18 2000, U Than Lwin was sentenced to 9 years imprisonment for, "making subversive speeches in his constituency." (Source: NLD)

On May 1 2000, township authorities arrested the Magwe Division, Taungdwingyi township NLD executive committee and 25 members following a local level NLD meeting held in Taungdwingyi township on April 29. Altogether 32 NLD members were arrested for attending this meeting. They were mostly young people and included two women. They were taken to the headquarters of the locally-based Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) No. 103 for investigation. Seven of the 32 NLD members were charged and prosecuted by local police and sentenced to imprisonment at the Taungdwingyi court on May 10. (see below) On May 11, all 32 arrested NLD members were transferred to Thayet Prison. The 25 NLD members who had not been sentenced were detained in Thayet Prison until May 19. During their time of detention, they were severely maltreated. They were given food which was impossible to eat, and put into crowded and unsanitary rooms where they were unable to clean themselves or their waste. They were given no medical treatment, were denied family visitation, and were beaten and subjected to severe harassment and physical and mental torture. They were released only after their parents were threatened into signing papers in which they promised to prevent their children from associating with the NLD. (Source: NLD and ABSDF statements)

On May 7, 2000 U Kyi Lwin, an NLD MP, was arrested by the SPDC. U Kyi Lwin was an elected official of the Ngaphae constituency, Ngaphae Township, Magwe Division, and the NLD Ngaphae Township organizer. The police department arrived at U Kyi Lwin's residence without proper notification and began searching. Upon this search the officials found some hardwood located near his house. The police considered this a crime and charged U Kyi Lwin with illegal trafficking of wood. In addition, the police claimed that the pharmacy that U Kyi Lwin owned was illegitimate so they detained U Kyi Lwin. The incident was reported to Ava through a source in Ngaphae. U Kyi Lwin is a 45 year old retired teacher who was a vocal participant in the 1988 uprisings, and then ran for the NLD during the 1990 elections. (Source: AvaNewsGroup)

On May 10, 2000, NLD organizing committee deputy chairman of Wuntho Township, Saigaing Division, U Nyein Aung a physician practicing German Homeopathic Medicine, was arrested by the Special Drug squad from Katha, upon charges of drug possession. However, no evidence of the alleged crime was produced. Then on May 12, the authorities arrested NLD Treasurer U Kyaw Thoung, also a physician of Wuntho Township at his residence in Namkhan (Kyauk-pa-sat shwedwin camp). Action was also taken against him on the allegation that the drug, "atromin" was found on the premises. These charges were also unfounded. (Source: NLD)

On May 10 2000, SPDC authorities sentenced 8 NLD members, including the

Taungdwingyi township NLD chairman to 7 years imprisonment with hard labour. They had been arrested on May 1 2000 (see above) for attending a NLD meeting in Taungdwingyi, Magwe Division. The jailed NLD members were all charged under the 1950 Emergency Provision Act Section 5 (J). They include: U Mya Saing, NLD (chairman), U Tin Win (secretary), U Sai San (township level organizer), U Ya Tin (village level organizer), U Htay Lwin (member), U Sein Maung (member) and Aung Kyaw Moe (NDL-Youth). They are serving their sentences in Thayetmyo Jail. All have been mistreated, and the Chairman, U Mya Saing suffered head injuries due to beatings. (Source: ABSDF and NLD statements)

On May 16 2000, 3 NLD members (U Aung Zaw, Dagon Township constituency; U Hla Tun, Kemmendine Township constituency; and Dr Than Win, North Okkalapa constituency) were arrested by MI. The SPDC gave no reason for their arrest. The youngest of the detained, U Aung Zaw, was elected in Dagon constituency where the War Office is located and where most of the military circles live. U Hla Tun was arrested for the first time in October 1990 and was sentenced to 25 years of imprisonment. He was in jail for eight years and was only recently released. The 3 were released in June. (see release of prisoners) (Source: DVB)

On May 17 2000, the SPDC claimed it had arrested two "couriers" for the NLD and a party official allegedly involved in a plot to destabilize the government. Colonel Than Tun, who heads the political department of the Office of Strategic Studies (OSS), said those arrested were smuggling messages and party materials in and out of the country and held them up as "concrete" evidence of a plot to destabilize the military government. He identified two of them as husband and wife team Kyaw Myo Min and Ma Kyi Kyi, who live in Mon State near the Thai border. He accused the couple of running materials between the NLD and exiled dissidents in Thailand. The third person was an NLD township secretary identified as Tint Wai. Three young students detained at the same time were returned to the custody of their parents, while three other suspects remain on the run, Than Tun said. (Source: AFP)

On May 19 2000, members of the Mandalay division organizing committee, the Women's and Youth Wing and the township organizing committee were illegally, forcefully arrested and detained without a known cause. They were:

1. U Kan Tun (Secretary, Division Organizing Committee).
2. U Ko Gyi
3. U Tun Win
4. U Ye Myint Aung
5. U Hla U
6. U Pe Tin
7. U Aung Tint
8. U Myint Soe
9. U Sein Hla Aung
10. Ko Zaw Win tun
11. Ko Min Thu
12. Ko Kyaw Kyaw
13. Daw Win Mya Mya
14. Daw Than Than Sein
15. Daw Khin Aye Myint
16. Daw Nu Nu Naing
17. Daw Tin Myint (Source: NLD)

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

On May 22 2000, 15 members of the NLD Pegu Division, Pegu Township organizing committee, including 3 women were illegally arrested and put into solitary confinement at the No 1, Pegu jail. There were viable reports that they were being interrogated by a detachment of the MI, unit 3, and police personnel under very cruel and torturous conditions with hoods over their faces for entire days and nights. (Source: NLD)

On May 26 2000, U Soe Han, Advocate of the Chief Court, Member of the NLD Rangoon Division, Syriam township Organizing Committee and Chairman of the NLD Legal Advisory Body, and 3 others were arrested. They were charged by the MI for failing to report their overnight visit to U Soe Han's mother's house, although they had indeed reported their visit as required. Family members were denied their right to visit and defend the accused, which is ensured under a SLORC/SPDC law. Bail was also unlawfully refused. The 3 were found guilty, and charged 50 kyats each. However, U Soe Han was not released and further charges were brought against him (theft and impeding a public servant). The MI found him guilty, again without counsel or right to defense, and sentenced him to 3 months imprisonment. (Source: NLD)

On May 29 2000, the following NLD members were arrested:

- 1) U Myint, private tuition teacher, Tamwe township
- 2) Ma Aye Aye Chit, private tuition teacher, Tamwe township
- 3) Ko Min Zaw, NLD youth, Sanchaung township
- 4) Ma Thuzar, NLD youth, Sanchaung township
- 5) Ko Myo Naing, NLD youth, Sanchaung township
- 6) Ko Lin Naing, NLD youth, Sanchaung township
- 7) Ko Lin Lin, NLD youth, Sanchaung township
- 8) Ko Han Aye, NLD youth, Sanchaung township
- 9) Ko Thet Oo, NLD youth, Sanchaung township
- 10) U Thaung, NLD member, Owner of the building, Hlaing Tharyar township
- 11) Ko Aung Zaw, NLD youth, Hlaing Tharyar township
- 12) Ko Tin Ngwe, NLD youth, Hlaing Tharyar township
- 13) Ma Aye Aye Ye, NLD youth, Hlaing Tharyar township
- 14) Ma Win Pa Pa, NLD youth, Hlaing Tharyar township
- 15) Ko Khin Maung Myint, NLD youth, Insein township
- 16) Ko Khin Maung Cho, Humanitarian Assistance Committee, Insein Township
- 17) Ko Khin Maung Htay, NLD youth, Insein township
- 18) Ko Khin Maung Shein, member of divisional law assistance committee, Insein township
- 19) Ma Than Than Su Tin, NLD youth, Insein township

(The were all reportedly sent to Insein Jail.) (Source: NLD)

On June 14 2000, five MI agents, two females and U Kyaw Yin, Secretary of the Ward USDA, captured and detained Ma Moe (a) Ma Ni Ni Khaing (Assistant to the Treasurer of the township organizing committee) and her elder sister Ma Yee Yee Khaing and an infant aged 1 year and 7 months at the home of Daw Myint Myint Aye in Bahan Township, Rangoon Division. These women were detained after the officials were unable to find and arrest Ma Pauk and Ma Swe Swe Khaing. U Kyaw Yin had visited the home of Daw Myint Myint Aye 2 times prior, looking for the girls. The involvement of the USDA, a social welfare organization, in the detention of NLD Youth Wing members, is notable as the

organization was not designed for use in intelligence service or given administrative power. (Source: NLD)

On June 24, 2000 at 9:30 a.m., NLD organizing committee members from Taungdwingyi in Magwe division, U Thoung Sein (a) U Kyauk Khe, U Soe, U Pa Lay and U Pu, traveled to Pa-ya-kwin village (a distance of about 4 miles from Chaung-ne village). Waing San, an NLD member who lived in that village had been arrested under Section 5 (10) and their mission was to obtain his household census list and his wife's, Daw Khin Lay Kyi's, registration papers to forward to the International Red Cross. At 12 noon the same day, USDA chairman Aung Win and local authority chairman Tha Sein telephoned the police at Taungdwingyi and Set-thwa and reported that the Taungdwingyi NLD was "organizing the villagers". Police from both the stations lay in wait and arrested the NLD members on their return home and detained them at the Taungdwingyi Police station. Their families were not permitted to see them. On June 26, 2000, they were charged under Section 505 (b) for being in possession of NLD documents. NLD is a legally constituted political party and they are entitled to possess these documents. The complainants were Police Superintendent Thet Naing, and U Myo Myint, Township legal officer. The NLD members were sentenced to 2 years imprisonment with hard labor. (Source: NLD)

On June 30, 2000, NLD member U San Win, a resident of Nget-pwa-kwin village in Nyaung-don township, Irrawaddy division, went to the NLD central head office and purchased some statements for the members in his area to read. On July 1, 2000, while cycling home to his village at about 11:30 a.m., he was arrested by, Saing Ko Ko Lat, a member of the Me-za-li-auk-su inspection team, for possessing four NLD statements. That night four policemen, led by Soe Win and Htein Lin, chairman of the Nget-pwa-kwin village authority, went to U San Win's house and conducted a search. They left without finding any contraband. Later they returned and claimed that a small syringe had been found. Only his paralyzed mother and 70-year old father (U Than Aung) were in the house at the time. They took his father to the Me-za-le-auk inspection center and forced him to sign a paper saying that the syringe belonged to his son. U San Win was being held at the Nyaung-don police station when he was confronted with this search form bearing his father's signature. He was told that if he refused to confess, action would be taken against his father for making a false statement. On Monday July 3, 2000, after completion of this trumped up charge, he was sent to court and found guilty under Section 27 (1) by the Nyaungdon township judge and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment. He was also made to pay kyats 300/- for transportation to the Ma-u-bin jail and kyats 200/- for lock up fees. Htein Lin, the SPDC chairman involved in this incident threatened to imprison anyone who reported back to the NLD central office. (Source: NLD)

The arrest of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, top members of the NLD Central Executive Committee, and NLD youth members at Dala

On August 24 2000, NLD Chairman U Tin Oo, General Secretary Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Rangoon Division Organizing Committee Chairman and Central Executive Committee member U Soe Myint, Rangoon Division Organizing Committee member Dr. U Myo Aung and sixteen members of the NLD Youth Wing (including the two drivers) were prevented from visiting Kungyangon and Kawhmu townships to reorganize the youth wing. They were stopped 3 miles outside of Dala at Kyansitha ward, and told to return to Rangoon, which the party refused to do. (See chapter on movements for more details about the blockade.) The blockade lasted from August 24 to September 1, 2000.

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

On September 1 2000, at 11:30 pm Commander Hla Myint Maw from the special unit of Military Intelligence (12) was ordered by Major -General Kyaw Win, Deputy Director of Military Intelligence to arrest Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Tin Oo and U Soe Myint and the 16 NLD youths, and to return them to Rangoon. In carrying out the orders, (5) policewomen from the information unit of the office of the Bureau of special investigation (BSI) stationed at 9th mile, Mayangone Township, Major Than Tun from the DDSI and Office of Strategic Studies (OSS), Chief Police Superintendent Aung Nwe, Police Superintendent Myo Lwin, and a force of around 200 security personnel including MIS Major Ne Soe and Teza suddenly traveled to Dala and raided the camp. Whilst Major Than Tun was talking to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo, the (5) policewomen without warning forcibly apprehended and handcuffed Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and violently pushed her into a car and drove her to Rangoon . At the same time the electric supply to Dala was temporarily cut off. The NLD youths refused to be handcuffed and as a result there was a brawl between the youths and the police in which 9 youths were beaten hard and seriously injured. But they were not hospitalised and directly sent to Insein prison, together with U Soe Myint, chairman of the NLD Rangoon Division Organizing Committee, and Dr. Myo Aung.

Those detained in Insein jail were:

U Soe Myint, Age 78, (a member of CEC and Chairman of Rangoon division NLD), Dr. Myo Aung (member of Rangoon Division NLD organizing committee) and the following NLD youth members:



U Soe Myint

- 1- Htun Zaw Zaw (Rangoon division)
- 2- Myo Nyunt (Rangoon division)
- 3- Htun Myint (same)
- 4- Thein Lwin (same)
- 5- Aung Htoo (same)
- 6- Khin Oo (same)
- 7- Moe Thaw (a) Pauk Pauk (same)
- 8- Myint Kyaw (same)
- 9- Shwe Gyo (same)
- 10- Than Htut (same)
- 11- Nyan Lin Aung (same)
- 12- Aye Myein Lin (same)
- 13- Than Htun (same)
- 14- Thein Swe (Irrawaddy Division)
- 15- Zaw Min Kyaw (same)
- 16- Min Aung Nyo (Mon State)

The NLD members of Dala township who were nearby were arrested at the same time and then released after a few hours. However, they were arrested again in the afternoon of the same day and sent to jail. Force was applied to U Tin Oo who was transported to his residence where he was dragged out of the car very aggressively. U Tin Oo was dropped off at his home and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was temporarily taken to an unknown destination before being taken to her residence. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi including (9) members of CRPP were then pressured to sign documents dissolving the CRPP. They were

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all threatened with being immediately driven to where U Aye Thar was being held and then imprisoned, if they did not sign the documents dissolving the CRPP.

The Committee members of the CRPP were separated from each other, and their telephone lines disconnected. They were told not to attend the party offices or go outside their homes, and they were all placed under house arrest. The 16 NLD youths who were separated from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at 12:30 pm were placed in special solitary confinement at Insein jail, and held for investigation. The persons in charge of this investigation was said to have been Major Hla Thet Maw, and Major Than Tun. Dr Myo Aung, Ko Tun Zaw and an unknown youth (from the 16 NLD youths) were said to be dangerously ill. (Source: NLD, ABSDF, HRDU)

On September 2, 2000, in the early morning, Major Than Tun and security personnel arrived in two trucks at the Shwegondaing Road NLD office, and ransacked the offices and the library, and took away documents and files, and (4) responsible members who were in the office. All the 10 CEC members of NLD were put under house arrest. All telephone lines were cut and no one was allowed to enter or go out, including the residences of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo. Upon arriving back from Dala, U Tin Oo had a chance to make contact outside of his home for about 15 before his telephone line was suddenly cut and his house was blocked from the outside. The NLD MP's homes are also under watch, and all their residential phone lines were also cut on September 2nd. Some were reconnected on September 3rd, yet all the residences remained under watch and the phone lines tapped.

In addition, all NLD members and other people who came to NLD HQ on the morning of September 2nd without knowing the situation were arrested and taken away by trucks to jail. During the period of house arrest, Central Executive Committee member U Lwin was not permitted to visit the surgery for his physical ailment and was told by the security guard that he would not be permitted to go anywhere at all and to avoid responsibility he said that these were orders from above. U Lwin's request for visitation by certain doctors was refused. However, later on after repeated demands for medical attention of U Lwin and others, permission was granted. On 14 September 2000 at 9:00 a.m. NLD Chairman U Aung Shwe was invited by SPDC Secretary 1, General Khin Nyunt and was informed that all movement restrictions placed on NLD Central Executive members were withdrawn and the head office was also opened. (Source: NLD, ABSDF, HRDU)



U Saw Naing Naing



U Tum Myint

Both arrested on September 13, sentenced to 21 years in prison

On September 13 and 14 2000, 11 members of the NLD were arrested following a NLD member's statement of 12 September regarding the military's prevention of Aung San Suu Kyi's travel at Dala. The 11 were arrested by Military Intelligence Unit 14 and detained in Insein Jail.

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On December 14 2000, they were tried in a closed session military tribunal in Insein Jail. 5 of the detainees were each sentenced to 21-year prison terms for violations of the 1975 State Protection and 1950 5-J Emergency Provision Acts. No official statement was issued by the SPDC regarding the sentencing of the NLD members and their relatives were not officially informed. Recent information suggests several are in very poor health. (Source: NLD, AAPP, HRDU)

(HRDU Note: Outside media sources listed Aye Kyu (Monywa Aung Shein), an NLD member, as one of the arrested NLD members. It was also reported that Kyaw Sein Oo, an NLD member who had assisted in printing the statement was sentenced to a 7-year prison term under the Printers and Publishers Registration Act. It is possible that Kyaw Sein Oo and Kyaw Sein Aung are the same.)

Name	Position	Sentence
U Saw Naing Naing	NLD MP for Pazundaung township, Rangoon Division	21-years in prison, for violations of the 1975 State Protection and 1950 5-J Emergency Provision Acts
U Soe Han	Member of Rangoon Division Organizing Committee	"
U Aung Myint,(or) Pyapon Ne Lon Oo	Popular Journalist, Poet, and Chairman of Bahan township NLD Organisation Committee	"
U Tun Myint	NLD HQ staff	"
U Soe	NLD Deputy Chairman	
U Kyaw Sein Aung	NLD Chairman of Kungyangon Organizing Committee	
U Htein Win	NLD Deputy Chairman	
U Sein Htay	NLD Deputy Chairman	
U Zaw Oo	NLD Secretary	
U San Myaing	NLD Treasurer	
U Tin Nyunt	Member of Kungyangon organizing committee	



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi



U Tin Oo



U Aung Shwe



U Hla Pe



Naw ohn Hla

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, top members of the NLD Central Executive Committee, and NLD supporters arrested at the Rangoon Central Railway Station

On September 21 2000, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo attempted to travel by train to Mandalay to investigate reports of NLD repression there. The authorities refused to allow her to board the final train of the day which left at 9 PM. The group was told that all trains were full, but remained at the station until all the trains had departed. The authorities alleged that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi "lashed out at a station cleaning crew" before being requested to leave. Scores of plainclothes officers and police in riot gear were sent to the station, and journalists were ordered to leave the area. There was tight security around the station, with

shops and businesses closed. At 1 AM, U Tin Oo was taken into custody by the authorities and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was taken to her home and put under house arrest. About 100 of her supporters were herded into trucks by military police at the station and taken away. (See appendix # 2) Seven other members of the NLD central executive committee were also confined to their homes.

A commentary published on September 26 in the Myanmar Alin and Kyemon newspapers said Suu Kyi's house arrest was necessary because she had incited unrest. *"If such restrictions had not been imposed, the nation-building tasks in progress in the country today would not have been smooth,"* *"The people do not accept Suu Ky's activities to incite unrest as they understand unrest is not democracy. The government had to put a brake on her unruliness in accord with the desire of the people."* Also on September 26, a government spokesman insisted the current restrictions on Suu Kyi and her colleagues were temporary, but could not say how long they would last. As of October 2000, all other members of the Central Executive Committee also remained under house arrest. They were not allowed to leave their homes except for emergency medical treatment. In October sources inside Burma reported that the military regime's claim that Vice Chairman U Tin Oo is being detained at a state guesthouse is untrue and that he is being held at the Yekyi Aing Military Intelligence Interrogation Center. All members of the NLD CEC were released from house arrest in late 2000, with the exception of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Tin Oo, and U Aung Shwe, who remained under custody of the SPDC as of May 2001. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi regular food purchases continued to be thoroughly checked by security personnel, and she was restricted from having visitors. (Source: HRDU, Inside Sources) (See appendix # 2)

NLD "Guest Houses" and new restrictions

From March 2000, the military stopped the practice of allowing the NLD MP's from Rangoon Division, living in "guest houses" to return to their homes fortnightly. Previously this had been allowed, and the subsequent separation from family has had negative effects on the physical and mental health of the detainees, who have been detained without cause since September 1998. (Source: NLD)

Hunger Strike and resulting interrogation of Arrested MP's

In May 2000, the majority of the NLD MP's incarcerated on September 6, 1998 staged a hunger strike. The SPDC and M.I. responded to the demands of the hunger strikers by inviting representatives to 'Ethay Yay Tha Hotel' for discussion. When the representatives arrived, they were arrested by the authorities and interrogated to solicit who instigated the strike. Those who refused to cooperate were threatened. After they were interrogated by the military intelligence personnel, some were returned to the original camps while others were transferred to military camps in regions infested with poisonous snakes and centipedes. Five of the MP's were by force removed from the original holding centers to an unknown center. The demands of the hunger strikers were as follows:

1. That every Member of Parliament arrested and held in custody illegally since September 6, 1998 be immediately and unconditionally released.
2. That every member of the NLD Youth Wing and NLD organising committee members incarcerated since the April 12, 2000 be immediately and unconditionally released.
3. That the 1961 Habitual Offenders Act be abolished and all those NLD members whose

movements have been restricted as a result of the Act be immediately relieved from the terms under which they have been held.

4. That every political prisoner suffering imprisonment since 1988 be immediately and unconditionally released.

5. That all political parties be allowed to function and operate according to democratic principles. (Source: HRDU, PD Burma)

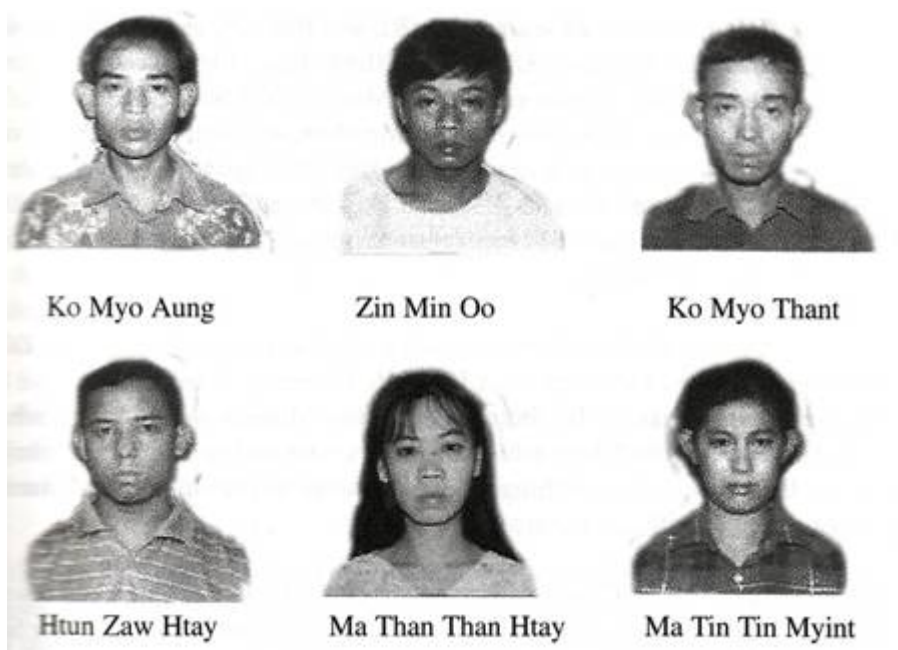
3.11 Partial List of arrested activists and opposition forces in 2000

On February 29 2000, Saw Tin Oo was deported by Thai police to Burma and immediately arrested by SPDC military intelligence. Saw Tin Oo had been arrested by Thai police outside of the Burmese embassy in Bangkok on October 1, 1999 - the day that the "Vigorous Burmese Students Warriors" had seized the embassy. He had been held in the Bangkok Immigration Detention Center until his deportation. Saw Tin Oo was allegedly a member of "God's Army" and was accused of being part of the embassy seizure plans. On May 18 2000 the Yangon East District Court gave Saw Tin Oo the death sentence for high treason under Section 122 (2) of Penal Code, three years' imprisonment under Section 17(1) of 1908 Unlawful Associations Act and five years' imprisonment under Section 13 (1) of 1947 Immigration Act. (Source: HRDU)

In May 2000, 3 contributors to the opposition newspaper, MoJo, were arrested by MI in Burma. They are: Tint Wae, of KaMarYut (near Rangoon), Ko Myo and Ma Htay Htay, both of Bilin (Mon state). They were accused by the authorities of collecting dissident news and secretly distributing copies of MoJo, which is linked to the NLD. At a press conference in Rangoon on 17 May Colonel Than Htun, an MIS officer, accused MoJo of trying to destabilise the country. 6 other MoJo contributors had been arrested in Burma in 1999, bringing the total to 9. These 9 journalists face prison sentences of up to 10 years. (Source: RSF)

In June 2000, 8 student activists, members of the ABFSU, were arrested by the Military Intelligence. They were accused in SPDC state-run media of violent terrorist activities, put in MI interrogation centers, then detained at Insein. As of May 2001, they were still being detained in Insein Prison, Rangoon, and had not yet been given a trial or sentenced. The arrested students were:

- (1) Ma Than Than Htay (a) Akyi Htay, age 33
 - (2) Ma Tin Tin Myint
 - (3) Htun Zaw Htay (a) Htun Htun
 - (4) Ko Aye Win
 - (5) Zin Min Oo (a) Ah Nge Lay, age 23
 - (6) Myo Aung (a) Ah Nge Lay, age 25
 - (7) Ko Myo Thant (a) Ko Myo Sat, age 32
 - (8) Ko Kyaw Htay (a) Japan Gyi (a) Ko Latt, age 30
- (Source: ABFSU-FAC)



(The SPDC displayed these low quality pictures of the ABFSU members who were arrested in June 2000 in the State-run media. Six of the 8 arrested are shown here)

On September 13 2000, Cheng Poh, a well-known 77-year old lawyer was sentenced to 14 years in jail for allegedly distributing foreign press clippings with anti-government slogans written on the back. Cheng Poh had been arrested in July, and detained in Insein Prison up until the time of sentence, which was given by a special court inside the compound of Insein prison. The state prosecution accused Cheng Poh of copying anti-government foreign media publications and distributing them with statements written on the reverse, such as "No Freedom, Our Mouths Are Sealed." He was given seven years under the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act and seven years under the 1962 Printers and Publishers Act to be served consecutively. His family plans to appeal the verdict. There are concerns for his health. (Source: AP)

3.12 Reported incidents of civilians arbitrarily arrested and detained in 2000

On January 8 2000, a unit of troops from IB No. 54, led by Captain Myint Naing, went to the villages in Tee Lon village tract and arrested several people suspected to be in connection with rebels. People whose names were on the list that the troops brought with them were arrested without questioning. The troops went to Daw Parpah and Daw The villages and ordered all villagers to gather at a football ground. They then read the names on the paper and forced these people out of the crowd, tied them up and tortured them in the presence of the rest of the villagers. Some of the soldiers looted gold and livestock from the houses in the village while people were convened in the football ground.

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The first batch of arrested people were; Hay Reh, 35, Raw Reh, 55, Tra Reh, 45, Mia Reh, 35, Noh Reh, 28, Eu Reh, 31, Hah Du, 58, Pastor Bot Cah, 27, Go Reh, 25, Tre Reh, 35, Ywa Reh, 20, Pam Reh, 50, Lwe Moe (female), 30, Wei Reh, 25, and Mya Reh, 30 from Daw The village, Hla Pe, 48, La Dal, 33, Doy Reh, 20, Mo Reh, 30, Eai Reh, 56, Naw Reh, 30 and Pwa Reh, 20, from Daw Parpah village, Tio Mee, 35, Noh Reh, 26, Rah Reh, 25, an unknown villager from Wam Ngaw village and Daing Mein, 45, from Nam Sukuay village.

The second batch of arrested people were; Fah Reh, 35, Mew Reh, 45, Kwi Reh, 25, Ohn Feh, 45, Moi Reh, 40, and Fre Reh, 35, from Daw Parpah village. As of April 2000, some of these 33 people arrested had been released but others were still detained at the military base. (Source: KNAHR)

On January 16 2000, one man and three women of Pahoe village, Lopwa Koe District, Karenni State were arrested by troops from LIB 516, Company 4, led by Maj. Aye Kyaw while they were on their way to the church. Four more villagers were arrested when the troops reached another village. All the arrested villagers were tied up with string - they tried to escape while the troops were searching the village for properties to take with them. The troops then set fire to the village. (Source: KNAHR)

On January 19 2000, U Than Chaun of No 3 Saing-kone quarters, Shwe-goo township, Kachin State was charged sentenced to suffer two years rigorous imprisonment under Section 505 (b) of the Penal Code. U Than Chaun had been a proprietor of a coffee shop, and on December 18, 1999 the Shwe-goo Police arrested him and seized the radio in the coffee shop because the radio had been tuned in to Voice of America (VOA) (Burmese Section). While in prison, his distraught wife who suffered from heart ailment and high blood pressure passed away. U Than Chaun who is 70 years old suffers from medical problems. (Source: NLD)

On January 20 2000, about 70 well-armed soldiers from LIB 428 entered Misar Padeh village, Lopwa Koe District, Karenni State and arrested 40 villagers. They separated the men and women, then took their names and pictures. The troops then searched all the households and took all the belongings that they saw. All the villagers domestic animals were eaten by the troops as well. (Source: KNAHR)

On January 24 2000, a farmer, U Han Tin of Chaung-sauk village, Khan Tet village tract, Zeegon township, Pegu Division was arrested because he had defaulted in supplying the full quota of paddy due to bad weather conditions during the previous year end of crop season. Furthermore he was unable to pay the prescribed cash in lieu of the paddy quota. (Source: NLD)

On January 29, 2000, SPDC troops of Murng-Khark-based LIB328 arrested 2 Lahu villagers, Kya Yae (m), aged 21 and Kya Pae (m), aged 22, of Nam Laek village, Tong Pha Kao tract, Murng-Khark township, and detained them in the military base. The Lahu villager leaders were forced to exchange a cow for their release. (Source: SHRF)

In February 2000, U San Htun, an Officer-in-charge of the Maungdaw Police Station, who is notorious for his extreme hatred towards Rohingya community, arrested six innocent Rohingya youths under a concocted charge of drug addicts. They were sentenced to jail for a term of 14 years without trial. They have since been moved to Sittwe jail. (Source: ARNO)

On February 11 2000, a Mon farmer, Nai Tun Shwe, from Kawpee-htaw village in Kalortort village tract of Mudon Township, Mon State was arrested by authorities and police after he failed to sell the remaining amount of paddy that he owed to the government paddy buying centers. In December 1999 the village headmen and paddy-buying authorities had set for him to sell 192 baskets of paddy for his 12 acres of land, even though he had lost some crops due to flooding in the 1999 rainy season. From December to January, he had managed to sell about 131 baskets of paddy, but 61 baskets remained to be sold.. On February 5, the village headmen warned him to sell the remaining as quickly as possible, but he was unable to do this, and so he was arrested at his house and detained for 25 days. During his time in detention, the authorities forced his family to sell the remaining paddy and he was released after his wife sold the full amount of paddy. (Source: HURFOM)

On February 12 2000, troops from IB 332 captured 30 men from Wan Phai Long, Mong Pan Township, Shan State and detained them in the monastery of Hsao Pet. 10,000 kyats was demanded for their release. (Source: SSANews)

On February 18 2000, Mudon Township authorities and paddy-buying officials went to Kamawet village, Mudon township, Mon State to force villagers who had failed to sell the paddy quota to comply. These authorities, together with village militia troops, arrested Mi Phaw Tin, F, age 51, and her son, Mehm Raing Chai, 21 years old and brought them to Mudon township police station. The two were arrested in place of their husband/father who had not been able to sell his paddy quota and had not been at the house when the officials arrived. The mother and the son were detained in the police station for 7 days and the authorities also gave pressure to Nai Nyein Han to sell the set amount of paddy for the release of his wife and son. The farmer pled with the officials to detain him instead of his family, but the authorities refused. The farmer was then forced to sell some of his belongings, buy paddy, and give it to the authorities for the release of his wife and son. (Source: HURFOM)

On February 28 2000, SPDC soldiers of IB 287 made a search for farmers who had been working in the "free fire area". The soldiers were stationed at Wan Sing to stand guard on the Mong Nong-Wan Sing highway Laikha township, Shan State and were bivouacking at Loi Sork. During their patrol in the east of Loi Nang Mai, they arrested 5 farmers, all females, from Wan Koong Nong Wuo, Naa Poy tract, Wan Sing, Shan State. They were:

1. Nang Lu
2. Nang Ong
3. Nai Nang
4. Nang Yong and
5. Nang Kya Yong

On reaching their village the victims were released after they had paid 45,000 kyats and 30 tickals (1/2 kg.) of raw opium. (Source: SSANews)

On February 25 2000, the commanding officer of the Western Area Command # 4 arrested 14 Ulema (religious leaders) from Ziban Chaung (Ziban Khali) village under Bawlibazar township for alleged reconstruction by the villagers of their age-old village mosque. The arrested persons include Moulvi Khaled son of Moulvi Sayed and Moulvi Rashid. The military prohibits building or repairs of any mosques or Muslim institutes particularly in Arakan. (Source: ARNO)

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On March 20 2000, SPDC authorities arrested a villager and put him into jail in Karen state. According to a relative of the victim, the villager SPDC authorities arrested the villager, U Ba Myint (40 years) and handed over him to the MI officers of Moulmein Myo (town) who put him into the jail without any trial. U Ba Myint was from Fahloon village, Papun township, Karen state. Fahloom village consists of about 180 houses and is about 110 miles away in the south from Pa-an, the capital of Karen state. (Source: MICB)

On March 24 2000, Nine 10th standard students were arrested and sentenced to three months in jail. They were arrested as a result of an incident on March 13, in which they had led a group of motorcyclists around Mergui, Tenasserim Division, with US flags tied to their motorcycles. The authorities took the incident as an act of political defiance aimed at disparaging the image of the military government through nonviolent means. The SPDC then issued a decree banning the display of foreign flags on festival pavilions and cars and prohibiting the wearing of flags as headbands during the Thingyan [Water] Festival. The SPDC also put its Union Solidarity and Development Association members and military intelligence units on alert to watch foreign travelers participating in the Water Festival. (Source: DVB)

On April 21, 2000, 3 villagers, Zaai Paain, aged 22, Zaai Leng, aged 26 and Zaai Kam, aged 31, from Saalaa Wan Mai village in Phang Min tract, Ta-Khi-Laek township, were arrested and extorted 30,000 baht each by police and 7 members of the township USDA. The police and USDA members arrested the 3 villagers at their farms and accused them of being amphetamine traffickers and detained them in a Buddhist temple at Saw Kong village in the same tract. They were threatened with being sent to prison if they refused to pay. The farmers were so frightened that they finally agreed to pay the money and sent one of them, Zaai Paan, to borrow it from their fellow villagers. Later, these farmers had to sell their livestock and other belongings to pay back their debts. The victims were known among the local people to be simple farmers who grew rice and soya-bean and kept some livestock. Their financial status was no better than any other ordinary local farmers and they had never engaged in any kind of trading business. (Source: SHRF)

On April 23, 2000, a patrol of 30 SPDC troops from IB244 arrested 3 Akha villagers of Loi Mi village in Huay Phaa tract, Kaeng-Tung township and extorted 7,000 kyat, after their families negotiated the price down from 30,000 kyat, for the release of each of them. The 3 men were Kham Maw, age 36, Ai Lu, age 41, and Aa Noo, age 29. (Source: SHRF)

On April 25, 2000, 4 vehicle owners were arrested from Taung-tha, Mandalay Division. They were arrested following a letter of appeal they had written to the Secretary 2 of the SPDC requesting that the unreasonable demands of "voluntary labor" be reconsidered. They had been ordered to use their vehicles to haul gravel for a road, yet there were no passable roads which led to the construction site. The vehicle owners were U Aung Gyaw, U Maung Nyo, U Nyo Hla, and U Htay Gyi, all respected town elders. They were illegally arrested under Section 5(f) and held in the Police Lock Up at Taung-tha. U Aung Gyaw, who suffered from high blood pressure was denied medical attention during the detention, and died in custody. (See 'Death in Custody') (Source: NLD)

On May 2 2000, a combined troop of about 70 well-armed soldiers from SPDC LIB 427 and the KNPLF patrolled around the Daw Krawku, Mosoe area, Karenni State and arrested three village heads from Daw Krawku, Daw Kuleh and Hteeduku villages. (Source: KNAHR)

On May 5 2000, SPDC police officers of Kyauk Se main police station arrested two Muslim men and sentenced them each to 15 years. The police officers of the main police station of Kyauk Se (Myo) town demanded kyats 10,000 each from the two Muslims and a quarrel took place between them. Later, the police officers arrested and put them into the jail. According to a villager (name withheld) the police officers further warned that if the news leaked out, the police officers would frame (false) political case under section 5-J. The two Muslims were U Kasem (29 yerar) and U Than Tun (31 years) of Kyauk Se (Myo) town. (Not their real names). (Source: MICB)

In the middle of May 2000, 7 farmers from Depe-yin township, Sagaing Division were arrested and incarcerated for damaging a road on the day before the new road's opening ceremony. The road had been built on land that was being used for cultivation in the region between Pyan-kya and Ma-gyi-zauk villages in De-pe-yin township causing the loss of about 10 acres of agricultural land. The farmers were arrested following their preparations for cultivation in their fields. (Source: NLD)

On May 18 2000, 25 farmers who had been unable to supply "duty paddy" in the Koon-ghan-gone Township of Rangoon Division were arrested by township authorities. These farmers had made every attempt to fulfill the paddy quota, yet they had been unable to due in part to the red tape involved in the purchase of diesel oil which is required for irrigation machinery. Every time that farmers in the area desire to purchase oil, they must first get endorsements from several town officials, which costs the farmer 1200 to 1500 kyat even before the oil is purchased. U Than Htay (Taungkoo West village), U Aye Kyi (Taungkoo East village), U Aung Win, and U Than Win (Kha-lauk-ta-ya village) were some of the 25 farmers who were incarcerated at the Police Station. The families of these farmers were forced to sell their lands, buffaloes and cows, or take loans in order to meet the quota so the arrested could be released. Those whose families were not able to come up with the quota were kept in jail. In addition 28,000 kyats were demanded in bail from the families of U Japangyi and U Aung Win from Taung-goo east village and U Hla Htay from Taung-goo west village, even after their quotas were met. (Source: NLD)

On May 26 2000, SPDC military intelligence officers arrested U Tin Hlaing (50 years) of Oak poe village, Taung Ngo township, Pegu division. According to a relative, he was accused of making contact with the NLD and was then sent directly to notorious Thaya waddy prison. (Source: MICB)

On May 27 2000, Daw Khin Nu and Daw Chaw, both females in their late 60's, early 70's, were threatened and then arrested by SPDC authorities in Rangoon during the legitimate proceedings of the NLD commemoration of the 10th anniversary of elections. The women were the owners of the NLD office building, though as the owners they were uninvolved in the event, or associated with the NLD. Both these ladies are elderly and dependent on medication for their deteriorating physical conditions. The authorities refused to allow members of their family to take them the necessary daily medication, and they were sent to Insein Jail. (Source: NLD)

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On May 31 2000, Burma's state newspapers recorded that Tun Myat Thu, alias Naing Lin Hset, was arrested at his house in an eastern suburb of Yangon with fake passports and government seals and sentenced to 27 years by the Yangon East District Court. He was accused of buying the documents from an ABSDF member in Bangkok. Ma Win Yee, who was accused of smuggling the forged documents from Thailand to Myanmar, was sentenced on the same day to 12 years in prison. She allegedly was caught at Myawaddy, on the Myanmar side of its eastern border with Thailand, with 165 forged seaman's passports, 91 forged first-grade overseas nautical officer certificates and 48 other fake documents. (Source: AP)

In June 2000 Ma Thein Htwe Oo, a female soldier and wife of the Commanding Officer of LIB 530, which is based in Loikhaw town, Karenni State, was found to have spoken for the well-being of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD. As a result of what she said, the Loikhaw authorities arrested Ma Thein Oo and sentenced her to 6 months in prison with hard labor. (Source: PD Burma)

On June 6, 2000 about 20 troops from DKBA led by Bo Po Dah and Bo Aung Gyi came into Tone-ta-dah village, Kyaukkyi Township, Karen State and arrested Saw Ba Li, age 28, son of Saw Ngati and Saw Po La Min, age 27, son of Saw Kway Pyu. They accused them of having connections with the KNU, and sent them to Bo Moe Hmong base at Klaw Maw where they were detained. The two men were Christian, but were forced to become Buddhist monks. As of October 2000 they had not yet been released. (Source: KAWU)

On June 6, 2000, members of SPDC's Police Department in Ta-Khi-Laek, conscripted a civilian car and traveled to Wan Naa villager, Murng-Phong tract. They arrested 3 villagers and accused them of dealing in amphetamines, after which they detained them at the Ta-Khi-Laek police station and ordered their parents to pay 30,000 baht each for their release, otherwise they would be sent to jail. They were released after their parents paid 10,000 baht, all the money they could come up with, for the release of each one. The 3 men were Zaa Leng, age 26, Zaa Pan-Yaa, age 21, and Zaa Kham Yaang, age 20. (Source: SHRF)

On June 9, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 399 arrested Toh-thay-poo villagers Saw Pa Le and Saw La May, and Kaw-tha-say villager Saw Win Naing. They took them to Klaw-maw-ko, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State and demanded 20,000 kyat and some of their clothing. (Source: KIC)

On June 16, 2000, SPDC troops of IB 99 were coming from Ham Ngai when they arrived at Wan Long village, Wan Mong tract, Murng Kerng township, Shan State. They saw 5-6 villagers in a house belonging to Loong Yawd Murng, and accused all of them of discussing how to send supplies to SSA troops. After that they searched every corner in the house and arrested the 5-6 men. (Source: SSA)

On June 23 2000, troops from LIB 705, led by SPDC (Company 2) Commander Pau Mong Nae, raided Htee P' Nyae Village, Kya Aye Township, Dooطلا District, Karen State. The following civilians were arrested on suspicion of having KNU connections:

1. Maung Ping (32),
2. Saw Pae Paw (17),
3. Maung Kyaw (35),
4. Saw Aung Thay Paw (17) and
5. Saw Taw Oo (50). (Source: DIR)

On June 26, 2000, a Chin woman named Pi Sai Sung, a 29 year old farmer, was arrested by a group of Burmese soldiers led by Captain San Lwin from LIB 266 in Bungkhua village of Chin State. She was accused of having a relationship with CHRO field monitor Mr. Zothang who had been killed by the soldiers earlier that same day. (See relevant chapter on killing) She was brought on foot to Thantlang town, which is 28 miles away from Bungkhua village. According to the villagers, the soldiers covered her mouth with rags and let her wear only her bra and under skirt along the way. Her husband is detained by the SPDC authority in Kalaymyo jail. He had been accused of supporting the Chin National Front (CNF) and arrested in July 1999. Their two children, an 11 years old daughter and 5 year old son, are now looked after by villagers. (Source: CHRO)

On June 29, 2000, SPDC MI officers from Taung Dwin Gyi, Magwe division arrested a Muslim man with an allegation that he had contact with the NLD. According to a trader, the victim known as U Kasem (35 years) lived in Block No. (1), Taung Dwin Gyi Myo (town), Magwe division of Burma. (Source: MICB)

On July 10 2000, SPDC authorities arrested a Muslim man by the name of U Mohammad, age 40, and fined him 50,000 kyats in Pa-an township, Karen State for simply reporting an offence by neighbors. He had informed the authorities led by Bo Myint, a DKBA officer, that the cattle of neighbors had destroyed his cultivation field and caused him great loss. The SPDC officers responded that he should not disturb the officers on duty with such a small matter, and arrested him. (Source: MICB)

On July 20 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 101, led by Second Commander Ko Ko Oo, arrived in a village in Karenni State and arrested Pha Taw, 23 yrs, and Saw Sa Kaw Doh Mo, 17 yrs, when they came over them. It was reported that the two men were released after questioning. (Source: KNAHR)

On July 28 2000, USDA township officials handed over two Burmese Muslim civilians to MI No.25, who put them into prison in Karen state of Burma. Papun township USDA officer, U Saw Fata demanded bribe money in the amount of kyats 10,000 from each Muslim. The two Muslims, U Kadir (30 years) and U Aung Min (38 years) requested the USDA officer forgive them because they were very poor and unable to comply with the demand. The USDA officer framed a false case that the two Muslims had a close contact with the NLD and handed over them to the MI. (Source: MICB)

On July 30 2000, two prisoners disappeared in Mandalay prison and their mothers were arrested by the SPDC authorities. The two mothers of the two prisoners did not know that their sons, with along other dozens of prisoners, were sent to the porter-recruiting camps in Myaing Kalay, Southwest of Karen state, about 20 kilometers away from Mya Waddy. The two mothers went to the prison and asked the prison-authorities the whereabouts of their sons. The prison authorities reported the matter to the MI officials who immediately arrested the two mothers. The two prisoners were Win Htey (24 years) and Mya Din (30 years) and

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the two mothers were Daw Mya Mu (53 years) and Daw Khin Su (58 years) of Mandaly (Myo) town. (Source: MICB)

On August 5, 2000, 6 SPDC troops from LIB526 who were manning a checkpoint at Pa Kok ferry crossing on Nam Mae Sai river in Murng Phong tract, Ta-Khi-Laek township, arrested 2 villagers, Lung Saam Ko, aged 50 and his son, Zaai Laa, aged 19, and extorted 1,200 baht from them. (Source: SHRF)

On August 6, 2000, SPDC LIB 421 entered Law Jar village in Pruso Township, No. (1) district of Karenni State, and arrested the headman (name was not available) and secretary named Ko Reh. Ko Reh was tortured to death in the village while the headman was taking to Pruso police station where he was detained for one day. On August 8 he was released after being questioned. (Source: KNAHR)

On August 8, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 60, went to Aung-soe-moe village, Nyaung-lay-gin District, Karen State and arrested innocent villager Saw Ko Kyaw, brought him to Kyauk-kyi police station and demanded 23,000 kyat. (Source: KIC)

On August 15 2000, SPDC troops under command of Tactical Commander Khin Maung Myint arrived in Phon Tha Yat village, Sagaing Division and arrested two villagers, Oo Wel Sin and Oo Pya, as result of their taking photos of the SPDC troops. (Source: Inside Burma)

On August 15, 2000, 7 policemen from the SPDC's People's Police Force in Kaeng-Tung township arrested 3 villagers at Wan Laao village in Loi Long tract, Kaeng-Tung township, on a charge of dealing methamphetamines and locked them up at the police station in the town. The 3 men, Zaai Sai, aged 36, Zaai Zaen Sen, aged 30 and Zaai Peng, aged 25, were Shan farmers who earned a simple living by growing rice and some other crops and vegetables. There was no evidence against them and on August 18 the village headman and some fellow villagers came to plead with the police authorities for the release of the 3 men, stating that they guaranteed their innocence. The police released them, but only after the villagers paid 3,000 kyat to each of the 7 policemen for their time and effort used in arresting them. During their detention in the police station, the 3 villagers were forced to work from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. every day. Each day, about 11-12 detainees were forced to work in the police station; doing sanitary work, weeding grass, fetching water and polishing floors, etc. (Source: SHRF)

On August 25, 2000, SPDC authorities arrested 6 Burmese Muslims on the allegation that they failed to attend the anti- NLD demonstration held by USDA. The authorities were led by Pyu township USDA President U Maung Thet and Secretary U Soe Paing. The six Burmese Muslims were U Kasem (46 years), U Tha Khin (43 years), U Esoof (35 years), U Amin (40 years), U Than Htaik (29 years) and Daw soe Ma Ma (30 years old female, from Pyu Myo, Pegu division. (Source: MICB)

On August 28, 2000, SPDC LIB 560 2nd commander Maj. Htay Win summoned captured villager Saw Tee Tu Baw who was in confinement and demanded 200,000 kyat for his release. (Source: TIR)

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On August 21, 2000, column No. 1 from SPDC Division 22 LIB 202 seized a villager from Pa-loo village, Doo-pla-ya District, Karen State and took him to the area of Zheh-Kyune-taung and Ta-bloh-ko-kee. (Source: KIC)

In September 2000, 2 villagers from Do May village, Demawso Township, Karenni State were unable to perform their forced labor duty, or give the fines for their absence. So LIB 102 arrested the men and detained them for a week until they were able to pay 20,000 kyats each. (Source: DVB)

On September 1, 2000, 3 members of USDA and 2 policeman, led by U Kan Nyunt, one of the USDA authorities, arrested 3 villagers from Murng Phong and extorted 5,000 baht from each of them. The 3 villagers, Zaai Non, aged 23, Zaai Seng, aged 23 and Zaai Leo, aged 23, were arrested at a motorcycle taxi station in Murng Phong village where they worked. They were detained at the USDA office in the town. Though all 3 of them worked as motorcycle taxi drivers, they were arrested on a charge of dealing in methamphetamines and were told to pay 30,000 baht each for their release. The parents and relatives of the 3 men tried in vain to plead for their release, stressing that their sons were innocent and that there was no evidence against them. The USDA members insisted that they knew the 3 men were involved in drug trafficking and that was evidence enough to arrest them and put them in jail, and kept demanding the money. The villagers on their part kept pleading until the USDA members agreed to accept 5,000 baht for the release of each of them, and the matter was thus settled. (Source: SHRF)

On September, 1, 2000, four Muslim elders of Daing Win Gwan Block village, Moulmein township, Mon State where a primary school was situated, put up an application requesting the high authorities to spare the Muslim students from learning Buddhism in the school, were arrested and as of October 9 2000 were still under custody. The four village elders, were U Ismail, U Yacoob, U Than Tun and Daw Mariam. (Source: ARNO, MICB)

On September 2 2000, a unit of troops from LIB 428 reached Htee Kludaw, No. 1 district, Karenni State and arrested a pastor named Saw Reh with the accusation of having contact with the Karenni armed group. (Source: KNAHR)

On September 2 2000, Kabawhtar villager Saw Say Lar, age 35, was arrested by troops from LIB 101 led by Maj. Tint Lwin. He was arrested at Kawbawdeh village while on his way to Mawchi in order to purchase goods. He was ordered to stay with the troops for interrogation, then released on September 5, after staying with the troops for three days. (Source: KNAHR)

On September 12, 2000, in Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State, Saw Pa Dah from the DKBA seized Kaw-tha-say villagers: (1) Saw Shwe and Po Htoo Meh, son of Saw Tha Maung; (2) Ta Eh, son of Maung Tha and (3) Naw Hsa Pleh, daughter of Saw Baw. The troops took them to Klaw-maw military camp by force. (Source: KIC)

On September 13 2000, SPDC authorities arrested four Burmese Muslims from inside a mosque in Irrawaddy division. The authorities led by military officer Lt. Hla Aung and Mau Bin police station chief U Ba Kyaing arrested the four Muslims without any reason and sent them directly to the Rangoon Insein Jail. The four Burmese Muslims were U Mohammad Kasim (45 years), U Mya Win (41 years), U Hal Pe (38 years) and U Hla Thein (40 years) of Mau Bin Myo, Irrawaddy Division. (Source: MICB)

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In the second week of September 2000, Saya Yaung Win and Yant Tat from MIS No.(10) and an ex-police entered Nazir Para (village) of Akyab (Sittwe) city, Arakan State under the pretext of checking the guest list. They asked the residents to get out of their houses and started checking the family members one house after another. When a member of the family was absent or a guest was found present in a house the head of the family was arrested and tortured. During the course of checking some of the unmarried young girls were dishonored. The arrested persons were later released on bribery. (Source: ARNO)

On September 23, 2000, SPDC authorities arrested two Muslim men in Pegu division. SPDC Pegu division Regional Battalion Commander Col. Khin Win and USDA officer, U Sein Min arrested the two Muslims on the allegation that they criticized the two junta's higher officers extorting money and brutalizing the civilians in the region. Later, the officers handed over them to the notorious MI in Pegu city who put them into Pegu jail. (Source: MICB)

On October 16 2000, villagers Pray Reh, age 25 years old, and Law Reh, age 24 years old, from Daw Sophya village, Karenni State were arrested by troops of LIB 337 while picking groundnuts in their field. They were accused of being rebels and tortured by the troops. The troops tied their hands, brought them to the military base and forced them to carry a sack of rice to Bawlake and back to their base. The troops took 2 knives, 2 swords and one watch and then freed them. (Source: KNAHR)

On October 28 2000, four students from Tavoy State High School No.4 were taken in for questioning by the MI. The four students, who had recently been expelled, entered the school on October 26, shouted their dissatisfaction and staged protest. Other students joined them and shouted anti-government slogans, yet the headmaster, U Saw Shein, and the teachers were able to control the situation. The MI found out about the matter and questioned the headmaster, teachers, and responsible parents on October 28. One student was detained at Wekyin police station in Tavoy. The remaining three are being interrogated at the MI Unit-19 camp. The four arrested students are Kyaw Lin and Thet Zaw Htay, both 8th standard students, and Saw Nge Nge and Thet Naing Win, both 9th standard students. No details have been received on why they were expelled and why they came back to school to stage the protest. (Source: DVB)

On November 10, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 124 came to Kaw-law-kah village, Toun-goo District, Karen state and arrested and tied up (1) Ka Chai Pah (M) (2) Moo Ler Pah (M) (3) Saw Gay Tha (M) (4) Maung Poo Nyo (M) and (5) Saw Kler Per (M). The troops later to them away looted possessions worth 10,000 kyats from Per-kaw-doe villagers. (Source: KIC)

On December 11, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 315 led by Captain Win Shwe captured and jailed an innocent civilian named Sai Kae Sa, age 25, son of Loong Zarm and Nai Parnng, who lived in Wan Ho Pung village, Nong Kaw tract, Lai Kha township. After that, they sent a message to his family that if they wished to see him released, they would exchange him for 25,000 kyat. (Source: Freedom News)

Arbitrary seizure of villagers

On June 16, 2000, a military column from SPDC IB 232, seized and took away Saw Lu Lu, from Pwee-kee village, Toun-goo District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On July 3 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 207 entered May Du Nwe Kee area, Papun District, Karen State and captured and took Naw Yaw, age 33, Naw Nee Aye, age 12, Naw Balay, age 2, Naw Paw, age 22, Naw Paw Day, age 10, and Naw Day, age 6. (Source: KWO)

On July 7, 2000, in Doo-pla-ya District, Karen State, troops from SPDC IB 709 captured and took away Ler-dwer villagers Mauk Shway, Par Ta Kweh, Par Taw, Tar Too, Par Nay, Naing Par Nyo, Par Cha Meh and Par Day Thu. As of August 15, 2000 the villagers had not been released. (Source: KIC)

On July 8, 2000, IB 372, which had been operating in Tat Moo, Kawut Hta and Ta Nay Ler Hko villages, captured villager Hset Than Shwe and his family. The troops had ordered them to go and get an automatic rifle, and when the family failed to get such a weapon, they captured the family and did not allow them anything to eat and confined the family head Hset Than Shwe. (Source: TIR)

On September 21, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 20 came into Ko-khor-doe village, Toun-goo District, Karen State and took two villagers hostage without reason. The villagers were, Saw Pah Hot M, 17, son of Saw Tha Kway and Saw Hser Gay, M, 20, son of Saw Ah Koe. (Source: KIC)

On October 20, 2000, company commander Bo Tin Hla from SPDC " Bala " guerilla unit forced 10 villagers from Pa-ya-gon, Ta-laing-aing, Gwa-aing and Hle-lan-koo villages in Tan-ta-bin township, Toun-goo District, Karen State to go along with their army column. (Source: KIC)

On November 21, 2000, thirty SPDC troops from IB 98, led by Lieutenant Maung Htway, came to Tar-hu-lo village, Pa-pun District and forcibly took villagers Pee Mar Lweh, 75, Saw Ler Heh, 23, and Naw Than Tin, 20, to Martaw village, and extorted 150,000 kyat. (Source: KIC)

On December 3 2000, a combined troop of SPDC LIB 246 and DKBA soldiers entered Mee Yah Tah village and Tee Plaw Kee village, Mone Township. They shot into the village and captured Saw Eh Gaw Paw and Saya Daw Hmen's family. (Source: KWO)

On December 5, 2000, troops led by Lieutenant Tin Myint from SPDC LIB 341, came to Kyo-ko-doe village, Dweh-lo Township, Pa-pun District, Karen State and seized and took away 8 villagers.(Source: KIC)

3.13 Reported incidents of Enforced Disappearances in 2000

In January 2000, a well-armed combined column from the Loikaw based LIB 216 and Nwalavoe based IB 54, arrested 17 innocent villagers of six different villages in Loikaw Township, Karenni State. The SPDC troops accused the villagers of having contact with rebels, illegal according to the military junta Act 17/1. As of April 2000, the whereabouts of these villagers remained unknown. The arrested villagers were;

- Meo Reh, Sei Reh, Her Reh, Kaw Reh, Pah ki and Mah Reh from Nawn Lon village
- Ai Ko and Kei Reh from Payapyu village
- Mya Thu from Linphon village
- Tin Hla and Myo Min from Wamphan village
- Kan Oo, Pru Hah, Maw Reh, Bew Reh, and Hla Raw from Kunnah village
- Aung Lwin from Wam Ngaw village. (Source: KNAHR)

On January 17 2000, a column of troops from LIB 516, entered Pahoe village, Lopwa Koe District, Karenni State and arrested 24 people of four families. These innocent villagers were accused of supporting the Karenni troops and then forced to accompany the troops. No one knew where the villagers were taken to. The arrested people were; Saw Kolay May, Naw Htoo Ler, Kwar Mu Htoo, Naw Sheku Htoo, Naw Pupu, Daw Ei Paw, Wah Mu Htoo, Nae Neh, Lay Lay, Oo Nu, Tae Htoo, Klar Htoo, Nae Gyi Kar, Kat Nemu, Nae Lo Htoo, Mu Mwepaw, Saw Tee Mu, Ko Ro, Nae Kae El and her newborn child, Saw Poe Htoo, Naw Tae Paw, Naw Mutu, Saw Mler Htoo and Hser Say Htoo. (Source: KNAHR)

On January 19 2000, a company of troops from LIB 516 entered Sakwe Thedoh village, Lopwakoe province, Karenni State and arrested five villagers. As of April 2000, their whereabouts remained unknown. (Source: KNAHR)

On February 10 2000, Eight residents of Prusoe city, Karreni State were arrested by troops from LIB No. 531. They were accused of being involved in tax collection for Karenni troops. As of April 2000, all but Kan Min, age 38, had been released. There was no information on his whereabouts. (Source: KNAHR)

On February 25 2000, a combined patrol of troops from IB 332 and IB 102 led by Maj. Nyan Myint captured, interrogated and tortured 7 innocent villagers from Wan Kun Moun, Wan Nong tract, Mong Nai Township, Shan State. The troops accused the villagers of sympathizing with a Shan resistance group. On February 28, at 11 AM, the villagers were sent to Nam Sarng. As of the end of March 2000, the fate of the villagers remained unknown. The victims were:

- Kar-wi (m), age 35
- Hsaw Nan Ta, (m), age 45
- Aw Htamma, (m), age 20
- Saw Nanda (m), age 35
- Kung Ma Put (m), age 45
- Loong Ta Pang (m), age 50
- Loong Ta Phi (m), age 46

(Source: SSANews)

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On March 11 2000, at 8 AM, 28 SPDC troops on patrol from Laikha Township captured 4 innocent villagers in their paddy fields at Pang Oo Sae tract, Laikha township, Shan State. The victims were tied up and beaten with rifle butts and sticks. They were then tied up in pairs until March 12, when they were forced to follow the troops as porters to carry rice. The 4 victims were:

- Loong Phit, age 48, whose arm was broken due to the beating
- Aw Ta, age 25
- Sarng Loo, age 18
- Sarng Lu, age 35

As of the end of April 2000, no news had been received of their whereabouts after they were taken as porters. (Source: SSANews)

On April 1 2000, Mr. Abdur Rahman of Kaw Kyaik village, Pa-an Township, Karen State was arrested and later disappeared. He had been appealing to higher authorities of the SPDC to spare their mosque from destruction. Kaw Kyaik village consists of about 80 Muslim houses, a mosque and about 300 non-Muslim houses. Local DKBA authorities had ordered the destruction of the mosque. Moreover, the authorities in that area have been seizing much of the Muslim land and selling it off. (Source: MICB)

On April 6 2000, about 170 soldiers of LIB Nos 531, 250, and IB Nos. 54 and 72, went to Htee Thaw Tanee and Phukraku villages, Karenni State and arrested two village heads and one villager. They were brought to Prusoe City by the troops, but their subsequent whereabouts remained unknown as of April 2000. (Source: KNAHR)

On April 10 2000, a group of SPDC troops arrested a civilian with an accusation that he had contact with the insurgents and sent him to the Papun SPDC court where he was sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour. The SPDC troops were from IB 19 who were led by Lt. Win Oo. According to a relative, the accused, Ko Than Hlaing was then sent to the Rangoon-Insein jail. However, his present whereabouts is unknown to his family since then. Ko Than Hlaing was from Kadinettee village, Papun township, Karen state. (Source: MICB)

On April 18 2000 the military seized and carried away (1) Serajul Haque s/o of Abdul Ghani (2) Rashid s/o Kaseim (3) Rafique s/o Lukman Hakim, all of them Sandama, a large Rohingya village near Akyab (Sittwe) in Arakan State. Their whereabouts is still not known. In addition, the SPDC forces are now hunting 15 other villagers, including religious leaders, who have gone into hiding to escape arrest and torture. (Source: ARNO)

On May 22 2000, SPDC military intelligence officers arrested U Tun Sein (40 years) and U Do wa (35 years) of house No.341, near main mosque of Mandalay, accusing them of having contact with the NLD. According to a trader, their whereabouts are still unknown. (Source: MICB)

On May 26 2000, SPDC military intelligence (MI-25) officers arrested U Than Tun (40 years) of Shwe Gu town, Sagaing division. According to a trader, he was accused of being in contact with the NLD. His whereabouts remain unknown. (Source: MICB)

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On May 26 2000 ,a column of SPDC troops from Strategic Column (2) under the command of No. 8 Strategic Administrated Command, led by Maj. Soe Thet, arrested the chairman of Mayan village, Yebyu Township, Mon State under the accusation that he was a rebel-supporter. He was arrested following an event where the SPDC troops were ambushed by Mon troops near Mayan village. As of the end of June 2000, he had not released and had disappeared. (Source: HURFOM)

On May 30, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 273 led by battalion commander Col. Htin Kyaw, entered Sinswe village, Yebyu Township, Mon State and arrested two men, accusing them of being rebel-supporters. According to villagers, these two men were innocent farmers who had no background or relationship with the Mon rebel group. The two men were Nai Krot (28 years old) and Mehm Kun Blai (18 years) who were born in Sinswe and helped their families in their paddy farms. After the arrest, the soldiers tortured these two men to get them to admit that they were rebel soldiers. Then the soldiers took them away to another village, even though they were in severe pain from the torture. As of the end of June 2000, those two men had not been released and they were feared to have been killed. (Source: HURFOM)

On May 30 2000, some SPDC military Intelligence (MI-25) officers arrested two Muslims in Myitkyina, Kachin state. According to a Kachin trade, the officers arrested (1) U Salim (32 years) and (2) U Muatafa (30 years) of Myo Ma (village) Block No.5, accusing them of having contact with NLD. The whereabouts of these two are still unknown. (Source: MICB)

On June 1 2000, SPDC officers of the MI-25 arrested three Muslims from Taunggyi, Shan state of Burma accusing them of having made contact with anti-S:DC groups. According to a Buddhist trader from Taunggyi, the three Muslims, (1) U Than Tun (40 years), (2) U Zaw Oo (28 years) (3) Ko Thaa Thaa (26 years) were living in Taunggyi, near main Taunggyi mosque. Their whereabouts remain still unknown. (Source: MICB)

On June 5 2000, SPDC MI officers arrested Ko Tun, a medicine store owner in Myittila town, Mandalay division. According to a neighbor, the officers seized about 100,000 kyats worth of medicines from the shop of Ko Tun who was accused of having contact with NLD. His whereabouts remained unknown as of October 2000. (Source: MICB)

On July 30 2000, SPDC MI officers arrested three Muslims with 1.8 million kyats in Rangoon who disappeared since then. According to a relative, the three Muslims were coming from Bassein (Pathin) by steamer to Rangoon for shopping who were arrested at 10 AM, at the Kili jetty in Rangoon. They were arrested by the MI officers led by sergeant Aung Khaing and the whereabouts of them remain unknown. The three Muslims, U Win Aye (28 years), U Amin (30 years), and U Ya Sin (40 years) were from Pali Gyi (village), Bassein, Irrawaddy division. (Source: MICB)

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On August 5 2000, SPDC officers looted 1.1 million kyats from two Burmese Muslim merchants in Pegu division. The officers led by Lt. Thant Zin, who looted the money from the Muslim merchants handed over the merchants again to the Military Intelligence of Pegu Myo. The two Muslims, since then, disappeared. The two Muslim merchants were Ko Tun Aung Lat (28 years) and Ko Win Hlaing (32 years) from Nat sin Gong street, Ben Hlaing Village, Thaton township, Mon state. (Source: MICB)

On September 16 2000, SPDC authorities arrested two Burmese Muslims who disappeared since then in Pegu division. The authorities led by MI officer U Win Lwin and Pegu main police station officer, U Hla Khin accused them of having close contact with the NLD. According to relative, the two Burmese Muslims were U Thaung Tun (47 years) and U Hla Aung (45 years) of Yadana street, Paligyi (main mosque) black village, Taung Ngo Myo, Pegu division. (Source: MICB)

On September 22 2000, Burmese junta's authorities arrested two Burmese Muslims who have since disappeared in Mon State. The authorities led by police intelligence officers of Moulmein, Mon state arrested the two Burmese Muslims without giving any reasons. The intelligence officers were led by U Hla Aung and sergeant Win Hlaing. When the families of the two men traced the whereabouts of the two Muslims, the police authorities said that they had handed over the two Muslims to the military intelligence No.5 of Moulmein Myo, Mon state of Burma. The two Burmese Muslims were U Mahamood (29 years) and U Kadir (25 years) of Hlaing Tha Ya street, Daing Win Gwin Block (8), Moulmein Myo, Mon state. (Source: MICB)

On September 23 2000, Burmese Junta's authorities arrested the leading Imam of the mosque and its caretaker in Kachin state of Burma. The authorities led by Ban Maw main police station. chief, U Tun Aung Lin arrested the two Muslim religions persons on the allegation that they had connection with the NLD. The leading Imam of the mosque was Imam Saya Sadi (48 years) and the caretaker, U Ya Sin (42 year) of Pari street, Block No. 8, Ban Maw Myo, Kachin state. The whereabouts of he two religious personalities remain unknown since then. (Source: MICB)

On October 4 2000, a group of military officers arrested two Burmese Muslim cattle traders in Karen state of Burma. The officers led by Major Thet Naung and sergeant Aung Thinn of Battalion No. 208 found 500,000 kyats in the Muslims' possession and brought them to Dowlant military camp in Kawkaik township of Karen state and later the two Muslim traders disappeared. The two Muslim traders were U RAhman (37 years) and U Khalid (40 years) of Khaya village, Kawkaik township, Karen state. (Source: MICB)

On October 6 2000, Burmese military authorities arrested three young Burmese Muslim religious scholars who disappeared in Tenassarim Division. The authorities were led by Lt. Aung Moe of Company No.4, Battalion No. 81. The three young Burmese Muslim religious scholars were U Amin (23 years), U Zaw Win Han (20 years) and U Yi Lwin (21 years) of Than Pyu Ywa Lay village, Ye township, Tenassarim division. (Source: MICB)

On December 16 2000, SPDC troops from the 99th Brigade abducted a villager named Sai Korn Pung Nya, age 25, son of Loong Nu and Nai Yaen from Wan Kong Hoong, Parng Sarng tract, Lai Kha township, who was hired as a gardener near Wan Kong Hoong village. He disappeared after the capture. As of March 2001, it was still unknown whether he is alive or dead. (Source: Freedom News)

On December 17 2000, SPDC troops from the 99th Brigade seized an innocent villager named Sai Sarng Orn. He was dragged with the SPDC troops to Haam Ngai base, Murng Kerng Township, Shan State. After knowing the news the relatives of the captured villager headed to Haam Ngai base for information. The SPDC told them that he had been recently released, but as of the end of March 2001, he had not returned home. The villagers believed he was probably murdered by SPDC. (Source: Freedom News)

3.14 Arrest of Monks

In early January 2000, Burmese police and military intelligence officers raided a monastery in the border town of Tachilek and arrested a group of monks. It was not known exactly how many were arrested, but sources said that more than a dozen young monks from the Aung Daw Moo Monastery were disrobed and subsequently taken to a prison in the Shan State town of Kengtung. The sources also revealed that about 20 automatic rifles were seized at the monastery, where many of the monks are ethnic Arakanese from Arakan State. The state-run media did not report the crackdown. However, a source close to the authorities reported that the monks received six-month sentences. Two senior monks from the temple were still at large, according to the source. (Source: Irrawaddy)

On the night of March 4 2000, personnel belonging to the Western Area Command No.14 arrested two Buddhist monks for alleged possession of sophisticated pistols and anti-SLORC propaganda leaflets. The two monks were taken to the Tactical Operation Command headquarters where they were disrobed and tortured. Later the SPDC authorities alleged them as the members of the armed opposition group. (Source: ARNO)

On May 12 2000, Capt Nyunt Maung and party from MI-19 in Mergui District arrested 10 monks for their refusal to beg for alms and to give religious sermons outside their monasteries. Those arrested were from Kanbwayathti Yadanabommi Pariyatti Sartintaik and Naukleyathti Wettaikkyang Sartintaik in Mergui. Earlier 19 monks had been detained after the start of the monks' protests on May 9. (Source: DVB)

The following NLD members were arrested on 29 April, 2000 by the police in Taung Twin Gyi township, Magwe Division. They were sentenced to long term imprisonment on 10 May, 2000. They were seriously beaten during interrogation in the MI interrogation center. They are:

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Appendix # 1

They were all sentenced under 234/ 2000, 5J, and given prison terms of 7 years including:

Name	Position	Address
U Mya Sai	Chairperson, Taung Twin Gyee Township, NLD	No.1 Taung Pyin Section, Taung Twin Gyee Township
U Tin Win	Secretary, Taung Twin Gyee Township, NLD	No.1 Taung Pyin Section, Taung Twin Gyee Township
U Yar Tin	Organizer, Taung Twin Gyee Township, NLD	Ywar-ma-na village, Kalar-kan village tract, Taung Twin Gyee
U Htay Lwin	Member, Taung Twin Gyee Township, NLD	Tha-phan-kon village, Taung Twin Gyee Township
U Sein Maung	Member, Taung Twin Gyee Township, NLD	Kyun-taw village, Taung Twin Gyee Township
U Sai San	Organizer, Taung Twin Gyee Township, NLD	Phayar-kwin village, Taung Twin Gyee Township
Aung Kyaw Soe	In-charge, NLD Youth, Taung Twin Gyee Township, NLD	Tha-phan-kon village, Taung Twin Gyee Township

They were all sentenced under 234/ 2000, 5J, and given prison terms of 7 years including hard labor. Their prosecutor was Myint Lwin, the chief of Taung Twin Gyee police station. They were charged with giving subversive public speeches, intentionally trying to destabilize the State Law and Order, and with poisoning the peoples' minds in order to destroy their moral principles. They were sent to Thayet prison on May 11,2000 with the following 25 detainees, all from Taung Twin Gyee township, who were questioned at No 103 Lib-Infantry Battallion and were detained because of the political reasons. It is not yet clear what charges are against them, or whether they are under trial or not. They are: The above 25 detainees were released 2 months later, in July 2000. (Source: AAPP)

Appendix # 2 : Persons arrested on September 21 2000, at Rangoon Central Railway Station

No.	Name	Age	Address	No.	Name	Age	Address
1.	Ma Mar Yi	25	Thekyun village	14.	Chit Oo	35	Peinnepin village
2.	Ma Khin Aye Ye	20	Ywar- Ma- Nar- Ywar	15.	Htay Win	24	Peinnepin village
3.	Zaw One	23	Ywar- Ma- Nar- Ywar	16.	Thein Win	32	Lakparpu village
4.	Kyaw Htay	22	Ywar- Ma- Nar- Ywar	17.	Tun Khaing	22	Lakparpu village
5.	Maung Maung Htay	30	Phayar kwin village	18.	Htun Htun Win	20	Kyun Taw village
6.	Zaw Win	22	Phayar kwin village	19.	Kyaw Aye	37	Kyun Taw village
7.	Than Oo	24	Phayar kwin village	20.	Maung San Kyaing	31	Katakoan village
8.	Thant Zin Oo	27	Phayar kwin village	21.	Htun Myint	30	Katakoan village
9.	Kyi Lin	30	Chaung Net village	22.	Maung San	24	Shwe Inn Pin
10.	Kyaw Kyaw	29	Kan Thay village	23.	Aung Thu	20	Thayetkoan village
11.	Than Win	32	Thae Kyun village	24.	Aung Htay Win	19	Nattywar village
12.	Min Naing	30	Thae Kyun village	25.	Zaw Linn	26	Htan Pin Su village
13.	Win Hlaing	28	Thae Kyun village				

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Appendix # 3: Civilians from Thantlang area, Chin State currently serving hard labour prison terms for "unlawful association"

(Note: The following list is from just one area in Chin State)

The following civilians, most of them are from Thantlang area, Chin State were accused of supporting Chin National Front and are now serving sentences with hard labour. They were arrested, tortured and sentence to long term imprisonment by the Burmese in 1998 and 1999. The Burmese military charged them with the " Unlawful Association Acts". (Source: CHRO - Dec/00)

	Name	Township	Status	Remark
1	Naw Ohn Hla	Hmawbi	Central Women Wing	
2	Daw Hlae Hlae	Mayangon	same	
3	Daw Khin Saw Mu	New Dagon	same	wife of Dr. Myo Aung
4	Daw Myint Myint Sein	Tamwe	same	sick
5	Daw Marlar	Hlaing	Women Wing	
6	Daw Mar Mar Swe	South Okkala	same	
7	Daw San San Myint	Thin Gan Gyun	same	
8	Daw Than Than Oo	Tamwe	same	
9	Daw Khin Lay	Kamayut	Central Youth Wing	
10	Ko Myo Nyunt	Ahlong	same	
11	Ko Zaw Min Kyaw	Manadalay	same	
12	Ko Thein Swe	Irrewaddy	same	
13	Ko Htun Zaw Zaw	Mon State	same	
14	Ko Toe Lwin	Irrewaddy Div.	Division Youth	
15	Ma Myint Myint Soe	Yankin	Youth wing	
16	Ma Phu Phu Htun	Thingangyun	same	
17	Ma Phu Phu Thin	S- Okkala	same	
18	Ma Cho Cho Lwin	Thingangyun	same	
19	Ma Aye Aye Soe	N- Okkala	same	
20	Ma Nan Kyi Than Win	Pegu Div.	Division Youth Wing	
21	Ma Aye San	same	same	
22	Ma Tin Than Aye	same	same	
23	Ma Tin Than Oo	same	same	
24	Ma Mar Mar Aye	same	same	
25	Ma Soe Soe	N- Okkala	Youth Wing	
26	Ko Than Hteik Aung	S- Okkala	same	
27	Ko Min Lwin	Twente	same	Veterinary doctor
28	Ko Aung Htun	Thingangyun	same	
29	Ko Shwe Gyo	Hlaing	same	
30	Ko Moe Thaw	Kamayut	same	
31	Ko Than Tint Aung	Shwe Pyi Thar	same	
32	Ko Khin Zaw	Hmawbi	same	
33	Saw Varkull	Bogalay	same	
34	Ko Than Win	Kamayut	same	released on 5-10-00
35	Ma Swe Swe Win	Pakutku	same	
36	Ko Khin Oo	Mayangon	same	
37	Ko Thein Lwin	Tharkaeta	same	
38	Ko Than Htun	Kamayut	same	
39	Ko Htun Myint	Bahan	same	
40	Ma Khin Khin Htwe	Mingalartawnyunt	same	
41	Ma Thin Thin Moe	Tamwe	same	
42	Ma Lae Lae Win	Tharkaeta	same	
43	Ko Khin Maung Myint	Sagaing Division	Central Youth Wing	released and sent back on 5-10-00
44	Ko Mone Naing	Bahan	Youth Wing	
45	Ko Myo Khin	Yankin	Secretary	
46	U San Shwe	N- Okkala	Member	
47	Daw Pan	Tamwe	Township organiser	
48	U Hla San	Tamwe	Member	
49	U Nyunt Kyi	Mingalatawnyunt civilian	released on 26-9-00	

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50	Dr. Myo Aung	New Dagon	Division organiser	
51	U Aprong	N- Okkala	NLD member	
52	Daw San San Aye	S- Okkala	same	
53	Daw Htay Htay	Magwe Division	Division organiser	
54	U Aune Din	Thingangyun	NLD member	
55	Daw Khin Phyu	N- Okkala	same	
56	Daw Khin Oo	same	same	
57	Ko Kyi Myint	Thingangyun	same	released 5-10-00
58	Ma Win Kyi	same	same	same
59	Daw Myint Myint Thwin	Twente	same	
60	Mahn Htin Shwe	Danubyu	Township Chairman	
61	Ko Mya Nyunt	Ngathanggyaung	Township Joint Secretary	
62	U Thein Aung	Hlaegu	Township Vice Chairman	
63	U Hla Tun	same	Secretary	
64	U Aye Lwin	same	Township organiser	
65	Daw Tin Aye	Kyimyintane	Member	
66	Ma San Htay	Bahan	same	released 26-9-00
67	U Htin Kyaw	same	same	son in law of U Lwin

Appendix # 4: Partial list of students and youth punished with the death sentence by military tribunals because of activities for Democracy and human rights

No.	Name	Age	Date of arrest	Prison Term and Location	Comment
1	Mr. Pu Al Bik	48	Nov, 11, 98	7 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	Trader from Thantlang. Tortured by MIS for 2 weeks without food
2	Miss. Ni Cia	29	Dec, 5, 98	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo, Sagaing division	Teacher from Cawngtha village, Thantlang township Severely tortured by the MIS
3	Mr. Thla Hup	42	Jan, 6, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo, Sagaing division	Former member of the Bungkhua village PDC
4	Mr. Chum Ling	48	Jan, 6, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo, Sagaing division	Former village headman of Fungkah
5	Mr. Za Mang	48	Jan, 6, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo, Sagaing division	Farmer from Fungkah village
6	Mr. Lal Lin	24	Jan, 6, 99	6 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	Farmer from Fungkah village
7	Mr. Za Hnin	32	Jan, 6, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	none
8	Mr. Lian Hram	36	July, 16, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	Former member of village PDC
9	Mr. Thawng Ceu	34	July, 16, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	From Tlangpi village
10	Mr. Duh Lian	34	July, 16, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	From Tlangpi village
11	Mr. Za Uk	58	July, 16, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	From Tlangpi village
12	Mr. Zion	45	July, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	Pastor
13	Mr. Peng Thang	18	July, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	High School Student from Tlangpi village
14	Mr. Ngun Chawng	28	July, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	Farmer
15	Mr. Ral Lian Kap	31	July, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	Former local PDC clerk
16	Mr. Ngun Hu	43	July, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	From Tlangpi village
17	Mr. No Lal Ling	53	June, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	Former chairman of Township PDC Severely tortured by MIS
18	Mr. Run Cung	35	June, 99	2 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	Farmer from Thantlang Severely tortured by MIS
19	Mr. Sang Khar	36	Oct, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kangaw	none
20	Mr. Khing Maung	32	Oct, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kangaw	none
21	Mr. Van Hnang	34	July, 99	2 years, hard labour in Kangaw	Former clerk of Township PDC
22	Mr. Ral Lmai	42	July, 99	2 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	Former clerk of Township PDC

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

23	Mr. Ceu Hnin	35	July, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	From Thantlang town So severely tortured that all his front teeth were knocked out
24	Mr. Ni Ling	32	July, 99	2 ½ years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	From Thantlang town Severely tortured by MIS
25	Mr. Lal Thio	36	July, 99	2 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	From Thantlang town
26	Mr. Bawi Uk	32	July, 99	5 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	From Thantlang town Severely tortured by MIS
27	Mr. Za Lian	36	July, 99	2 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	From Haka town Severely tortured by the MIS
28	Mr. Chan Kung	42	Oct, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	From Thantlang town Severely tortured by MIS
29	Miss. Dawt Thluei	28	Oct, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	From Haka town Severely tortured by the MIS
30	Mr. Zo Kim	32	Oct, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	Farmer from Sopun village, Thantlang township
31	Mr. Dawt Lian	33	Oct, 99	3 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	From Haka town
32	Mr. Sa Tin Ral	68	Oct, 99	2 years, hard labour in Kalaymyo	Former village headman from Bapi village, Tonzang Township

Appendix # 5: Partial list of students and youth punished with the death sentence by military tribunals because of activities for Democracy and human rights

Name	Age	Address	Education	Prison	Group	Details
Ko Banya (a) Aung Naing	28	Mate -the-lar, Mandalay Division	2nd year English, Mandalay University	Insein (transferred from Thayet)	ABSDF	Sentenced in 1990 under Act 122/A, 19(F)
Ko Bo Htwe Lwin (a) Thaha	*	S. Okkalapa, Rangoon Division	3rd year Physics, Rangoon University	Insein (Transferred from Tsung Oo and Myint-kyi - na)	*	Sentenced in 1991 under Act 122/A, 17 (1) to (2).
Ko Min Han (a) Ba Min Thit	36	Tamwe Township, Rangoon Division	3rd year Philosophy, Rangoon University	Insein (Transferred from Tsung Oo prison in 1994)	*	*
Muang Myo Aung Htwe	25	Nhin- Zi- Kune, Thingangyun Township, Rangoon	9 th standard	Insein (transferred from Thayet)	ABFSU	* (At 15, he was the youngest to be sentenced in 1991)
Ko Khin Zaw	38	S. Okkalapa, Rangoon Division	-	Insein	ABSDF	122/A, 17 (1) to (2)
Ko Thike Yin	43	Bokale township, Irrawaddy Delta	-	*	*	Sentenced in 1993 under Act 122/1
U Thain	44	Pabedan Township, Rangoon Division	-	*	CEC, ABSDF	Sentenced in 1998 under Act 122/1, 5 (1), 17 (1) to (2)
Ko Lat Yer Tun	27	Rangoon Division	-	*	ABSDF	*
U Khin Hlaing	51	North Okkalapa Township, Rangoon Division	-	*	NLD (N. Okkalapa)	*
Ko Naing Aung (a) Ko Fighter Aung	31	Rangoon Division	-	*	ABSDF	*
Ko Thant Zaw Shwe	*	*	-	*	*	*
Ven, U Sanda Thari (Monk) (a) Myint Han or Mya Han	44	*	-	*	Y.M.A & ABSDF	*
Ko Myint Sare	29	-	-	Insein (transferred from Thayet)	ABSDF	Sentenced in 1991 under Act 122/A, 5(D), 17(A) to (2)
Ko Ni Nya Oo	27	Synam, Rangoon Division	-	Insein (transferred from Tsungoo)	NLD	*
Ko Saw Tin Oo	26	-	-	Insein	VBSW	Sentenced in March 2000 under Act 122A, 17(1) to (2)

Appendix # 6: Some of the political prisoners who remain imprisoned after the completion of their prison term

1. Min Ko Naing {Conqueror of king}
2. Ko Ko Gyi.
3. Zaw Min (a) Arebye
4. Thet Htun
5. Myat San
6. Zaya
7. Thaung Htaik (or) Hmone Gyi
8. Yin Htwe (or) Pyaung Gyi
9. Htay Kywe
10. Maung Hmaine (or) Min Hlaing
11. Khin Maung Ye (or) Tin Aye
12. Bo Bo Han
13. Ba Htoo Maung
14. Dr. Zaw Min
15. Zaw Zaw Aung
16. Ko Tin Aye Kyu
17. Soe Moe Hlaing (or) Mae Gyi
18. U Htay Thein
19. Ko Myint San (Source: AAPP, March 2000)

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	Name	Section	Prison Terms	Postion	Current Detention	Address	Date of Arrest
1	Amar Nyunt		10 Years			Kyaukse, Mandalay	
2	Anul	5J, 17/1	25years	Student HS	Insein	Pegu	Dec;1996
3	Aung Thu	122/1	20 Years	PPP & Lawyer	Myingyan	Myingyan, Sagaing	1993
4	Aung Aung	5J, 17/1	12Years		Mandalay		Feb;1991
5	Aung Aung	5J	24years	Student (2nd yr, Phy;)		S/ Dagon, Rgn	Dec;1996
6	Aung Aung Oo				Myaungmya		
7	Aung Chit				Taungoo		
8	Aung Din	17/1-	3 years		Myingyan		Feb;1998
9	Aung Gyi	5J	10years	Student (Dagon Uni;)	Myaungmya	Dagon, Rgn	Dec;1996
10	Aung Hlaing Win @ Aung Thiha	5J,17/1-2,2	Death sentenc	Student HS	Insein	Pyu, Pegu	Sept, 2000
11	Aung Hmaing san	5J,17/1	19Years	Student	Mandalay	Mandalay	
12	Aung Htoo			NLD		Botahtung, Rgn	1997
13	Aung Khaing	5J	7years	Student	Mandalay	Rgn	Dec;1996
14	Aung Khaing	5J	10years	Student (2nd yr Eco)	Myintkyina	Insein, Rgn	Jan; 21, 1997
15	Aung Khaing	5J,17/1,10/	15years	CPB	Taungoo	Prome, Pegu	1991
16	Aung Khaing Ko				Myintkyina		
17	Aung Khaing Min				Taungoo		
18	Aung Khaing Zaw				Myaungmya		
19	Aung Khin	5J, 17/1	20years	CPB	Taungoo	Insein, Rgn	1989
20	Aung Khin Sintt, Dr	5J	12years	NLD (MP)	Insein	Mangalataungnyunt, R	July,1996
21	Aung Ko Ko	5J	14years	Student	Insein	Sanchaung, Rgn	Sep ; 1998
22	Aung Kyaw		10 Years	NLD & Lawyer	Katha		
23	Aung Kyaw Htway	5J	7years	Student & NLD	Insein	Rgn	Sep; 1998
24	Aung Kyaw Moe	5J	7years	Student (YIT)	Taungoo	Tamwe, Rgn	Dec;1996
25	Aung Kyaw Oo	5J,5E	7+7	Student	Tharawaddy	Thingangyun,Rgn	1990
26	Aung Kyaw Soe	5J	7years	NLD	Thayet	Taungdwingyi, Magwe	April 23, 2000
27	Aung Kyaw Zaw				Myingyan		
28	Aung Kyi	5J	7years	Artist	Mandalay		
29	Aung Linn	5J	15 years	Student (Uni;)	Insein		Dec; 1991
30	Aung Lwin	5J	7years				1996
31	Aung Lwin Oo	5J, 19/F	20years		Myingyan		
32	Aung May Thu	5J, 17/1,10/	10years	NLD	Tharawaddy	Minhla, Pegu	1989
33	Aung Min @Thaung Shwe	5J, 17/1, 17	14 years	CPB	Tharawaddy	Rgn	1997
34	Aung Min Swe		11 Years	NLD		Mandalay	
35	Aung Moe	5J	10years	Student (Dagon Uni;)	Bassein	Dagon, Rgn	Dec;1996
36	Aung Moe				Tharawaddy		

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37	Aung Moe Kyaw	5J,17/1	7+7years	Student HS	Tharawaddy	Thingangyun,Rgn	Nov; 1990
38	Aung Moe Kyaw	5J	15years	Student (YIT)			
39	Aung Moe Tun	5J	14years	Student (Uni:)	Mandalay	Thingangyun,Rgn	Sep; 1998
40	Aung Mya Min	5J	7years		Moulmein		
41	Aung Myaing		17Years	Blacksmith		Mandalay	
42	Aung Myat Htut	5J, 17/1	16 or 20years	Student (Uni:)	Myingyan	Rgn	1989
43	Aung Myat Thu	5J,17/1	14years	Student (Uni:)	Moulmein	Belin, Mon State	Sep; 1998
44	Aung Myat Win	5J	7years	Student HS	Moulmein	Ye, Mon State	
45	Aung Myint	5J, 17/1	7years	Teacher (private+E24	Insein	Yankin, Rgn	1997
46	Aung Myint		8 Years		Mandalay	Pyinmana, Mandalay	
47	Aung Myint	5J			Tharawaddy	Sagaing	
48	Aung Myint	5J		NLD (MP) Letpadan-1			May; 1999
49	Aung Myint @ Ko Sai				Tharawaddy		
50	Aung Myint @ Pyapon Ne Lon Oo	5J	21years	poet & NLD	Insein	Rgn	Sep ;4, 2000
51	Aung Myint @ Sai Lon	17/1	10years		Tharawaddy	Mahlaing, Mandalay	1990
52	Aung Myo Kyaw	5J			Myaungmya		
53	Aung Myo Tint	5J	12yesrs			Sanchaung, Rgn	1990
54	Aung Myo Win	5J	7years		Moulmein	Ye, Mon State	19-Aug-99
55	Aung Myo Zaw	5J	7years			Kamaryut, Rgn	
56	Aung Naing				Kalay	Rgn	
57	Aung Naing				Myaungmya		
58	Aung Naing				Taungoo		
59	Aung Naing	5J, 19/F	20years		Myingyan		
60	Aung Naing @ Aung Shwe				Tharawaddy		
61	Aung Naing @ Banya	122/1,17/1	death sentenc	ABSDF & Student Uni	Thayet	Tanyin, Rgn	1990
62	Aung Naing Oo	5J	14years	Student	Myintkyina	S/ Okkalapa, Rgn	March 1996
63	Aung Nyunt		5Years	Peasant		Madaya, Mandalay	
64	Aung Pwint	5J	7years	Poet	Insein	Bassein, Irrawaddy	1999
65	Aung Saw Oo		4Years	DPNS	Mandalay	Mandalay	
66	Aung Shwe				Mandalay		
67	Aung Soe	5J	14years	Student (Uni:)	Insein	Rgn	Sep; 1998
68	Aung Soe		7years	NLD	Myintkyina		March18,1996
69	Aung Soe Min	5J	21years	Student (Uni:)	Mandalay		Sep; 1998
70	Aung Swan				Myingyan		
71	Aung Than	17/1-2,10A	10years	CPB	Bassein	Thegon, Pegu	1989
72	Aung Than Naing Soe	5J	7years		Mandalay		
73	Aung Than Nyunt	16	7years	NLD	Thayet	Chuak, Magwe	

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

74	Aung Thein	5J,17/1,10A	10 Years	CPB	Mandalay		1989
75	Aung Thu	122/1	Death Sentenc	Student, Medical Uni	Taungoo	Rgn	1989
76	Aung Thura	5J			Bassein		
77	Aung Tint Lwin	5J	7years		Moulmein	Thingangyun,Rgn	
78	Aung Tun	5J,17/1	14Years	Student	Insein	Kyauktada, Rgn	Feb;1998
79	Aung Tun	5J	20years		Myingyan	Tanyin, Rgn	July 19,1994
80	Aung Win	17/1-2	20years		Taungoo	Insein, Rgn	1989
81	Aung Win		7Years	Lawyer		Yemethin, Mandalay	
82	Aung Zaw Moe	5J	7years	Student	Insein		Jan;23,1997
83	Aung Zaya	5J	7years	DPNS (Chairperson)	Taungoo	Shwebo, Sagaing	Feb;1995
84	Aung Zin Min @ Min Zin	5J	7 years	Poet	Tharawaddy	Yankin, Rgn	1997
85	Aye Aung	5J, 17/1	45years	NLD	Kalay	Thingangyun,Rgn	
86	Aye Aung	5J, 17/1	14years	Student (2nd yr Phy)	Myaungmya	Rgn	Sep; 1998
87	Aye Aye Moe (F)	5J, 17/1		Student	Taung Thone Lone	Thingangyun,Rgn	1998
88	Aye Aye Moe (F)	5J	7years	Student (1st yr Hon:P	Tharawaddy	Kyauktada, Rgn	Feb;1995
89	Aye Aye Swe (F)	5J	10years	Student	Bassein	Kemmemdine, Rgn	Sep; 1998
90	Aye Aye Win (F)	5J	7years	NLD	Insein	Tharkayta, Rgn	June 30, 1996
91	Aye Htut	5J		Student (3rd yr,Geolo	Insein		Nov; 1998
92	Aye Kyaw	5J	5years		Thayet	Aunglan, Magwe	Feb;24, 1997
93	Aye Kyu	5J,17/20	21Years	NLD	Insein	Kunchyangon, Rgn	18-Dec-00
94	Aye Kyu		8 Years	NLD		Yemethin, Mandalay	
95	Aye Lwin	5J	7years				96
96	Aye Min		8 Years	Tourist guide		Mandalay	
97	Aye Myint	5J	5years	NLD	Thayet	Aunglan, Magwe	
98	Aye Myint @ Thar Gyi				Myingyan		
99	Aye Myint Than (F)	5J	7 years		Bassein	Thingangyun,Rgn	Sep, 1998
100	Aye Naing	5J	7 years	Student	Tharawaddy	Sanchaung, Rgn	Dec; 1996
101	Aye Ngwe	5J	2+8years		Myingyan		
102	Aye Swe	5J, 17/1					
103	Aye Tha Aung	5J, 17/20	21Years	CRPP (secretary)	Insein		June 22, 2000
104	Aye Than	5J	7years	Student HS	Thayet	Kemmemdine, Rgn	Dec;1996
105	Aye Than (F)	5J, 17/1	25years	Merchant	Insein	Thaton, Mon	Dec;3, 1999
106	Aye Thaung		20Years	Captain (Retired)	Mandalay	Pyinmana, Mandalay	
107	Aye Thaung	5J,17/1-2	45Years		Mandalay		
108	Aye Tun	5J	14years	Student (Uni;)	Insein	Hlaing, Rgn	Sep; 1998
109	Aye Win			NLD	Bassein	Bahan, Rgn	May, 1996

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

110	Aye Zen, Dr	5J		NLD (MP)			
111	Ba Chit	5J, 17/1	25years		Insein	Pegu	Dec 3,1999
112	Ba Hein Latt	5J	10years	Student (Dagon Uni;)	Myaungmya	Dagon, Rgn	Dec,1996
113	Ba Htoo Maung	5J , 10/A	20years	Student (Uni;)	Myingyan	Mayangone, Rgn	June 21,1992
114	Ba Min	5J	7 years	NLD	Mandalay		
115	Ba Myo Thein	17/1	19years		Thayet	11/477Marchant St,Rg	
116	Ba Soe	5J	4Years		Mandalay	Mandalay	Sep; 1999
117	Bala Gyi	5J,17/1,10/	15years	CPB	Taungoo	Rgn	1989
118	Bando @ Min Myo Shwe	17-Jan	20 years	KNU	Tharawaddy	Irrawaddy	1992
119	Bauk Naw	17/1	9Years	NLD		Myitkyina, Kachin State	
120	Bawanu	5J	40 years	Monk	Tharawaddy	Shwepyitha, Rgn	
121	NLD		24Years		Myingyan	Mingalardon	
122	Bo Aye			NLD	Mandalay	Hlaingthaya, Rgn	1996
123	Bo Bo	5J,17/1	14years	NLD	Myingyan	Bahan, Rgn	1998
124	Bo Bo Han	5J	15 years	Student (Uni;)			Dec,1991
125	Bo Bo Oo	5J,17/1	10+7 years		Myingyan	Bahan, Rgn	1991 & 1996
126	Bo Gyi			Student	Insein	Sanchaung, Rgn	March 13, 2000
127	Bo Kyi	5J	7 years	Lawyer	Myingyan		1996
128	Bo Lay @ Aung Naing Oo	5J,17/20, 1	20years	Student (Tri Color)	Tharawaddy	Lamadaw, Rgn	1993
129	Bo Yin	5J	7 years	CPB	Tharawaddy	Magwe	1997
130	Boni	5J, 17/1	13Years	NLD	Tharawaddy	Margue, Tenasserim	
131	Chan Aye	5J, 17/1	10 years		Mandalay		
132	Chan Mya Aung (F)	5J	7years	NLD	Insein		Sep; 1998
133	Chan Myint Win	5J	7years		Mandalay		
134	Chan Nan				Insein	Sanchaung, Rgn	13-Mar-00
135	Chan Nyain Win	5J	14Years	Student (2nd yr GTI)	Insein	Rgn	Sep; 1998
136	Chit Htway			NLD (MP)	Thayet	Myothit, Magwe	
137	Chit Khin			NLD (MP)	Thayet	Magwe	1998
138	Chit Ko Ko	5J	7years		Mandalay		
139	Chit Min Aung	5J	31years	Student	Moulmein	Rgn	
140	Chit Min Lay @ Chit Min Oo	5J, 17/1	14years	Student (4th yr Burme	Bassein	Latha, Rgn	Sep; 1998
141	Chit Saung Oo	5J,17/1,10/	20 Years	CPB	Myingyan	Bahan, Rgn	1990
142	Chit Than		4years		Moulmein		
143	Cho Aung Than	5E, VA4	10 years	NLD	Insein	Yankin, Rgn	1997
144	Cho Mar Htwe	5J	7Years	NLD			1998

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

145	Damathiri	5J,295	7 years	Monk	Mandalay	Mandalay	Feb;1998
146	Do Htaung	5J	7Years	NLD (MP)	Mandalay	Kalay, Saigaing	
147	Duwa Zaw Aung		7Years	NLD (MP)	Mandalay	Dukahtaung, Myitkyina	August, 1999
148	Eaik Khin				Mandalay		
149	Ei Ba @ Tin Hlaing	5J	7years	Student (Tri Color)	Thayawaddy	Pazundaung, Rgn	1996
150	Ei Brahlin	5J	7Years		Pegu	Pan Hlaing Kone, Peg	Aug 25,1998
151	Ei Shwe Zin Nyut (F)	5J	7years	NLD	Tharawaddy	Insein, RGN	Dec,1996
152	Ei Suit	5J	7Years		Pegu	N-Zyinekanaie, Pegu	Aug 25,1998
153	Gin Sing, Dr		11Years			Kale, Sagaing	
154	Han Kyi				Mandalay		
155	Han Nyunt				Myaungmya		
156	Han Sein	5J,17/20,1	20years	NLD	Tharawaddy	Pabedan, Rgn	Oct; 1993
157	Han Soe Tun				Bassein		
158	Han Tin	5J	7years	NLD	Myaungmya	Kyauktan, Rgn	Oct; 1998
159	Han Tun	5J,17/1,10A	10 years	CPB	Myingyan	Pazundaung, Rgn	1989
160	Han Win Aung	5J	7years	Student HS Graduate	Tharawaddy	S/ Okkalapa, Rgn	July, 1994
161	Han Win Aung	5J,17/1	10years		Insein	Kyauktada, Rgn	1997
162	Hardon	5J	14 Years		Moulmein		
163	Hein	5j	10 Years			Insein, Rgn	1991
164	Hein Latt	5J	7years	DPNS	Thayet		
165	Hinn Mya Aung(F)	5J	7years	NLD	Insein		1998
166	Hinn Pa Pa (F)	5J	5Years	NLD	Mandalay	Mandalay	
167	Hla Kunt						
168	Hla Kyaw		10Years	Peasant		Madaya, Mandalay	
169	Hla Maung	5J	20years		Myingyan		July 19,1994
170	Hla Min	5J	7years	NLD (MP)	Myingyan	Lanmadaw, Rgn	Nov;19, 1996
171	Hla Myint	5J		NLD (MP)	Insein	Ngapudaw, Irrawaddy	Feb;1998
172	Hla Myint				Tharawaddy		
173	Hla Myo Khaing		20Years	DPNS (Chairman)			
174	Hla Nyein	5J,17/1,10/	10 Years	NLD	Myingyan		1991
175	Hla Oo				Bassein		
176	Hla Shwe	5J	7years	PPP	Thayet	Thingangyun,Rgn	Feb; 1998
177	Hla Shwe		15 Years	NLD		Katha, Sagaing	
178	Hla Soe	5J	7years		Mandalay		
179	Hla Than	17/1	17years	ABSDF	Thayet	Tharkayta, Rgn	
180	Hla Thein	5J, 17/1	10years	CBP	Thayet	Dala, Rgn	
181	Hla Thein	5J	7 years	Clergy	Tharawaddy	Insein, Rgn	1997

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

182	Hla Tun Aung				Myintkyina		
183	Hla Wei		17 Years		Mandalay	Pyinmana, Mandalay	
184	Hla Win	5J, 17/1-2	25years	Student HS Graduate	Insein	Pegu	August ,1999
185	Hla Win Maung	5J	7 years	Labor		Hlaingthaya, Rgn	1996
186	Hlaing Aye					Pakokku, Magwe	May 24, 2000
187	Hlaing Moe Than	5J	15years	Student (YIT)			
188	Hlaing Myat	5J	14Years	Student	Myaungmya	Bahan, Rgn	Sep; 1998
189	Hlaing Myint, Dr	5J	12years	NLD (MP)	Myintkyina	N/ Okkala, Rgn	1996
190	Hlaing Win Aung				Mandalay		
191	Hlaing Win Swe				Myaungmya		
192	Hnin Hnin Phway (F)	5J, 17/1	7+7years	Student (Uni;)	Tharawaddy	Tharkayta, Rgn	1996
193	Hninn May Aung (F)	5/J, 17/1	42years	Student (Uni;) (NLD)	Insein		
194	Htat Aung Ni				Tharawaddy		
195	Htaw Ko				Insein		
196	Htay Aung	5J	7years	Student	Bassein	Kamaryut, Rgn	Dec;1996
197	Htay Aung				Taungoo		
198	Htay Hlaing				Taungoo		
199	Htay Kywe	,5J,10/A	15Years	Student (2nd yr Geol)	Tharawaddy	Sanchaung, Rgn	May, 1991
200	Htay Lin	5J	7years	NLD	Insein	Hlaingthayar, Rgn	1996
201	Htay Lwin	5J,17/1,10/	20 Years	CPB	Myingyan		1991
202	Htay Lwin	122/1	20years	ABSDF	Taungoo	Thingangyun,Rgn	1990
203	Htay Lwin	5J	7years	NLD	Thayet	Taungdwingyi, Magwe	April 23, 2000
204	Htay Nyunt	5J,17/1,--	20+4Years	CPB	Mandalay	Rgn	Nov;1989
205	Htay Thein	5J,17/1,10/	20years	CPB	Mandalay	Dawbon, Rgn	Nov;1989
206	Htay Win				Myintkyina		
207	Htein Lin			NLD	Mandalay	Hlaingthaya,Rgn	1996
208	Htein Lin				Myintkyina		
209	Htein Lin Aung	5J	7 Years	Student (2nd yr Phy)	Insein	Kamaryut, Rgn	24-Aug-98
210	Htein Min		10Years	DPNS (Chairman)		Pyinmana, Mandalay	
211	Htein Win	5J		NLD	Insein	Rgn	Sep 14, 2000
212	Htet Aung	5J	14Years	Student (Uni;)	Insein		Sep; 1998
213	Htin Aung				Taungoo		
214	Htin Lin	5J	7years		Mandalay		
215	Htoo Kun	122/1	death,sen		Thayet		
216	Htoo Myint	5J		NLD	Insein	Rgn	Sep 14, 2000
217	Htut Gyi	122/1	death,sen			Taungyi, Shan	
218	Htway		7Years	NLD	Myintkyina		March 18, 1996

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

219	Htway Maung				Mandalay		
220	Jaw Ni	5J, 122/1,1	52Years		Thayet	Thonezae, Pegu	1990
221	Jaybo				Mandalay		
222	Joseph @ Ko Ko Gyi		10Years		Mandalay	Chaung-U, Sagaing	
223	Joseph @ Nyi Nyi	17-Jan	3Years	NLD (LA)	Moulmein		
224	Kalagyi		7 Years	Student		Mandalay	
225	Kalalay	5J	7 Years	Student	Insein		Jun; 23, 1997
226	Kalaya (F)	5J	7years	NLD	Insein	Tamwe, Rgn	Sep; 1998
227	Kan Saung	5J	7 years		Tharawaddy	N/ Okkala, Rgn	12.9.1996
228	Kan Shar		15Years	NLD	Myitkyina		
229	Kan Shein	5J	7years	Peasant	Thayet	Henzada, Irrawaddy	
230	Kan Shein				Insein	Tenasserim	
231	Kar Tun	17-Jan	15 years		Myingyan	Irrawaddy	1993
232	Kaung Kyaw Zan				Tharawaddy		
233	Kaw Pi				Mandalay		
234	Kawiya	3	Death-sent	Monk	Myingyan	Mandalay	1988
235	Kawwi	17(1)		Monk	Mandalay		
236	Kay Taw	122	life	KNU	Thayet		
237	Kayin Gyi				Myingyan	Kyeemyindaing,Rgn	
238	Kaywara	5J,295	7 years	Monk	Mandalay	Mandalay	Sep; 1998
239	Kaywatha	5J	7 years	Monk	Tharawaddy	Magwe	1996
240	Khain Maung Sein				Mandalay		
241	Khaing Kaung Zen	17(1)		ALD (Thai) vice chair		Bangkok, Thailand	5-Dec-00
242	Khaing Ko Oo	5J	7years	Student & NLD	Insein	Insein, Rgn	Dec;1996
243	Khaing Myint	5J	7Years	Guest House Owner	Pegu	N/Zyinekanaie,Pegu	August 25,1998
244	Khaymaida @ Kyin Tun			Monk	Tharawaddy		
245	Khin Aye Aye Mar (F)	5J	7Years		Insein	Kamaryut, Rgn	1997
246	Khin Cho Myint (F)	5J	10years	Student (final,Part-1 P	Moulmein	Kamaryut, Rgn	Sep; 1998
247	Khin Hlaing	5J		Labor	Insein		1997
248	Khin Hlaing	5J,122/1	Death-Sent	Teacher	Insein	N/ Okkala, Rgn	Jan;1998
249	Khin Kyi Kyi (F)	5J	4Years		Mandalay	Mandalay	Sep; 1999
250	Khin Lae Lae (F)	5J, 17/1	life-sen	Student (Uni;)	Insein	Pegu	Dec;3, 1999
251	Khin Lay Ngal (F)		5J	Student (Uni;)	Insein	Rgn	Sep; 1998
252	Khin Ma Gyi (F)	17/1		NLD	Insein	Pabedan, Rgn	1998
253	Khin Ma Lay (F)	17/1		NLD	Insein	Pabedan, Rgn	1998
254	Khin Mar (F)	17/1	10years		Insein	Mandalay	1991
255	Khin Mar Kyi, Dr (F)	5J	7years		Mandalay	Monywa, Sagaing	

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

256	Khin Mar Yee (F)	5J	7years	Student & NLD	Insein	Sanchaung, Rgn	Dec,1996
257	Khin Maung	5J	20years	NLD	Myingyan	Kyauktada, Rgn	1994
258	Khin Maung	5J	20years		Myingyan	Pyinmana, Mandalay	June 21, 1994
259	Khin Maung Aye	5J	7years	Lawyer	Insein		Feb, 1998
260	Khin Maung Cho	17(1)		MDUF	Mergui		
261	Khin Maung Gyi		10 Years	NLD		Mandalay	
262	Khin Maung Htay @ Ponny	5J	8 years	CNF	Tharawaddy	Chin State	1996
263	Khin Maung Kyi	5J, 17/1	10years	NLD	Thayet	Mon State	
264	Khin Maung Lay	17/1,10/A	10years	CPB	Tharawaddy	Meikhtila, Mandalay	1990
265	Khin Maung Lin		10 Years	NLD & Lawyer	Mandalay	Katha, Sagaing	
266	Khin Maung Lwin	5J		NLD	Kalay	Dawbon, Rgn	
267	Khin Maung Myint	5J	7year	NLD	Kalay	Latha, Rgn	1997
268	Khin Maung Nyunt		8Years	Teacher HS		Sagaing	
269	Khin Maung Oo	5j	4Years		Bassein		
270	Khin Maung Oo	5J	7 years	NLD	Insein	Pegu	Sep; 1998
271	Khin Maung Oo @ Watoke	5J	7years	Peddler	Tharawaddy	Insein, Rgn	1996
272	Khin Maung Swe	5J	7years	NLD (MP)	Myingyan	Sanchaung, Rgn	1994
273	Khin Maung Swe	5J	7 Years	Student (Uni;)	Myingyan		1996
274	Khin Maung Than	5J,17/1	12Years	CPB	Mandalay		Feb;1991
275	Khin Maung Thaug	5J	7years	NLD	Mandalay		
276	Khin Maung Tint	124/a	20years		Mandalay		
277	Khin Maung Win	5J	20years	NLD (MP)	Taungoo	Pegu	1991
278	Khin Maung Win	5J	7years	Student	Taungoo	Pazundaung, Rgn	Sep; 1998
279	Khin Maung Win	5J			Insein	Yae/Mon State	1988
280	Khin Maung Ye @ Tin Aye	5J,17/1,10/	20Years	Student (Uni;)	Mandalay	Rgn	Nov;1989
281	Khin maung Yee	5J,17/1,10A	20 Years	CPB	Mandalay		1989
282	Khin Moe Aye (F)	5J	7years	Student	Insein	Kyauktada, Rgn	1998
283	Khin Mung Shwe	5J	15 Years	Student (3rd yr) (YIT)	Tharawaddy	Mandalay	Dec;1991
284	Khin Mya	5J	7years		Tharawaddy		
285	Khin Myint (F)	17/1		NLD	Insein	Pabedan, Rgn	1998
286	Khin Myint Aung	17/1	10years		Tharawaddy	Botahtung, Rgn	1990
287	Khin Oo				Tharawaddy		
288	Khin San Aye (F)				Mandalay		
289	Khin Soe	5J, 17/1	20years	NLD	Insein	Ye, Mon State	
290	Khin Soe Myint (F)				Moulmein		
291	Khin Soe Win (F)	5J	7Years		Mandalay	Monywa, Sagaing	June, 1996
292	Khin Than Aye (F)	5J	5Years		Mandalay		

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

293	Khin Thaug				Bassein		
294	Khin Tint (F)	17/1		NLD	Insein	Pabedan, Rgn	1998
295	Khin Win	5J,17/1,10A	20 Years	CPB	Insein	Rgn/DagonMyo Thit	1989
296	Khin Yee@Tin Yee (F)	5J	10 Years	NLD	Myaungmya	Wakema, Irrawaddy	Dec;13, 1996
297	Khin Zaw	122/1	Death-Sent		Tharawaddy	Thingangyun,Rgn	
298	Khin Zaw Aung				Myaungmya		
299	Khin Zaw Oo	5J		NLD	Kalay	Dawbon, Rgn	
300	Khin Zaw Win, Dr	5E,17/1,--	15Years		Myintkyina	Yankin, Rgn	July,1994
301	Khing Soe				Tharawaddy		
302	Khing Soe	5J	7years		Tharawaddy		
303	Khun Aung	122/1	Death-sent	KIA	Myingyan	Kachin	1983
304	Khun Myint Tun	5J	7 years	NLD (MP)	Kalay	Mon state	May, 1996
305	Khun Sai @ Myo Lwin	5J, 17/20	7years		Shwebo	Sanchaung, Rgn	Apri, 1998
306	Khun Zar				Mandalay		
307	Ko Gyi				Mandalay	Pyinmana, Mandalay	
308	Ko Hmaing	5J,10/A	15years		Myingyan	Rgn	1991
309	Ko Htay	5J		NLD	Insein	N/ Okkala, Rgn	1997
310	Ko Ko		10 Years			Mandalay	
311	Ko Ko Aung	5J	7years	NLD	Tharawaddy	S/ Okkala, Rgn	1991
312	Ko Ko Gyi	5J, (10/A)	20years	Student (4th yr IR:)	Thayet	S/ Okkalapa, Rgn	Dec;1991
313	Ko Ko Gyi	5(J)	10.A		Thayet	S/Okkalapa,Rgn	3/25/1992
314	Ko Ko Gyi	5J,17/1,5/E	10+7years	Student (4th yr Burme	Bassein	Insein, Rgn	1990
315	Ko Ko Maung	5J	7years	NLD	Insein		Sep; 1998
316	Ko Ko Maung	5J	7years	NLD	Mandalay		
317	Ko Ko Naing	122/1	Death-sentenc		Mandalay	Rgn	1989
318	Ko Ko Naing	5j, 17/1	10Years	BCP	Mandalay	Insein	1.10.1989
319	Ko Ko Zaw	5J	7years	NLD	Moulmein	Moulmein, Mon State	
320	Ko Lay				Mandalay		
321	Ko Lay	363	10 Years		Mandalay	Bamaw, Kachin	
322	Ko Myint	17/1	10years		Taungoo	S/ Okkalapa, Rgn	1989
323	Ko Myo	363	10years	Restaurant owner		Chaung-U, Sagaing	
324	Ko Oo		2years	NLD	Thayet	Mindon, Magwe	
325	Ko Par		10years	Tea shop owner		Chaung-U, Sagaing	
326	Ko Saw	5J, 17/1					
327	Ko Taw		10Years	Astrologer		Monywa, Sagaing	
328	Ko Thein	5J, 17/1	Death-sentenc	ABSDF	Insein	Pabedan, Rgn	Feb;1998
329	Ko Thet		10Years	Student (Uni;) (Philo;)		Rgn	

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

330	Ko Thiha	5J, 17/1	7years		Insein	Prome, Pegu	Dec;1996
331	Kyaing Hla	5J	10years		Thayawaddy	Mandalay	1991
332	Kyal O Hnain				Kalay	Chin	1999
333	Kyaw	5J	7years	NLD	Mandalay	Thingangyun,Rgn	Dec;1996
334	Kyaw Aung	5J, 17/1	25years	Teacher HS	Insein	Pegu	Dec;3, 1999
335	Kyaw Aye	5J	14years	Student (Uni;)	Insein		Sep; 1998
336	Kyaw Aye		23Years	Peasant	Mandalay	Madaya, Mandalay	
337	Kyaw Aye	5J	7years	NLD	Tharawaddy	Tanyin, Rgn	
338	Kyaw Aye		12 years			Mandalay	
339	Kyaw Aye	5j	13years	NLD	Insein	Tharkayta, Rgn	
340	Kyaw Aye Naing	17/1,13/1	7years	NLD	Taungoo	RgnN/Dagon	1999
341	Kyaw Gyi				Mandalay		
342	Kyaw Hein	5J	life sent-	Student (Uni;)	Moulmein	Moulmein, Mon State	1990
343	Kyaw Htay	5J	7years	Government servant	Mandalay		
344	Kyaw Htay@Japan Gyi@ Ko Latt	5J, 17/1		Student HS	Insein	Pegu	June 2000
345	Kyaw Htway	5J	7years		Thayawaddy	Mangalataungnyunt, R	1996
346	Kyaw Htway @ Kyaw Swe				Mandalay		
347	Kyaw Khaing				Taungoo		
348	Kyaw Khaing @ Pho La Pyi	5J	7years	Student	Bassein	Kamaryut, Rgn	Sep; 1998
349	Kyaw Khaing Win	5J	7years		Thayet	Rgn	1996
350	Kyaw Khin	5J, 17/20	7years	NLD (MP)	Thayet	Taungyi, Shan	June,1996
351	Kyaw Kyaw		24years	NLD	Moulmein	RgnN/Okkala	
352	Kyaw Kyaw	17/1	20Years	Monk	Tharawaddy	Daik-U, Pegu	
353	Kyaw Kyaw	5J, 17/1					Dec;3, 1999
354	Kyaw Kyaw @ Big		9 Years	Merchant	Mandalay		
355	Kyaw Kyaw @ Sma		7Years	Shop owner	Mandalay		
356	Kyaw Kyaw Htwe @ Marki	5J	14years	Student (1st yr Eng:)	Myintkyina	S/ Okkalapa, Rgn	March 1996
357	Kyaw Kyaw Htwe@ Ahdu	5j	7years		Tharawaddy		
358	Kyaw Kyaw Khaing				Taungoo		
359	Kyaw Kyaw Lwin		5Years	student		Myingyan, Sagaing	
360	Kyaw Kyaw Min				Mandalay		
361	Kyaw Kyaw Oo		10 Years	student		Myitkyina, Kachin State	
362	Kyaw Kyaw Oo	5j	10years	student	Tharawaddy	Kamaryut	
363	Kyaw Kyaw Soe	5j17/1	7years		Tharawaddy	YanKan	
364	Kyaw Kyaw Soe @ Gi ko	5J, 5J	7+7years	Student (YIT)	Tharawaddy	Yankin, Rgn	Dec;1996
365	Kyaw Kyaw Tun		7years		Thayet	Mingalardon	

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

366	Kyaw Kyaw Win		11Years	Student	Mandalay	Mandalay	
367	Kyaw Lwin	5J,17/1,10A	10Years	CPB	Myingyan		1989
368	Kyaw Lwin Oo	17/1	10Years		Tharawaddy		
369	Kyaw Maung Maung Lwin	17(1)		KNU	Moulmein		
370	Kyaw Mg Mg Lwin	5J, 17/1		Student (2nd yr Burm	Moulmein	Moulmein, Mon State	Aug;21. 2000
371	Kyaw Min	5J	7 years	NLD	Insein	Sanchaung, Rgn	Sep, 1998
372	Kyaw Min	5J	7years		Mandalay	Sanchaung, Rgn	Sep, 1998
373	Kyaw Min	5J, 17/1		NLD (MP)			Dec;3, 1999
374	Kyaw Min Than	5J	14years	Student (Uni;)	Insein		Sep, 1998
375	Kyaw Min Thant		10 Years	Student (Uni;)	Mandalay	Mandalay	1998
376	Kyaw Min Yu @ Jimmy	3,5J	20+12	Student (3rd yr Phy)	Tharawaddy	Hlaing, Rgn	1989
377	Kyaw Mya	5J,17/1,10A	20years	CPB	Taungoo	S/ Okkalapa, Rgn	1991
378	Kyaw Myint			NLD (MP)			
379	Kyaw Myint		9Years	Officer, Tel.Com		Rgn	
380	Kyaw Myint Oo		21Years	Teacher (private)	Mandalay	Myingyan, Sagaing	
381	Kyaw Myint Oo	5J	10years		Tharawaddy	Insein, Rgn	
382	Kyaw Myo Naing @ Zarni	5J	10 Years	Student (Uni;)	Myingyan		1992
383	Kyaw Naing	17(1)		MDUF	Mergui	Tavoy	
384	Kyaw Naing @PoLaPay	5j	7years	NLD	Pathein		
385	Kyaw Naing Min	5j	7years	Student	Thayet	Magwe/Salan	
386	Kyaw Naing Win	5j	7years	BCP	Tharawaddy		
387	Kyaw Nyein	5J	10yrars		Mandalay		
388	Kyaw Nyein	17-Jan	7years	SSA	Tharawaddy		
389	Kyaw Nyunt	124/D	7years	Student YIT	Mandalay	Lashio, Shan	July, 1998
390	Kyaw Nyunt		14 Years	NLD		Pyinmana, Mandalay	
391	Kyaw Oo				Tharawaddy		
392	Kyaw Oo Nyo	5J, 17/1	10yrars		Myaungmya	Paukkhaung, Pegu	1989
393	Kyaw San			NLD (MP)	Insein	Insein, Rgn	Sep;7, 1998
394	Kyaw San	5J		NLD	Prome	Prome, Pegu	Jan; 22, 1999
395	Kyaw San @ Choseint	5J	7 years	Student (2nd yr Histor	Taungoo	Sanchaung, Rgn	Dec; 1996
396	Kyaw Sein	17/1	10years	CPB	Tharawaddy	Insein	
397	Kyaw Sein	5j	5years	NLD	Pone		1998
398	Kyaw Sein Aung	5J		NLD	Insein	Rgn	Sep 14, 2000
399	Kyaw Sein Aung	5J	7Years	NLD	Insein	Kunchyangon, Rgn	18-Dec-00
400	Kyaw Sein Maung	5J, 17/1,--	20+4Years	CPB	Mandalay	Rgn	Nov;1989
401	Kyaw Sein@Ko Mart	5j	7years		Myintkyina	Sanchaung, Rgn	1997
402	Kyaw Soe		20 Years	Restaurant owner	Mandalay		

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

403	Kyaw Soe	5J	7 Years	Student (Uni;)	Myingyan		Dec,1996
404	Kyaw Soe	5J	7years	NLD	Tharawaddy	Sanchaung, Rgn	1996
405	Kyaw Soe	5j	10Years	NLD	Mandalay		
406	Kyaw soe	5j	10Years		Insein	Thagangone	
407	Kyaw Soe		14 Years	student		Mandalay	
408	Kyaw Soe Lin	5J	7years	Student HS Graduate	Myingyan	S/ Okkalapa, Rgn	July, 1994
409	Kyaw Soe Thein				Mandalay	Moekong	
410	Kyaw Soe Win				Insein		
411	Kyaw Swa	5J, 17/1	36Years	Student (Uni;)	Insein	Tamwe, Rgn	1999
412	Kyaw Swa Hein	5J	7Years	Student (Dagon Uni;)	Myingyan	Thingangyun,Rgn	1996
413	Kyaw Swa Lin		17Years	Student	Thayet	Tamwe, Rgn	
414	Kyaw Swa Swe	5J	14Years	Student (2nd yr GTI)	Bassein	Rgn	Sept, 22, 98
415	Kyaw Swe	17/1-2	10 years		Tharawaddy	Yemethin, Mandalay	
416	Kyaw Than	5J,17/1,17/	20years	NLD	Tharawaddy	Kemmemdine, Rgn	1993
417	Kyaw Thaung	5J	7years	NLD	Mandalay		
418	Kyaw Thaung @ Kyaw Thee	5J, 17/1	14years	Student (4th yr Zol;)		Bahan, Rgn	1996
419	Kyaw Theik	5J,	10 Years	Student (Uni;)	Myingyan		1991
420	Kyaw Thiha				Mandalay		
421	Kyaw Tint		10 Years			Mandalay	
422	Kyaw Tun Min	5J, 17/1-2	25years	Student HS Graduate	Thayet	Pegu	Aug;1999
423	Kyaw Wai Soe	17/1	12Years	Labor	Moulmein	Moulmein, Mon State	August, 1999
424	Kyaw Win	5J	7years	NLD	Thayet	Thingangyun,Rgn	1994
425	Kyaw Win	17(1)		MDUF	Mergui	Tavoy	
426	Kyaw Win Swe		7years		Mandalay	Rgn	
427	Kyaw Win Swe Zin	5J	7years		Mandalay		
428	Kyaw Wunna	5J	7years	Student (2nd yr) (YIT)	Thayet	Dawbon, Rgn	April, 1998
429	Kyaw Zaw@Aung Kyaw Hein	5J	14years	Student HS Graduate	Kalay	Hlaing, Rgn	Jan;1998
430	Kyaw Zaya	5J	7years	Student & NLD	Tharawaddy	Kemmemdine, Rgn	Dec;1996
431	Kyaw Zin	5j	7years	NLD	Thayet	Taung Gyi	1996
432	Kyaw Zin			NLD	Insein	Moekaung	
433	Kyaw Zin Htway	5J,17/1	21years	Student (Uni;)	Bassein		
434	Kyawk Maung	17-Jan	10Years	BCP	Thayet		
435	Kyawt Maung	17/1	10years	NLD	Thayet	Mandalay	1997
436	Kyi Aung @ Kyi May	5J	7 years	Government servant	Mandalay		
437	Kyi Kyi Mar (F)	5J	7years	NLD	Insein	Sanchaung, Rgn	Sep; 1998
438	Kyi Kyi Win (F)	5J	14years	Student (Uni;) & NLD	Mandalay	Kemmemdine, Rgn	Oct; 1998
439	Kyi Lin				Myintkyina		

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

440	Kyi Lwin				Moulmein		
441	Kyi Lwin	5J,17/1,17/	21years	NLD	Thayet	Tamwe, Rgn	1999
442	Kyi Myint	5J	20years	NLD (MP)	Myingyan	Latha, Rgn	June 21, 94
443	Kyi Phe Kyaw				Myintkyina	Bokalay	
444	Kyi Tha Nyein	5J	7 Years	Student (2 nd yr YIT)	Kalay	Sanchaung, Rgn	Sep; 1998
445	Kyi Tha Oo	5J	14years	Student	Insein	Rgn	Sep; 1998
446	Kyi Tha Tun	5J	14years	Student	Shwebo		Nov; 1998
447	Kyi Tin Oo	5J,17/1	15 years	Writer	Insein	Hlaing, Rgn	1994
448	Kyi Toe	5J	7years	NLD	Thayet	Chauk, Magwe	
449	Kyi Tun	5J	14years	Student	Insein		Sep; 1998
450	Kyi Zin Htway	5J		Student (Uni;)			
451	Kyin Thein				Moulmein		
452	Kyin Thein				Taungoo		
453	Kyin Thein				Myingyan		
454	Kyin Thein, Dr	5J		NLD (MP)	Moulmein		1996
455	Kyine Hla	17-Jan	10Years	BCP	Taungoo	Mandalay	1990
456	Kyu (F)	5J	7years		Insein	Pazundaung, Rgn	1997
457	Kyu Kyu Mar	5j	20years	NLD	Insein	Rangoon	
458	Labya Naw				Mandalay		
459	Lae Lae Cho (F)	5J	7years	Student (Uni;)	Mandalay		
460	Lat Ya Tun	122/1,17/1	death sentenc	Student HS	Insein	Rgn	Feb;1998
461	Lat Ya Win	5J	7years	Poet	Bassein	N/ Dagon, Rgn	Jan; 21, 1997
462	Law Ale	122/1	Life Sentence		Thayet		1983
463	Lay Lay Mon (F)	5J	7years	Student (Uni;)	Myaungmya	N/ Dagon, Rgn	Dec;1996
464	Lin Lin				Myingyan	Meiktila	
465	Lin LinTun @ Lin Lin	5J	7years	Student & NLD	Kalay	Kamaryut, Rgn	Sep; 1998
466	Lin Thiha Maung				Taungoo		Sep; 1998
467	Lin Tin Maung				Mandalay		
468	Lout San				Mandalay		
469	Lu Zaw	5J	7years	NLD & Comedian	Katha	Mandalay	March 18, 1996
470	Lwann Naing, Dr				Mandalay		
471	Lwin Moe Myint	5J,17/1-2	25 years	Student (3 rd yr Maths)	Insein	Pegu	Aug;1999
472	Lwin Oo	5J,17/1,17.	20years	NLD	Tharawaddy	Pabedan, Rgn	1993
473	Lwin Oo	5J	10years		Thayet	Insein, Rgn	
474	Ma Ma Aye (F)	5J	7years		Insein		April;11, 1997
475	Mahawthada	5J,295	7 years	Monk	Mandalay	Mandalay	Sep; 1998
476	Mahn Nyunt @ Mahn Nyunt Sein	122/1	Death-sent	KNU	Thayet		1983

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

477	Mar Mar Oo (F)	5J	14years		Insein		April;11, 1997
478	Mar Mar Oo (F)	5J	7years	Student	Tharawaddy	Mandalay	Dec;1996
479	Maung Aung				Mandalay		
480	Maung Hmaing	17/1	10years	ABSDF	Taungoo	Tharkayta, Rgn	1996
481	Maung Htway				Myintkyina		
482	Maung Kan				Bassein		
483	Maung Ko	5J	7years	CPB	Tharawaddy	Nyaung-U, Mandalay	1996
484	Maung Ko Nyein Thet				Mandalay		
485	Maung Kyi	5J	7years		Moulmein		
486	Maung Kyi				Taungoo		
487	Maung Maung	5J,17/1	20years	DPNS	Mandalay	Mandalay	July,1998
488	Maung Maung		6Years	Merchant	Mandalay	Madaya, Mandalay	
489	Maung Maung	5J	7years		Myaungmya	Kamaryut, Rgn	Dec;1996
490	Maung Maung	5J, 17/1	20+6 Years	CPB, Lawer	Myingyan	Rgn	1989 & 1992
491	Maung Maung Aye		14Years	Teacher HS		Mandalay	
492	Maung Maung Kyaw		7Years		Moulmein	Rgn	
493	Maung Maung Kyaw Aye	5J, 17/1	21 yrs	NLD	Mandalay		Sep; 1998
494	Maung Maung Kyaw, Dr	5J	7years	NLD	Insein	Botahtung, Rgn	April 28,1998
495	Maung Maung Latt	5J	7years	Student	Bassein		
496	Maung Maung Lwin		17 Years	Student		Mandalay	
497	Maung Maung Oo		10Years	Student	Mandalay	Mandalay	
498	Maung Maung Oo	5J	7years	Student (Uni; Q1 Zolo	Myingyan	Insein, Rgn	Feb;1995
499	Maung Maung Oo		7Years			Chauk, Magwe	
500	Maung Maung Than	5J	7years	NLD	Mandalay		
501	Maung Maung Tun	5J	7years		Tharawaddy	Prome, Pegu	
502	Maung Maung Wann	5J	12years	Student (4th yr ,Law)	Myintkyina	Yenangyaung, Magwe	1995
503	Maung Myat	17/1,119/D,	30Years		Mandalay		
504	Maung Myint	5J, 17/1	25years	Student HS	Insein	Pegu	Dec;3, 1999
505	Maung Naing				Mandalay		
506	Maung Oo				Mandalay		
507	Maung Sein				Mandalay		
508	Maung Tin Thit		20 Years	Poet	Mandalay		
509	Maung Tu				Mandalay		
510	Maung Win				Mandalay		
511	Maw Htiak				Mandalay		
512	Maw Lwin				Mandalay		
513	Mawthada			Monk	Mandalay		

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

514	May Win Myint @ Win Myint, Dr (F)	5J	7years	NLD (MP) Mayangone	Insein	Mayangone, Rgn	
515	Mi (F)	5J			Insein	Tharkayta, Rgn	1998
516	Mi Chu	17(1)		KNU	Moulmein		
517	Min Han	5J, 122/1	life sentence	Student	Taungoo	Tamwe, Rgn	1991
518	Min Ko Ko	5J	20Years		Myingyan		Dec;1998
519	Min Ko Naing @ Paw Oo Tun	10/a,5J,10/	15years	Student (3rd yr, Zolo;)	Sit Twe	Thingangyun,Rgn	March 23, 1989
520	Min Kyi Win, Dr	5j	7years	MNDF (MP)	Moulmein		June,1994
521	Min Maw @ Maw Gyi	5J	7years		Moulmein	Thingangyun,Rgn	
522	Min Min	5J	10years		Thayet	Kemmemdine, Rgn	
523	Min Min Maw				Mandalay		
524	Min Min Oo		8 Years	Student		Monywa, Sagaing	
525	Min Min Soe	5J, 17/1					
526	Min Nyein Chan	5J	14years	Student	Insein		Sep; 1998
527	Min Soe Lin, Dr	5j	7years	MNDF (MP)	Moulmein		Dec;1998
528	Min Than Zaw	5J	7years		Bassein		Dec,1996
529	Min Tin Khin				Moulmein		
530	Min Wai	17/1-2	10years	CPB	Thayet	Meikhtila, Mandalay	
531	Min Zaw	5J	14years	Student	Insein		Sep; 1998
532	Min Zaw Oo		7years		Moulmein		
533	Min Zaw Thein @ Ta Tee				Thayet		
534	Moe Kyaw	5J, 17/1	10years		Mandalay	Yankin, Rgn	
535	Moe Kyaw Thu	5j	7years		Moulmein		
536	Moe Kyaw Thu @ Bo Bo	124/D	20Years		Mandalay		July,1998
537	Moe Kyo @ Nay Lin	5J	7years	Student (2nd yr Phy)	Bassein	Thingangyun,Rgn	Dec;1996
538	Moe Maung Maung	5J	7years	Student (Uni;)	Taungoo	Yankin, Rgn	Feb;1995
539	Moe Min		11 Years	NLD	Mandalay	Pyinmana, Mandalay	
540	Moe Myat Thu	5J	7years	Student (2nd yr Geog)	Thayet	S/ Dagon, Rgn	Feb;1995
541	Moe Zaw Aung	5J	7years		Mandalay		
542	Moe Zaw Bo @ Bo Bo	5J	7years		Mandalay		
543	Moe Zaw Naing	5J	7 years	Student (2nd yr Burm	Tharawaddy	Mandalay	1997
544	Moe Zaw Tun	5J	7 years		Mandalay		
545	Mon Gyi	5J	14years		Taungoo	S/ Okkalapa, Rgn	Jan; 16, 1997
546	Mon Gyi @ Sein Linn				Myaungmya		
547	Mu Mu	17(1)		KNU	Moulmein		
548	Mya Aye	5J	7years		Tharawaddy	Sagaing	
549	Mya Han	5J		NLD	Thayet	Taungdwingyi, Magwe	
550	Mya Han @ Balloon	5J	7 years	Peddler	Tharawaddy	Dala, Rgn	1995

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

551	Mya Kyaing @ Maung Thwe Khai	5J, 17/1	10 years	Poet	Tharawaddy	Hlaing, Rgn	1997
552	Mya Sabal Moe (F)	5J, 17/1	21 yrs	Student (Uni;) & NLD	Shwebo		
553	Mya Sai	5J	7years	NLD	Thayet	Taungdwingyi, Magwe	April 23, 2000
554	Mya Sein	5J	21years	NLD	Moulmein	Thingangyun, Rgn	Aug; 1998
555	Mya Soe Oo		9Years	student		Madaya, Mandalay	
556	Mya Than				Tharawaddy		
557	Mya Thauung	5J	7years		Mandalay		
558	Mya Thein		13 Years		Mandalay	Mandalay	
559	Myaing (F)	5J	5Years	NLD	Mandalay	Mandalay	
560	Myant Ko Ko Lwin	5J	7years	NLD	Tharawaddy	N/ Dagon, Rgn	
561	Myat Min Thu		5 Years	Teacher (private)		Mandalay	
562	Myat Mo Mo Tun (F)	5E	7years		Insein	Yankin, Rgn	June 6, 1994
563	Myat San	5J,10/A	20years	Student (Tri Color)	Taungoo	Pabedan, Rgn	1991
564	Myat Soe	5J, 17/1	10years	student	Taungoo	Taungoo	1991
565	Myat Thura Kyaw	5J,17/1	14Years	Student (GTI)	Insein		Nov; 1998
566	Myat Tun	5J,17/1	8+8 years	NLD	Myingyan	Yadanamyng St; Kam	1992 & 1996
567	Myat Tun				Tharawaddy		
568	Myint Aung	5J	7years		Moulmein		
569	Myint Aung	5J, 17/1	10 years		Tharawaddy	Magwe	1997
570	Myint Hlaing				Taungoo		
571	Myint Htay				Mandalay		
572	Myint Htway		14 Years	Student	Mandalay	Maekaung	
573	Myint Kyaing	5J		NLD	Bassein		
574	Myint Kywe	5J	7 years	NLD	Tharawaddy	Insein, Rgn	April 3, 1996
575	Myint Maung	302	18years		Taungoo	Dala, Rgn	1989
576	Myint Maung Maung				Mandalay		
577	Myint Myint San (F)				Mandalay		
578	Myint Naing	17/1-2	12Years	ABSDF	Mandalay		
579	Myint Naing		7Years	Driver	Mandalay	Moe Meik, Shan State	
580	Myint Naing	5J	20Years	NPD	Mandalay	Tamwe, Rgn	Nov;1989
581	Myint Naing		25years	NLD (MP)			Oct;1990
582	Myint Naing, Dr	122/1	life, sen	MNDF (MP)	Thayet	Kantbalu, Sagaing	Oct;1990
583	Myint Oo	5J,17/1-2	25years	Student HS Graduate	Insein	Pegu	Dec;3, 1999
584	Myint Sein				Tharawaddy		
585	Myint Sein	5J		NLD	Thayet	Paukkhaung, Pegu	
586	Myint Shwe				Myintkyina		
587	Myint Soe				Bassein		

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

588	Myint Soe	5J	7 years		Myingyan		
589	Myint Soe	5J, 17/1	10years	Labor	Tharawaddy	N/ Okkala, Rgn	1994
590	Myint Soe	5J	7 years		Thayet	Kemmemdine, Rgn	
591	Myint Soe @ Johnny	124, 5J	10+7 ys	Student & NLD	Thayet	Tharkayta, Rgn	1991
592	Myint Swe		20 Years	NLD	Mandalay	Yemethin, Mandalay	
593	Myint Swe	5/J	14 Years	NLD	Myingyan	Yankin, Rgn	1997
594	Myint Swe	17/1-2	10 years		Tharawaddy		
595	Myint Swe	5J	7years			Yankin, Rgn	Oct; 1996
596	Myint Swe @ Abel				Taungoo		
597	Myint Thaung		20Years	Labor	Mandalay	Monywa, Sagaing	
598	Myint Thein		10Years	Teacher (private)	Mandalay	Monywa, Sagaing	
599	Myint Thein @ Myint Myat Thein	5J	7years	Teacher (private)	Thayet	Hlaing, Rgn	Dec;1996
600	Myint Thu @ Min Thu				Bassein		
601	Myint Tun				Tharawaddy		
602	Myint Yee	5J, 17/1	20years		Tharawaddy	Mingaladon,Rgn	1990
603	Myint Yi	5J, 17/1	10years		Myingyan	Htaukkyant, Rgn	1989
604	Myint Zaw Oo				Moulmein		
605	Myo Aung	5J, 17/1		Student HS	Insein	Pegu	June 2000
606	Myo Aung	5J	7years	Student HS	Moulmein	Ye, Mon State	
607	Myo Aung	5J	14 years	Student	Insein		Sep; 1998
608	Myo Aung @ Ah Nga Lay			Student (Uni;)	Insein		2000
609	Myo Aung Htway	122/1	death sentenc	Student	Thayet	Thingangyun, Rgn	
610	Myo Aung Than				Myintkyina		
611	Myo Htut Aung	5J			Myingyan		
612	Myo Kyaw	5J	7years	Student	Myingyan	Kamaryut, Rgn	Jan;1997
613	Myo Kyaw	5J		Student	Tharawaddy		Sep; 1998
614	Myo Kyi	17/1	10years		Tharawaddy	Pyi, Bago	1989
615	Myo Lwin				Mandalay		
616	Myo Min		20years	Monk	Moulmein		
617	Myo Min Htaik	5J	52Years	Student (2nd yr) (YIT)	Bassein	Kamaryut,RGN	Sep; 1998
618	Myo Min Naing @ Myo Gyi	5J	7years	Student (1st yr Eng;)	Myingyan	N/ Okkalapa, Rgn	Dec;1996
619	Myo Min Thant		7 Years			Mandalay	
620	Myo Min Zaw	5J,17/1	52years	Student (2nd yr Eng;)	Bassein	Bahan, RGN	Oct, 1998
621	Myo Myint				Bassein		
622	Myo Myint	5J	15years	NLD	Taungoo	Thayawady	1989
623	Myo Myint	5J	7 years	NLD	Tharawaddy	Mandalay	1997
624	Myo Myint	5J	10 years		Tharawaddy	Htaukkyant,Rgn	1989

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

625	Myo Myint		7 Years	SNLD		Panglong	
626	Myo Myint Nyein	5J, 17/20, 5	7+7 years	Writer & NLD	Tharawaddy	Pazaundaung, Rgn	1992
627	Myo Naing	5J	7years	NLD	Mandalay	Mandalay	June, 1999
628	Myo Nyunt			NLD (MP)	Myintkyina		
629	Myo Nyunt, Dr		7 years	NLD (MP)	Tharawaddy	Tamwe	1996
630	Myo Oo	5J, 17/1	s		Insein	Moulmein	June 2000
631	Myo Swe				Tharawaddy		
632	Myo Thant				Mandalay		
633	Myo Thant @ Myo Sat	5J, 17/1		Student HS	Insein	Pegu	June 2000
634	Myo The	5J,10/A	20years	Judge	Taungoo	Insein	1989
635	Myo Thint, Dr		10 Years	NLD		Yamaethin	
636	Myo Tint		10Years	SAE, Agriculture	Mandalay	Monywa	
637	Myo Win				Mandalay		
638	Myo Yan Naung Thein	5J	7years	Student (YIT)	Thayet	Kamayut,Rgn	Jan;1997
639	Myo Zaw Oo	5J	7years	Student (Uni;)	Thayet	Kyitmyindaing,Rgn	Dec;1996
640	Nai Htun Thein		7years	NLD (MP)			Dec;1998
641	Nai Min Htwe	5J	7years	Student (Uni;)	Myaungmya	Rangoon	1996
642	Nai Ngwe Thein	5J	7years	MNDF	Moulmein	Mon State	Dec;1998
643	Nai Ngwe Thein				Moulmein		
644	Naing Aung Than	17/1,17/2	Death sentenc		Moulmein	Tamwe,Rgn	2000
645	Naing Lin	5J	7years	Student	Insein		Sep; 1998
646	Naing Lwin Cho	5J, 17/1	17years	CBP	Thayet	Paung De	
647	Naing Myint	5J,17/1	20 Years	NPD	Mandalay	Rangoon	1989
648	Naing Myint @ Myint Soe				Mandalay		
649	Naing Naing				Bassein		
650	Naing Naing @ Ngaletma	5J	10years		Thayet	Dala, Rgn	Dec 1, 1991
651	Naing Oo	17(1)		MDUF	Mergui	Tavoy	
652	Naing Win				Tharawaddy		
653	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
654	Naw Aung				Mandalay		
655	Naw Sayda				Insein		
656	Nay Kyaw	5J,17/1,17/	17years	Student & NLD	Thayet	Tamwe, Rgn	1999
657	Nay Lin				Bassein		
658	Nay Lin Soe		14years	Student	Kalay	Insein	Feb;1998
659	Nay Myo				Mandalay		
660	Nay Myo Kyaw	5J, 17/20, 1	20 years	NLD	Myingyan		1993
661	Nay Oo	5J, 17/1	14years	NLD	Kalay	Insein,Rgn	Feb;1998

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662	Nay Tin Myint	5J	20years	Student (4th yr Zolo;)	Myingyan	Bahan, Rgn	1993
663	Nay Win	5J,17/1	20 Years	NPD	Mandalay	Rangoon	1989
664	Nay Win				Tharawaddy		
665	Nay Win Hlaing	5J	7years	Student (GTI)	Mandalay		Jan; 1998
666	Nay Win Naing	5J	14years	Student	Insein	Hlaing, Rgn	Nov; 1998
667	Nay Win, Dr	5J,17/1,--	20+4Years	CPB	Mandalay	Insein,Rgn	Nov;1989
668	Nay Zar Phyo				Moulmein		
669	Naykyar (F)	5J	2 years		Kalay	Harkhar,Chinn	1999
670	Naymayda			Monk	Mandalay		
671	Ne Win		10Years	Teacher (private)		Chaung Oo	
672	Ne win Hlaing	5J	7 Years	Student (GTI)	Mandalay		Jan;1999
673	Ne Win, Dr		24Years			Rangoon	
674	Neinmala	5J,295	7Years	Monk	Mandalay	Masoeysin	Sep; 1998
675	Nerein Kyaw	5J	10 Years	DPNS	Myingyan	Rangoon	1992
676	Ngan Ma Ma Than (F)	5J, 17/1	10 years	NLD	Insein	Yankin, Rgn	1995
677	Ngwe Lin	5J, 17/1	10 years	CPB	Tharawaddy	May Myoth	Dec;1996
678	Ngwe Linn	5J	7 years	DPNS	Tharawaddy	Mandalay	Dec;1996
679	Ngwe Soe	5J	14 Years	Thakhin Youths	Thayet	Sanchaung, Rgn	
680	Ni Lar Thein (F)	5J	10years	Student HS	Tharawaddy	Kyauktada,Rgn	Dec;1996
681	Ni Mar		9Years	Compounder	Mandalay	Mandalay	Dec;1996
682	Ni Ni Yin @ Chaw Chaw (F)	5J			Insein		
683	Nine Nine @ Saw Nine Nine	5J,17/20	21years	NLD (MP)	Insein	Pazuntaung,Rgn	Sep 14, 2000
684	Nyan Hla	5J	7years	NLD	Thayet	Mindone, Mague	
685	Nyan Linn	5J	14 years	Student	Taungthonelone,Sh	Rangoon	Sep, 1998
686	Nyan Linn @ Myo Win				Tharawaddy		
687	Nyan Nyan				Tharawaddy		
688	Nyan Pine	188(b)		NLD	Thayet	Aunglan	
689	Nyan Thaug				Myintkyina		
690	Nyan Win	5J	13years	NLD	Tharawaddy	Kawhmu, Rgn	
691	Nyanna	5J,	10 Years	Monk			1993
692	Nyannathiri	5J,295	7years	Monk	Mandalay	Masoeysin	Sep; 1998
693	Nyein Chan	5J	7years	Student (2nd yr Chem	Tharawaddy	Mandalay	Dec;1996
694	Nyein Maung	5J	7 years	Labor	Tharawaddy	Magwe	1997
695	Nyein Min Thet						
696	Nyein Myint	5J, 17/1	21 years	CPB	Tharawaddy	Shwepyithar	Dec;1996
697	Nyein Myint	5J, 17/1	7years	Labor	Tharawaddy	Magwe	Dec, 96
698	Nyein Thet	17(1)		KNU	Moulmein		

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

699	Nyi Hmwe	17/1	10years (10A)	CPB	Thayet	Insein, Rgn	
700	Nyi Htwe	5J	7years	Student HS	Mandalay	Thingangun,Rgn	Dec;1996
701	Nyi Nyi	5J	7years	Student	Taungoo	Prome	96
702	Nyi Nyi	5J,17/1	10years	People Progressive Pa	Thayet	S/ Okkala, Rgn	
703	Nyi Nyi Kyaw	5J	8Years		Myingyan		
704	Nyi Nyi Naing	5J	7years		Moulmein		
705	Nyi Nyi Oo	122/1	Life Sentence		Taungoo	Tanyin, Rgn	1989
706	Nyi Nyi Tun				Taungoo		
707	Nyi Nyi Tun	5J			Tharawaddy		98
708	Nyi Nyi Win	302,505/B	10Years		Mandalay		
709	Nyi Nyi Win @ Nyi Ye Tha	5J	7years	Student HS Graduate	Mandalay	Madalay	Dec;1996
710	Nyo Aung	5J,17/1-2	25years		Insein	Pegu	2000
711	Nyo Aye				Tharawaddy		
712	Nyunt (F)	122/1	Death-sentenc		Insein		1989
713	Nyunt Aye	5J		NLD (MP)			May; 1999
714	Nyunt Hlaing		5years	NLD (MP)	Thayet	Aunglan	Feb;1997
715	Nyunt Myaing @ Ko Htaik	5J	7years		Thayet	Rm14,BI15,PhaSaPaL	Feb;1995
716	Nyunt Wai				Myintkyina		
717	Ohmma (F)	5J	7years	Student & DPNS	Mandalay	Mandalay	July,1998
718	Ohn Kyaing	5J	18years	NLD (MP)	Taungoo	Thingangyun,Rgn	1991
719	Ohn Maung	5J		NLD (MP)			May; 1999
720	Ohn Mya (F)	5J			Insein		
721	Ohn Than	5J, 17/1	10 years	ABSDF	Tharawaddy	Irrawaddy	1991
722	Ohn Than	5J	7 years	Government servant	Tharawaddy	Dagon (North)	1994
723	Panate Tun	5J	14years	NLD	Kalay	N/Okkala,Rgn	1998
724	Par Par Lay	5J	7years	NLD & Comedian	Myintkyina	Mandalay	18-Mar-96
725	Pe Ko Oo	5J	7 Years	Student (YIT)	Myingyan	Pegu	1996
726	Pe Tin				Bassein		
727	Peter				Mandalay		
728	Pha Maung	17(1)		KNU	Moulmein		
729	Phado Than Hla	122/1	Death sentenc	KNU	Thayet	Karan state	1982
730	Phay Chit	5J	7years		Insein		Jan,1999
731	Pho Myint Aung	5J, 17/1	14Years	Student	Insein	Kyeemyindine,Rgn	Sep; 1998
732	Pho Ni				Mandalay		
733	Pho Than	302	15years		Taungoo	Insein,Rgn	1989
734	Pho Thar				Bassein		
735	Pho Thet Khaing				Myaungmya		

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

736	Phone Kyi Soe				Mandalay		
737	Phone Myint				Myintkyina		
738	Phone Thet Paing	5J	14years	Student	Bassein	S/ Okkalapa, Rgn	Jan; 16, 1997
739	Phyo Min Thein	5J	7+7years	Student (1st yr Zolo;)	Taungoo	Thanhlyin	May 14, 1991
740	Phyo Phyo Yee (F)	5J				Thakayta,Rgn	1996
741	Phyo Wai Min	5/J,17/1,17/	25years	Student HS	Thayet	Bago	Aug;1999
742	Pike Ko	122/4	25years	NLD (MP)	Tharawaddy	Pakoteku	1991
743	Pike Tin	5J	7years		Myintkyina	Rangoon	1996
744	Pinyatara	5J,295	7Years	Monk	Mandalay	Masoeysin	Sep; 1998
745	Po Tha Lay		10 Years	Student		Moekaung	
746	Po Zaw	17(1)		MDUF	Mergui	Tavoy	
747	Poe Aye	5J	7years	Peasant	Mandalay	Irrawaddy	1996
748	Pwa	302	20years		Taungoo		1989
749	Pwar @ Pwa	5J	7years	Government servant	Mandalay		
750	Pyinyarawta	5J, 17/1	14Years	Monk	Tharawaddy	Ahlon,Rgn	Feb;1998
751	Pyone Cho@Htay Win Aung	5J,5/e	7+7years	Student (Uni;)	Tharawaddy	N/ Dagon, Rgn	1989
752	Pyone Pyone Aye (F)	5J	14years				1996
753	Pyone Pyone Aye (F)	5J,17/1	14Years		Insein	Tamwe, Rgn	Feb;1998
754	Rajue Ne Myint	5J	7years		Mandalay		
755	Ri Ki	122/1	death,sen	KNU		Manalpalaw, Karan	
756	Robart	5J	4 years		Kalay	Harkhar,Chinn	1999
757	Robbin		14Years	DPNS	Mandalay		
758	Robert San Aung	5J	7years	Lawyer	Tharawaddy	Mingalataungnyunt, R	1996
759	Sae Taw	122/1	Life Sentence		Thayet		1983
760	Sai Aung Aung @ Wai Hlu	5J	7 years	Student	Thayet	Pegu	
761	Sai Kyaw Din				Moulmein		
762	Sai Kyaw Nyunt	5J	7years	Student (YIT)	Mandalay	Lashio, Shan	1998
763	Sai Maung		7 Years	SNLD		Panglong	
764	Sai Myo Myint				Mandalay		
765	Sai San	5J	7years	NLD	Thayet	TaungTwin Gyee, Mag	April 23, 2000
766	Sai Si Thu	5J	14 years	Student (Uni;)	Mandalay		Aug, 1998
767	Sakka Pala	5J,295	7years	Monk	Mandalay	Masoeysin	Sep; 1998
768	San Aung	5J, 19/f	2+21 years	NLD	Myingyan		July,1989
769	San Kaung				Bassein		
770	San Lwin	5j17/1	10years	BCP	Tharawaddy	Tamwe	
771	San Myaing	5J		NLD	Insein	Rangoon	Sep 14, 2000
772	San Myint				Bassein		

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773	San Myint				Mandalay		
774	San Myint Aye				Tharawaddy		
775	San Nay Lay	5J	7years		Mandalay		
776	San Neinda	5J, 17/1	14years	Monk	Mandalay	Thingangyun,Rgn	Feb;1998
777	San Ni	5J	10 years		Thayet	Kyauktada, Rgn	
778	San Nyunt				Mandalay		
779	San San (F)	5J	20years	NLD (MP)	Insein	Bahan,Rgn	1998
780	San San Nwe (F)	5J, 17/1	10years	Writer & NLD	Insein	Yankin,Rgn	Oct; 6, 1994
781	San Tun Kyaw	5J, 17/1, 17	20 or 25 years		Myingyan		1993
782	San Win	5J, 17/1	10years	NLD	Taungoo	Insein,Rgn	
783	San Yu Lwin	5J	6Years	Student	Mandalay	Mandalay	
784	San Zaw Htway @ Nyi Htway	5J, 17/1	37years	Student (2nd yr Geog;	Taungoo	Tamwe,Rgn	Dec;3, 2000
785	Sanda Moe				Tharawaddy		
786	Sanda Thiri	5J, 17/1	14years	Monk	Kalay	Thingangyun,Rgn	Feb;1998
787	Sandy Win(F)			NLD		Magwe	1998
788	Sanny					Mingalataungnyunt	1997
789	Sanny Thein	17/1-2	25Years		Moulmein	Mon State	1992
790	Sanny Tin Tun	5J	20 years		Tharawaddy		1989
791	Sar Do Saw	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU	Thayet	Karean	1983
792	Satt Aung Naing	5J,17/1-2	30years	Student (Uni;)	Myingyan	Thingangyun,Rgn	Feb;1998
793	Saw Adar	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
794	Saw Ai Kaw	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
795	Saw Ai Myei	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
796	Saw Apai	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
797	Saw Atin	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
798	Saw Aung				Mandalay		
799	Saw Aung Myat	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
800	Saw Aye Kyaw	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
801	Saw Bi Bi				Taungoo		
802	Saw Bin Sin	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU	Thayet	Karan state	1983
803	Saw Bu Wer						
804	Saw Chit Lay	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
805	Saw Cho Lay	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU	Thayet	Karean	1983
806	Saw Gayli	122/1	death,sen	KNU	Thayet	Karean	1983
807	Saw Gelet @ Tin Soe	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
808	Saw Hary Shwe				Tharawaddy		
809	Saw Hinary				Taungoo		

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810	Saw Hla Aung @ Kayinkyi	17/1	10years		Tharawaddy		
811	Saw Hla Htoo				Tharawaddy		
812	Saw Hla Saw	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
813	Saw Hlaing(F)		7years				1997
814	Saw Htal	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
815	Saw Htoo Ko	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
816	Saw Htoo Kolon	17/1	10years		Tharawaddy		
817	Saw Htoo Waw	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
818	Saw Htu Kwe	122/1	death,sen	KNU	Insein	Karean	1982
819	Saw Kalo Say	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU	Thayet	Karan state	1983
820	Saw Kyaw Min	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
821	Saw Kyaw Yin	17(1)		KNU	Moulmein		
822	Saw Kyay Taw	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
823	Saw Law Ale	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU	Thayet	Karan state	1983
824	Saw Lay	122/1	death-sentenc		Thayet		1983
825	Saw Lay Nal	122/1	Life Sentence		Thayet		1983
826	Saw Mang	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU		Karean	1983
827	Saw Mann Maung		10 Years	CNF		Haka	
828	Saw Min @ Kalapu	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
829	Saw Minn Htaik	17/1	19years		Thayet	Thingangyun, Rgn	
830	Saw Mra Aung, Dr	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
831	Saw Muthwi Saw			ANLD (MP)	Ye Mon camp		1998
832	Saw Myint	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU	Insein	Karean	1982
833	Saw Myint Aung				Tharawaddy		
834	Saw Myo Aung	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
835	Saw Nay Dunn	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Pauk Khaung	1983
836	Saw Nyi Nyi	5J, 17/1	18 years		Tharawaddy		1991
837	Saw Nyunt Sein				Tharawaddy		
838	Saw Oo Reh	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU	Thayet	Karen	1983
839	Saw Pal Kho		10years	NLD (MP)	Loikaw		Nov, 1996
840	Saw Pala Phaw	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU		Karean	1983
841	Saw Paral	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
842	Saw Paw Htoo				Taungoo		
843	Saw Pe Htoo				Insein		
844	Saw Peter	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU		Karean	1983
845	Saw Pha Ywal	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
846	Saw Phaw	17/1	10Years	KNU	Taungoo	Taungoo	1991

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847	Saw Phaw Day	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
848	Saw Pway Pywa	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU		Karean	1983
849	Saw Richart	17/1	20Years	KNU	Insein	Bogakay	1991
850	Saw Rinchark	122/1	death-sentenc		Thayet	Einme, Irrawaddy	1991
851	Saw Rinki	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU	Insein	Karean	1982
852	Saw Sar Ral @ Pa Ral				Tharawaddy		
853	Saw Say Htoo	17/1	10years	KNU	Taungoo	Taungoo	1992
854	Saw Sein Thaug				Insein		
855	Saw Soe Aung	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
856	Saw Syin Myu Ral Moe	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU		Karean	1983
857	Saw Tadi Shwe				Insein		
858	Saw Takyar	17/1	10 years	KNU	Taungoo	Taungoo	1991
859	Saw Tamala Htoo	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU		Karean	1983
860	Saw Tati Shwe	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
861	Saw Thakuu	17/1	10Years	KNU	Taungoo	Taungoo	1991
862	Saw Thaw Htoo	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU		Karean	1983
863	Saw Thaw Mart	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
864	Saw Thet Tun	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU	Thayet	Karean	1983
865	Saw Tin Myint	5J,17/1,17/	36 Years	Student (Uni;)	Tharawaddy	Tamwe, Rgn	1999
866	Saw Tin Soe	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU	Thayet	Karean	1983
867	Saw Tin Win				Tharawaddy		
868	Saw Tooki	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU		Karean	1983
869	Saw Tun @ Naing Linn Tun	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU	Insein	Karean	1982
870	Saw Tun Shwe	5J	Death sentenc		Insein	Rangoon	Sep 14, 2000
871	Saw Win Htoo Saw	17/1-2	20years	KNU		Karean	1983
872	Sein	122/1	death-sentenc	KNU		Karean	1983
873	Sein Aye	5J	7Years	NLD	Insein		Sep; 1998
874	Sein Hla Oo	17/1-2	19 Years	Student (Uni;) & ABS	Thayet		1999
875	Sein Hlaing	5J, 17/20	7+ 7	Student (Tri Color)	Insein	Sanchaung, Rgn	1990
876	Sein Hlaing	5J	7years+20 yea	Writer & NLD (MP)	Myintkyina	Insein, Rgn	1996
877	Sein Htay	5J,17/20	7+7Years	Student (Tri Color)	Tharawaddy	Sanchaung,Rgn	1990
878	Sein Kyaw Maung	5J		NLD	Insein	Rangoon	Sep 14, 2000
879	Sein Kyaw Oo				Mandalay		
880	Sein Lin	5J	10years		Thayet		
881	Sein Maung	124/D	20Years		Mandalay		
882	Sein Maung				Mandalay		
883	Sein Myint	5J	7years	NLD	Thayet	TaungTwin Gyee, Mag	April 23, 2000

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884	Sein Ohn	5J	7Years	NLD	Mandalay		
885	Sein Win	5J	7years	Vedio Camara Man		Pazundaung, Rgn	1997
886	Sekapala	17/1-2	7 years	ABSDF	Tharawaddy	Kyeemuindaing,Rgn	
887	Shank Chein	5J,295	7Years	Monk	Mandalay	Pattamya Taik	Sep; 1998
888	Shank Pa				Mandalay		
889	Sharpki				Mandalay		
890	Shein Tin				Mandalay		
891	Shwe				Taungoo		
892	Shwe Aung Than	17/1	20Years	KNU	Tharawaddy	Maubin, Irrawaddy	
893	Shwe Baw	5J, 17/1	10years		Tharawaddy	Htaukkyant,Rgn	1989
894	Shwe Baw	17(1)		MDUF	Mergui	Tavoy Tenasserim	
895	Shwe Htoo	5J	7Years	NLD	Insein	Thakata,Rgn	1998
896	Shwe Pone, Dr (F)	124/D,5J, 1	42Years	Teacher (private)	Mandalay		July,1998
897	Si Thu @ Ye Naing	5J, 17/1	life- sentence	NLD	Insein	Pegu	Dec 3, 1999
898	Si Thu Aung	5J, 10A		Student	Tharawaddy	Sanchaung, Rgn	
899	Soe	5J	7 Years	Student (2nd yr Eco)	Insein	Kamaryut,RGN	Sep; 1998
900	Soe Han	5J		NLD	Insein	Rangoon	Sep 14, 2000
901	Soe Hlaing	5J		NLD	Insein	Rangoon	Sep 14, 2000
902	Soe Htet Khaing	122, 17/1-2	42 years	Lawyer	Tharawaddy	Thayawady	Dec, 1988
903	Soe Lay	17-Jan	17years		Taungoo		
904	Soe Lwin	5J	7 years	NLD	Insein		April,28, 1996
905	Soe Lwin	5J,17/1	20 years	CPB	Mandalay		May; 1999
906	Soe Lwin				Taungoo		
907	Soe Min Aung	5J	7years	Student	Tharawaddy	Pazaungdawn, Rgn	Feb;1998
908	Soe Min Naing	5J	7 years	Student	Thayet	Pegu Division	
909	Soe Min Than				Mandalay		
910	Soe Moe		20Years		Mandalay		
911	Soe Moe @ Mongyi	5J	7years		Moulmein	Yey, Mon State	19-Aug-99
912	Soe Moe Hling @ Mae Gyi	5J,17/1	14Years	Student (Uni;)	Taungoo	S/Okkalapa,Rgn	Jan;1998
913	Soe Moe Naing	5J	10 years	Student (Uni;) & ABS	Tharawaddy	Rangoon	1991
914	Soe Myint	5J	7 years	NLD (MP)	Bassein	Minbu,Mague	Sep; 1998
915	Soe Myint	5J,	7 years	NLD	Insein	Thakayta,Rgn	1997
916	Soe Myint	5J, 17/1,10/	20Years	CPB	Mandalay	Rangoon	Nov;1989
917	Soe Myint	5J, 17/1	24years	Student & DPNS	Mandalay	Mandaly	July,1998
918	Soe Myint @ Goshal	5J	7 years		Myingyan	Rangoon	
919	Soe Myint @ Saya Soe	122/1	death- sentenc		Tharawaddy	Hlaing,Rgn	
920	Soe Myint Aung	5J,	7 years	CPB	Tharawaddy	Nyaung Oo	Dec;1996

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

921	Soe Naing	5J	7 Years	NLD	Insein	Pazundaung,Rgn	1996
922	Soe Naing	5J	10Years	DPNS	Mandalay	Mandalay	
923	Soe Naing	5J	7 years	Engineer	Tharawaddy	Mandalay	1997
924	Soe Soe Khaing (F)	5J	7 Years	NLD	Mandalay	Yamaethin	
925	Soe Than	5J	7 Years	NLD	Insein	Kamayut,Rgn	Sep, 1998
926	Soe Than	5J, 17/1	10years		Mandalay	Mandalay	
927	Soe Than	5J	7years	Student HS Graduate	Moulmein	Yey, Mon State	19-Aug-99
928	Soe Than Maung, Dr	122/1	Death Sentenc		Thayawaddy	Thingangyun	
929	Soe Thaung	5J	10years	Student (Uni;)	Bassein		Dec;1996
930	Soe Thaung	124/D	20Years		Mandalay	Mandalay	July,1998
931	Soe Thein(U) Wunn Tha	5J	14years	Student (Uni;)	Taungoo	S/ Okkalapa, Rgn	Jan; 16, 1997
932	Soe Thiha @ Soe Soe @Thura Zi	10/A		NLD (MP)	Insein	Kyauktada,Rgn	1996
933	Soe Tint	5J	Death sentenc		Insein	Rangoon	Sep 14, 2000
934	Soe Tun	5J,17/1,10A	10 Years	CPB	Myingyan		1989
935	Soe Win	5J	7years	Student (5th yr) (YIT)	Tharawaddy	Hlaing, Rgn	June,1997
936	Soe Win		10Years	Teacher HS		Mandalay	
937	Soe Win Maung		14 Years			Mandalay	
938	Su Su Win (F)		10 Years	Teacher (private)		Kyaukse	
939	Sunny	5J	7years	Student	Insein	Mingalataungnyunt	Feb;1998
940	Swe Swe Win (F)	5J	7years	NLD	Insein	M-Taungnyut,Rgn	1997
941	Swe Tint	5J	10years		Insein		Sep; 1998
942	Swe Win				Mandalay		
943	Swe Win	5J	14years		Mandalay		
944	Taw Pon				Myingyan		
945	Tayzawuntha	17/1-2	10 years	Student & ABSDF	Moulmein	Mon State	1991
946	Tazar Moe Myint	5J,295	7Years	Monk	Mandalay	Nande Tena Taik	Sep; 1998
947	Tha Ane @ Aung Myint	5J	7years	Student	Mandalay		Jan; 1998
948	Tha Lin Tin				Kalay	Pa-an	
949	Tha San	5J	14years	Student (Dagon Uni;)	Myaungmya	N/Dagon	Dec;1996
950	Tha Tin Mang	5J	7years		Insein		April,28, 1998
951	Than Aung		10 Years	CNF		Haka	
952	Than Aung, Dr		14 Years		Mandalay	Pyinmana	
953	Than Aye	304/a	4years	NLD (MP)	Insein	M-taungnyut,Rgn	Feb; 21,1997
954	Than Chaung		12Years	Teacher (private)		Monywa	
955	Than Htay	5J, 17/1	21 years	NLD	Bassein		
956	Than Htay	5J, 17/1	10Years	NLD	Mandalay	Moekok	
957	Than Htay	5J	7years	NLD	Moulmein		Sep; 1998

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

958	Than Htay				Myingyan		
959	Than Hteik @ Thein Hteik	122/1	20 Years		Myingyan	Myingyan	1988
960	Than Hteik Aung	5J, 10 a			Tharawaddy		
961	Than Hteik Win	5J	7years		Tharawaddy	Prome	
962	Than Hteik	5J			Tharawaddy		
963	Than Htun	5J	7years	NLD	Mandalay		
964	Than Htut	5J	5years			Aunglan	
965	Than Htut Shein	17/1	10years		Taungoo		1991
966	Than Lwin	5J	7years	NLD	Insein	Thakata,Rgn	Sep; 1998
967	Than Lwin @ Ah Naing	17/1			Insein	Thakata,Rgn	Jan; 23, 2000
968	Than Lwin Oo	5J	10Years	NLD	Moulmein	Yey, Mon State	
969	Than Min	5J	15years	Student (YIT)	Taungoo	Aunglan	1996
970	Than Myint Htway	5J,17/1	34years	NLD	Taungoo	Mingalataungnyunt, R	1993
971	Than Myint Swe	122/1	Death sentenc			Alone, Rgn	
972	Than Naing				Mandalay		
973	Than Naing	302	20years		Taungoo	N/ Okkala, Rgn	1989
974	Than Naing	122/1	Death sentenc	KNU	Thayet	Kyaungtaw St,Sancha	
975	Than New	17/1-2	20years		Taungoo	Kyauktada,Rgn	1989
976	Than Nyein, Dr		7years		Insein		
977	Than Nyunt (F)	5J	14 years	NLD (MP)	Insein	Thonegha	1997
978	Than Oo	5J	7Years	Vedio Cameraman	Mandalay		
979	Than Oo				Mandalay		
980	Than Shain				Tharawaddy		
981	Than Shein		5Years	DPNS	Mandalay	Pyinmana	
982	Than Soe	5J	7Years	NLD	Insein	Kamayut,Rgn	1997
983	Than Swe	5J	7years		Mandalay		
984	Than Swe	5J,17/1,10A	20years	CPB		Hlaing,Rgn	1991
985	Than Swe Moe	5J,17/1,10A	8 Years	Poet	Myingyan	Mandalay Di-	
986	Than Than Htay (F)	5J, 17/1	17years	Student	Insein	Kamayut,Rgn	June 2000
987	Than Tin	5J	5years		Thayet	Chauk, Mague	
988	Than Tun				Bassein		
989	Than Tun	5J	7 years	NLD	Thayet	Aung Lan	
990	Than Tun Maung	5J	7 Years		Mandalay	Mandalay	1998
991	Than Win	17/1,119/D,	30Years		Mandalay		
992	Than Zaw	17/1-2		Student (Uni;) & ABS	Insein		1999
993	Than Zaw	17(1)		MDUF	Mergui	Tavoy	
994	Than Zaw	122/1	Death sentenc	NLD	Thayet	Thanlyin, Rgn	

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

995	Thanchaung	5J	7years			Sanchaung,Rgn	Feb;1995
996	Thanda Oo (F)	5J		Student (Uni;)	Insein	N/okkalapa, Rgn	1999
997	Thant Swe Aye, Dr (F)				Mandalay		
998	Thant Zaw	5J, 17/1		Student HS	Insein	225-b Sagine St, 54, D	June 2000
999	Thant Zaw @ Sein Min				Bassein		
1000	Thant Zin	5J,17/1	14 Years		Myingyan		1997
1001	Thant Zin Oo	5J	14 Years		Moulmein	Rgn	
1002	Thant Zin, Dr		10Years			Myingyan	
1003	Thanwara	5J,295	7Years	Monk	Mandalay	Masoeysin	Sep; 1998
1004	Thar Htet Aung				Myaungmya		
1005	Tharthana			Monk	Myintkyina		
1006	That Khaing				Mandalay		
1007	That Naing Oo	5J		Student (Uni;)			
1008	Thatoe Kyaw	5J	14years	Student (Uni;)	Bassein	Shwepaukkan, Rgn	Sep; 1998
1009	Thaung Aye				Taungoo		
1010	Thaung Htaik	5J	10years	Student (Uni;)	Tharawaddy	Rangoon	1992
1011	Thaung Kyi	5J	7years	NLD	Insein		Sep; 1998
1012	Thaung Sein		2years		Thayet	TaungTwin Gyee, Mag	
1013	Thaung Tun		8Years	Teacher (private)		Myingyan	
1014	Thaung Tun @ Nyein Thit	5J	8years	poet & NLD	Moulmein	Mandalay	
1015	Thaung Zaw Oo		6 Years	Student		Mandalay	
1016	Thaw Tun Oo	5J	7years		Taungoo	Kamayut,Rgn	Dec;1996
1017	Thaw Tun Oo @ Thar Gyi	5J	7 Years	Student (Uni;)	Taungoo	Kamayut,Rgn	Dec,1996
1018	Thawmana			Monk	Mandalay		
1019	Thawng Lian Thang		17 Years	CNF		Haka	
1020	Theik Nan	5J	7 years		Tharawaddy		1997
1021	Thein @Thein Tun	17/1-17/2	Death sentenc	ABSDF	Insein	Pabaldan, Rgn	1998
1022	Thein Aung		10Years	Labor		Monywa	
1023	Thein Aung		10 Years			Mandalay	
1024	Thein Aung @ Ko Ye	5J, 17/1 10	10years	CPB	Thayet	17ThukhamainSt, San	1990
1025	Thein Dan	5J, 17/1	17 years	NLD	Thayet	Mandalay	
1026	Thein Han				Bassein		
1027	Thein Han				Mandalay		
1028	Thein Htay	5J	7 years	NLD	Bassein		Sep; 1998
1029	Thein Htay	5J , 17/1	17years		Mandalay	Mandalay	
1030	Thein Htay		10Years	Labor		Monywa	
1031	Thein Kywe (F)	5J	7years	NLD	Insein	Alon,Rgn	1996

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

1032	Thein Lwin				Tharawaddy		
1033	Thein Myint	5J	7years	Student	Thayet	58,Thukha lane,Hlaing	June.1997
1034	Thein Nyunt				Moulmein		
1035	Thein Oo				Thayet		
1036	Thein Soe	5J		NLD	Kalay	Dawbo,Rgn	
1037	Thein Than Oo	5J, 17/1	12Years	Lawyer	Mandalay	Mandalay	Feb;1991
1038	Thein Tun				Mandalay		
1039	Thein Tun				Myingyan		
1040	Thein Tun	5J	7 Years	NLD	Tharawaddy	Insein	April 3, 1996
1041	Thein Tun	5J,17/1	10 Years	CPB		Irrawaddy	1994
1042	Thein Tun Oo	5J	7 Years	Teacher HS	Tharawaddy	S/ Okkalapa	1993
1043	Thein Win	5J	7 Years	Student	Insein	Pegu	
1044	Thein Win		10 Years	CNF	Mandalay	Haka	
1045	Thein Win		15Years	Teacher (private)	Mandalay	Chaung Oo	
1046	Thein Win		10 Years		Mandalay	Pyinmana	
1047	Thein Zaw		10Years	Student & NLD	Mandalay	Pyinmana	
1048	Thet Htwe	5J,17/1	14 Years	Student (Uni;)		Tamwe,Rgn	Sep,1999
1049	Thet Khaing	5J,17/1	31Years	CPB	Mandalay		Nov;13, 1989
1050	Thet Khaing @ Ko Latt	5J,17/2,10A	20 Years	CPB			1989
1051	Thet Linn	17-Jan			Tharawaddy		
1052	Thet Min Aung	5J	7years	Student (2nd yr Hist)	Bassein	Dagon,Rgn	Dec;1996
1053	Thet Naing	5J	10Years	Student	Insein	Kyee Myin Daing	Feb;1998
1054	Thet Naing	17(1)		ALD (Thai)		Bangkok, Thailand	5-Dec-00
1055	Thet Naing Aung				Mandalay		
1056	Thet Oo	5J,17/1	26 Years	DPNS	Myingyan	Tamwe,Rgn	1997
1057	Thet Oo	5J,17/1,17,	20Years	Student (Tri Color)	Tharawaddy	Lamadaw,Rgn	1993
1058	Thet Oo	5J, 17/1	14Years		Tharawaddy	Tamwe, Rgn	Dec;1996
1059	Thet Tin		7 Years	Health assistant	Mandalay	Mandalay	
1060	Thet Tun @ Tin Tun	5J,10A	20Years	Student & DPNS	Myingyan	Thingangun	Dec;1991
1061	Thet Tun Aung, Dr				Mandalay		
1062	Thet Win Aung	5/J,17/1,17/	59years	Student HS	Kalay	N/ Dagon, Rgn	Oct, 1998
1063	Thet Zaw	5J, 17/1	17	writer	Thayet	Yedashi	
1064	Thi Ha	5J	7years		Thayet	Shwepyitha,(ISN?) Rg	
1065	Thi Thi Aung (F)	5J	7years	Student (Uni;) & NLD	Tharawaddy	Sanchaung, Rgn	Dec,1996
1066	Thida Htwe (F)	5/J,17/1,17/	35years	Student (3rd yr Burme	Tharawaddy	Bago	Aug,1998
1067	Thida Htwe (F)	5J	7Years	Student (Final yrs, Ho	Tharawaddy	Mongywa	Dec,1996
1068	Thida Win (F)	5J	7 years	Teacher (Uni;)	Tharawaddy	Mongywa	1997

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1069	Thiha	5J,17/1	7Years	Student	Insein	Pro+G1108me Road,	Dec;1996
1070	Thiha	5J	7 years	NLD	Myaungmya		Dec;1996
1071	Thiha @ Htay Lwin	5J, 17/1			Kalay		Feb;1998
1072	Thiha @ Tint Swe	5J,17/1	20Years	NPD	Myaungmya	Mandalay	
1073	Thila Min				Bassein		
1074	Thin Thin Aye (F) Mee Mee	5J	7years	Student (Uni;) & NLD	Insein	N/ Okkala, Rgn	Sep; 1996
1075	Thit Lwin				Mandalay		
1076	Thitsa(F)	5J,17/20	14years	NLD	Insein		2000-
1077	Thudathana			Monk	Mandalay		
1078	Thunandara	5J,295	7years	Monk	Mandalay	Masoeysin	Sep; 1998
1079	Thura	5J	14Years	Student	Insein		Sep; 1998
1080	Thura Aung	5J,17/1,17/	25 Years	Student HS	Thayet	Bago	24-Aug-98
1081	Thura Aung	5J	7 years	Student (1st yr Chem:	Myintkyina	Kamayut, Rgn	Sep; 1998
1082	Thura Aung @ Thura Naing	5J			Myaungmya		
1083	Thura Han	5J	14 Years		Myingyan		
1084	Thuzata			Monk	Mandalay		
1085	Thwin Linn Aung	5J	7 Years	Student (YIT)	Myingyan	Rangoon	1996
1086	Thwin Linn Aung @ Pepsi				Taungoo		Sep; 1998
1087	Tike Yin	5J,122/1	Death-sent	ABSDF	Insein		1994
1088	Tin Aung		4, 1/2 years	NLD (MP)	Bassein	Wae Khae Ma,Irrawad	
1089	Tin Aung	5J,17/1	20years		Kalay	N/Okkala,Rgn	
1090	Tin Aung	5J	7years	NLD	Mandalay	Mandalay	
1091	Tin Aung	5J,17/1,10A	10 Years	CPB		Mandalay	1991
1092	Tin Aung Aung	122/4	25years	NLD (MP)	Tharawaddy		Oct;1990
1093	Tin Aung Myint	5J	7 Years	Student (YIT)	Myingyan	Pha Ho St; Mayangon,	Jan;1999
1094	Tin Aye	5J	7years	NLD	Insein	N/Okkalapa,Rgn	Sep; 1998
1095	Tin Aye	5J	7years		Insein		April 28, 1998
1096	Tin Aye	5J, 17/1	21years	Student	Kalay	Thingangyun,Rgn	
1097	Tin Aye Kyu	5J,17/1,10(	20years	Lawyer	Mandalay	Mandalay	1989
1098	Tin Chaw			NLD (MP)			
1099	Tin Cho				Mandalay		
1100	Tin Hla	5J	7years	NLD	Thayet	Lamadaw,Rgn	Dec;1996
1101	Tin Hlaing	5J	7years		Myingyan		1995
1102	Tin Hling @ Tin Maung	5J	7years	NLD	Mandalay		
1103	Tin Htay	5J, 17/1	12Years	CPB	Mandalay		Feb;1991
1104	Tin Htay	5J	7years		Taungoo	Sanchaung,Rgn	Feb;1995
1105	Tin Htoo	5J	7years	Government servant	Mandalay		

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1106	Tin Ko	5J	7 years		Tharawaddy	Bahan, Rgn	
1107	Tin Ko Oo	5J	7years	DPNS		Pounde	
1108	Tin Kyi				Moulmein		
1109	Tin Lin Aung	5J	7years	Student	Insein		Jan;1997
1110	Tin Mar Kyi (F)				Mandalay		
1111	Tin Mar Ni (F)	5J	7years	DPNS	Mandalay	Mandalay	July,1998
1112	Tin Mar Yee (F)	5J	7years		Mandalay	Mandalay	
1113	Tin Maung		10 Years	Student	Katha		
1114	Tin Maung Aye	5J	7years	Broker	Mandalay		
1115	Tin Maung Kyi	5J	7years	Writer, Designer & NL	Tharawaddy	Kyeemyindaing,Rgn	1996
1116	Tin Maung Oo	302	20years		Taungoo	Kyuktan, Rgn	1989
1117	Tin Maung Win				Bassein		
1118	Tin Min Htut, Dr			NLD (MP)			1998
1119	Tin Myint	5J	7 Years	Peasant	Myingyan	Myingyan	1997
1120	Tin Myint		20 Years			Thapeikkyin	
1121	Tin Myit	5J,17/1	10Years	CPB	Mandalay		Oct; 1989
1122	Tin Myo Htut	5J	20years		Myingyan		June 21, 1994
1123	Tin Naing Tun	5J	7years		Myaungmya		Jan; 23, 1997
1124	Tin Nyein Oo						
1125	Tin Oo	5J	7years	NLD	Myingyan	N/Dagon,Rgn	
1126	Tin Oo	5J	7 years		Tharawaddy	Mingalataungnyut	1997
1127	Tin Oo	5J 17/1	10 years		Tharawaddy	Maittila	1997
1128	Tin Oo	122/1	Death-sent		Thayet		
1129	Tin San	17(1)		MDUF	Mergui	Tavoy	
1130	Tin Sein		14 Years	NLD	Mandalay	Pyinmana	
1131	Tin Soe	122/1	Death sentenc	KNU	Thayet	Pa-an	
1132	Tin Than		4Years	Teacher (private)		Mandalay	
1133	Tin Than Oo	5J	7years	Student (4th yr Eco)	Myingyan	Kamayut	Feb;1995
1134	Tin Tin Aye (F)	5E	5Years	9999	Mandalay	Mandalay	Sep; 1999
1135	Tin Tin Myint (F)	5J, 17/1	10 years	Student (3rd yr Chem;	Insein	Kamayut,Rgn	June 2000
1136	Tin Tun	5J,17/1	20years	NLD (MP)	Myingyan		July,1994
1137	Tin Tun	5J	10 Years		Myingyan		1992
1138	Tin Tun	5J,17/1,17/	20years	NLD	Thayet	Pabedane,Rgn	1993
1139	Tin Tun	5J	10 years	NLD	Thayet	Rangoon	
1140	Tin Tun Aung, Dr				Mandalay		
1141	Tin Tun Hlaing	5J,17/1	10years	Student (3rd yr Botany	Taungoo	S/ Okkalapa, Rgn	1990
1142	Tin Win				Taungoo		

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1143	Tin Win	5J	7years	NLD	Thayet	TaungTwin Gyee, Mag	April 23, 2000
1144	Tin Win	5J	5years	NLD	Thayet	Aunglan	Feb; 25, 1997
1145	Tin Win @ Dagon Win	5J	7years		Tharawaddy	Mayangone, Rgn	
1146	Tin Win Kyi(F)	5E	5years		Mandalay	Mandalay	1999
1147	Tin Win Yee (F)	5J	4Years		Mandalay	Mandalay	
1148	Tin Zar Aung(F)	5J		Student (Uni;)			1998
1149	Tint Naing	5J	7years	NLD	Insein	Pazuntaung	1998
1150	Tint Swe				Mandalay		
1151	TinTin(F)	5J,17/1	25yers	NLD		Pegu	1999
1152	Toe				Moulmein		
1153	Toe				Myingyan		
1154	Toe Aung	5J	10years	NLD	Mandalay	Mergui, Tenasserim	
1155	Toe Cho @ Saw Toe Cho				Taungoo		
1156	Toe Po	5J	7 years	NLD (MP)	Insein	Dawai, Tenasserim	1998
1157	Toe Toe Tun	5J	7 years	Student (Uni;) & DPN	Tharawaddy	Myaungmya	Dec; 1996
1158	Took Hla				Taungoo		
1159	Tun Aung Kyaw	5J	7years	Teacher (private)	Mandalay	Mandalay	1997
1160	Tun Aye	5J	7Years	NLD	Thayet	21Qt,ShwePaukan St,	
1161	Tun Aye	5J	7years			N/ Okkala, Rgn	
1162	Tun Kyi	5J	5years	NLD	Thayet	Aunglan	Feb; 24, 1997
1163	Tun Myint	5J,17/20	21years	NLD	Insein	Thingangyun,Rgn	Sep, 2000
1164	Tun Myint Aung	5/J,17/1	21years	Student (2nd yr Ho; G	Myingyan	Kyeemyindin,Rgn	Sep; 1998
1165	Tun Myint Htway+B1268	5J	10years		Thayet	Mandalay	
1166	Tun Myint Tun	5J	15years	Student (YIT)			
1167	Tun Ohn				Mandalay		
1168	Tun Oo	5/J,17/1,10/	20 Years	Lawyer	Mandalay	Kamayut,Rgn	Nov;1989
1169	Tun Shein	17(1)		MDUF	Mergui	Tavoy	
1170	Tun Tin	5J,17/20	21Years	NLD			December 18,
1171	Tun Tun	5/J,17/1	10years	Student	Insein	Kamayut, Rgn	June, 15, 2000
1172	Tun Tun	5J	10 Years	Student (Uni;)	Myingyan	Dawbon, Rgn	1992
1173	Tun Tun		8 Years	Student		Monywa	
1174	Tun Tun Naing	5J	7years	Government servant	Taungoo	S/Okkala,Rgn	Dec;1996
1175	Tun Tun Naing				Taungoo		1994
1176	Tun Tun Oo	5J	20years	NLD	Myingyan		June 21, 1997
1177	Tun Tun Oo	5J,17/1,12	29 Years	ABSDF	Taungoo	Insein	1994
1178	Tun Tun Thein		12Years	Goldsmi		Mandalay	
1179	Tun Tun Win	5J, 17/1	10years		Taungoo	Mandalay	1991

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1180	Tun Tun Zaw	5J			Taungoo		
1181	Tun Win				Tharawaddy		
1182	Tun Yone				Mandalay		
1183	Tun Zaw Htay @ Tun Tun	5J, 17/1		Student (1st yr Maths)	Insein	Kamayut,Rgn	June 2000
1184	Wa Nay Soe	5J	10Years	NLD	Moulmein	Yey, Mon State	
1185	Wai Lin	5J	7 Years		Myingyan	Kayar	1997
1186	Warathami	5J,17/1-2,2	45Years	Monk	Mandalay		
1187	Wayponla			Monk	Moulmein		
1188	Wei Naya	5J, 17/1	20years	Monk	Taungoo	Maymyo	1991
1189	Wei Ponla			Monk	Mandalay		
1190	Wimala	5J	7years	Monk	Mandalay		Sep; 1998
1191	Win Aung		9 Years	Student	Mandalay	Mandalay	
1192	Win Aung	5J, 17/1	20years	CPB	Taungoo	MayMyo,Mandalay	1991
1193	Win Aung	17(1)		ALD (Thai)		Bangkok, Thailand	5-Dec-00
1194	Win Aung		7Years	Ice cream seller		Mandalay	
1195	Win Bo				Mandalay		
1196	Win Cho				Mandalay		
1197	Win Hlaing	5J,17/1	14Years	Student	Thayet	Pegu	July,22, 1999
1198	Win Hlaing Oo	5J	14years	Student	Myingyan		1995
1199	Win Htein	5J	life- S		Moulmein	Mawlamyine	1990
1200	Win Htein	5J	14 Years	NLD	Myingyan	Insein, Rgn	May, 1996
1201	Win Ko				Mandalay		
1202	Win Ko	17/1-2	10 years		Tharawaddy		
1203	Win Ko Ko	5J	7years		Tharawaddy	Pyi, Bago	1990
1204	Win Kyi	5J, 17/1	20years		Myingyan		
1205	Win Kyi				Tharawaddy		
1206	Win Kyi	5J,17/1	9 Years			Insein,Rgn	1994
1207	Win Kyi Lay	5J	9years		Insein		Nov; 30, 1993
1208	Win Kywe	5J, 17/1	10years		Moulmein	Yey, Mon State	Jan; 23, 2000
1209	Win Maung	5J	7years		Taungoo	Tamwe, Rgn	1997
1210	Win Maung	5J,17/1	10+5 Years	CPB	Myingyan	Banhan,Rgn	
1211	Win Maung, Dr		11 Years			Maekaung	
1212	Win Maw				Mandalay		
1213	Win Maw	5J	7years		Moulmein	Rgn	
1214	Win Maw	5J	7years	Musician (Shwe Than	Taungoo		
1215	Win Min Than	5J	7years		Insein		Sep; 1998
1216	Win Myint	5J	7years	NLD	Insein		Sep; 1998

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

1217	Win Myint	122/1, 21/A	Death sentenc		Tharawaddy	Okkalapa (South)	1989
1218	Win Myint	122/1	20years		Tharawaddy	Thantwe	1990
1219	Win Myint Naing	5J, 17/1	10years	DPNS	Taungoo	Taungoo	1991
1220	Win Myint Than	5J,	7years	CPB	Tharawaddy	Nyaung Oo	1996
1221	Win Myint Than	5J	7 years	NLD (MP)		Rangoon	Dec;1997
1222	Win Naing	5J	14years		Insein	Ta-nyin, Rgn	Nov; 1998
1223	Win Naing				Kalay	Taungoo	
1224	Win Naing	5J	7Years	Student	Mandalay		
1225	Win Naing		7years		Moulmein	Rangoon	
1226	Win Naing	5J	7years	NLD	Thayawaddy	Insein,RGN	April;3, 1996
1227	Win Naing		20 Years	Student		Maekaung	
1228	Win Naing				Mandalay		
1229	Win Naing @ Win Hlaing	17-Jan		NLD (LA)	Thayet	Pegu	
1230	Win Naing San				Mandalay		
1231	Win Nyunt				Mandalay		
1232	Win Oo				Mandalay		
1233	Win Swe					Mayangon, Rgn	1997
1234	Win Thaug	5J	7years	NLD	Taungoo	Mayangone,Rgn	1997
1235	Win Thaw	5J	7 years		Taungoo	Tanwe,Rgn	1997
1236	Win Thein	5J,5/E	7+7Years	Student (Tri Color)	Taungoo	Kyeemyindine,Rgn	1989
1237	Win Thein		20 Years	NLD		Mandalay	
1238	Win Thu	5J	7years		Tharawaddy		1997
1239	Win Tin	17/20	7years	NLD	Insein		1999
1240	Win Tin	5J	23Years	Writer & NLD	Insein	Lamadaw,Rgn	1989
1241	Win Tin	5J	7years	Musician (Shwe Than	Tharawaddy	Tamwe, RGN	1996
1242	Win Tun	5J	Life Sent	Student	Moulmein	Mawlamyaing	1990
1243	Win Tun	17/1	10years		Tharawaddy	Hmawbi	1989
1244	Win Win Htay@Ma Po(F)	5J	6Years	NLD	Insein	Kyauktada, Rgn	1997
1245	Win Zaw	5J	7years	Musician (Shwe Than	Thayet	Damawihara St Tamw	1996
1246	Win Zaw	5J	7years	NLD		Meikthila	Aug; 30, 1999
1247	Wunna Ko Ko	5J, 17/1		Student HS	Mandalay	Mandalay	1995
1248	Wunna Maung	5J	7years		Mandalay	Mandalay	1995
1249	Ya Ma	5J			Thayet		
1250	Yahu Nay Myint	5J	7years	Student	Myingyan	Pegu	April;1999
1251	Yan Aung Kyaw	5J	14years	Student	Insein	Pabaetan, Rgn	Sep; 1998
1252	Yan Aung Soe @ Ye Htut	5/J,17/1	52years	Student (Final, yr, Phil	Myaungmya	Dala,Rgn	Sep; 1998
1253	Yan Gyi Aung	5J,17/1	20years		Tharawaddy	Thingangyun,Rgn	1990

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

1254	Yan Naing Aung	124/D	20Years	Student	Mandalay	Mandalay	July,1998
1255	Yan Naing Min	5J	7years		Mandalay	Mandalay	1998
1256	Yar Kyaw	5J, 17/1	20years	Student	Mandalay	Mandalay	July,1998
1257	Yar Pyat	5J, 17/1	20Years	DPNS	Mandalay	Mandalay	July,1998
1258	Yar Pyat	5J, 17/1	19years	Student (2nd yr) (YIT)	Tharawaddy	Mingalataungnyunt	Dec;1996
1259	Yar Tin	5J	7years	NLD	Thayet	TaungTwin Gyee, Mag	April 23, 2000
1260	Ye Htut	5J			Moulmein	Rgn	
1261	Ye Htut	5J	7years		Thayet	Pha-Sa-Pa-La,Rgn	1995
1262	Ye Kyaw Swa	5J,17/1	19 Years	Student (2nd, yr) (YIT)	Myingyan	Pazundaung, Rgn	Dec;1996
1263	Ye Lin		7years				1996
1264	Ye Lwin	5J, 17/1	18years	Student HS	Tharawaddy	Hlaingthaya, Rgn	Dec;1996
1265	Ye Maw Htoo	5J,17/1	10Years	Student	Thayet	Hlaingthaya, Rgn	Dec;1996
1266	Ye Min Htay			Student	Myaungmya		
1267	Ye Min Kyaw	5J	14years	Student	Bassein	S/ Okkalapa, Rgn	Jan; 16, 1997
1268	Ye Min Thu	5J,17/20	14years		Mandalay		
1269	Ye Mon Kyaw	5J	14years		Insein	Pazundaung, Rgn	Sep; 1998
1270	Ye Myint Oo	5J	14years	Student (2nd, yr) Burm	Bassein	Pazundaung, Rgn	Sep; 1998
1271	Ye Myint Oo	5J, 17/1	31 Years		Mandalay		
1272	Ye Myint Oo				Myingyan		
1273	Ye Myint, Dr				Mandalay		
1274	Ye Naing	5J	14years	Student	Insein		Sep; 1998
1275	Ye Naing	5J, 17/1	25yers	Student	Tharawaddy	S/ Dagon, Rgn	Dec;1996
1276	Ye Naing Win	5J	7years	Student (YIT)	Myingyan		Jan; 1998
1277	Ye Nyunt	5J,17/1,10/	10 Years	CPB	Mandalay	Rangoon	1989
1278	Ye Than Aung			Student	Moulmein		
1279	Ye Thu Aung	5J, 17/1		Student	Bassein		Sep; 1998
1280	Ye Thu Aung		7years		Moulmein		
1281	Ye Tint	5J, 13/1	13years	Teacher (private)	Tharawaddy	Pegu	July 19,1999
1282	Ye Tun	5J	7Years	Student HS	Thayet	In-ma	
1283	Ye Tun Oo	17/1,13/1	13years	Student HS, NLD LA	Tharawaddy	Hlaing, RGN	1992
1284	Ye Tun Oo		10Years			Moe Meik	
1285	Ye Wai				Tharawaddy		
1286	Ye Win	17/1	10years		Tharawaddy	Insein,Rgn	1989
1287	Ye Win Aung				Myaungmya		
1288	Ye Win Zaw	5J, 17/1	14years	Student (2nd yr) Maste	Tharawaddy	Kyauktada, Rgn	Dec;1996
1289	Yee Yee Tun (F)	5J, 17/1	14years	Student (2nd yr) Maste	Tharawaddy	Kyauktada, Rgn	Dec;1996
1290	Yin Htway	5J,17/2	21Years		Mandalay		July,1998

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

1291	Yin Htway	5J, 10 a	10years	Student & (ABSDF)	Tharawaddy		
1292	Yin Htway	5J, 5E	10+7years	Student (Uni;) & DPN	Tharawaddy	Kamayut, Rgn	1989
1293	Yin Min Oo	17/1	20years	Student	Tharawaddy	Bogakay, Irrawaddy	
1294	Yin Mon				Bassein		
1295	Yin Tun, Dr				Mandalay		
1296	You Nout	5J	7Years		Pegu	N/Zyinekanaie, Pegu	Aug 25,1998
1297	Yu Wai	5J	7years		Mandalay		
1298	Yu Yu Hlaing (F)	5J, 17/1	12Years	CPB	Mandalay		Feb;1991
1299	Zade			Monk	Mandalay		
1300	Zanayda			Monk	Tharawaddy		
1301	Zarni Aung		12Years	Student (YIT)	Mandalay	Mandalay	
1302	Zaw Aung	5J, 10/a	10Years	Student	Tharawaddy	Mingalartaungnyunt, R	
1303	Zaw Gyi		7years		Moulmein	P-an	
1304	Zaw Gyi	5J	20years		Myingyan		June 21, 1994
1305	Zaw Han	5J,122/1	20years		Myingyan		June 21, 1994
1306	Zaw Hmaing Wai						
1307	Zaw Htoo @ Khin Maung Htoo				Taungoo		
1308	Zaw Lay				Tharawaddy		
1309	Zaw Linn Aung	5J	7years	Student	Mandalay	Hlaing,Rgn	Dec;1996
1310	Zaw Lwin		27 years		Moulmein		
1311	Zaw Maung Maung Win	5J	14years	Student	Insein		Sep; 1998
1312	Zaw Min	5J	14years	Student (3rd yr Maths)	Insein		Sep; 1998
1313	Zaw Min			NLD	Mandalay		1998
1314	Zaw Min	5J	10+7years	Student (4th yr,I Geog	Thayet	Thingangun,Rgn	Dec;1991
1315	Zaw Min Htiak	5J	7years		Insein	Sanchaung, Rgn	Sep; 1998
1316	Zaw Min Min Lat @ Thapongyi	17/1	7years		Moulmein		
1317	Zaw Min Tun	5J, 17/1	7years		Myingyan	Sanchaung, Rgn	Sep; 1998
1318	Zaw Min, Dr	5J,17/1,10/	20years	CPB	Mandalay	Insein	Nov;1989
1319	Zaw Myint	5J, 17(1)	24Years		Thayet	Lapepyakan, Pegu	
1320	Zaw Myint	5J	14years		Insein		Sep; 1998
1321	Zaw Myint Maung, Dr	122/4,5J	25+12 years	NLD (MP)	Myintkyina	Mandalay	
1322	Zaw Myint Oo	5J	14years	Student	Insein	Pazundaung,Rgn	Sep; 1998
1323	Zaw Myo Oo	5J	14years	Student (Uni;) (Histor	Thayet	122/25St, G691Pabaet	Sep; 1998
1324	Zaw Naing	5J			Mandalay		
1325	Zaw Naing	5J, 17/1			Myingyan		
1326	Zaw Oo	5J		NLD	Insein	Rangoon	Sep 14, 2000
1327	Zaw Sai	5J,122/1	Death sentenc	KIA	Myingyan	Kachin State	1986

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

1328	Zaw Sai @ Mon Aung	5J, 17/1	20+20		Myaungmya		
1329	Zaw Than	5J	14years	Student	Insein	Pabadan	Aug;1998
1330	Zaw Than Htaik	5J	14years	Student (Uni;)	Insein	Pabadan	Aug;1998
1331	Zaw Tun	5J,17/1	7+7years	Student (2nd yr Eco)	Tharawaddy	Thingangun,Rgn	Nov; 1990
1332	Zaw Tun		10 Years			Mandalay	
1333	Zaw Tun Oo	17/1	10years		Taungoo	Pyi,Bago	1991
1334	Zaw Win	5J, 17/1	20years	NLD	Insein	Yey, Mon State	Jan; 23, 2000
1335	Zaw Win	5J	7years	NLD	Taungoo	Kyeemyindaing, Rgn	1996
1336	Zaw Win	5J,17/1	10 Years	PPP	Taungoo	Pyi	1991
1337	Zaw Win	5J, 17/1	12years		Taungoo	Kamayut, Rgn	1990
1338	Zaw Win	5J,17/20	7years			Tamwe	
1339	Zaw Win Than @ Zaw Lay	5J	14years	Student (1st yr Burme	Taungoo	Hmaw be	1995
1340	Zaw Win Tint	5J, 17/1	14 Years	NLD	Myingyan	Banhan,Rgn	1997
1341	Zaw Win, Dr				Myintkyina		
1342	Zaw Ye Win	5/J	7years	Student (Uni;)	Myingyan	Rangoon	1999
1343	Zaw Zaw Aung	5J	10years		Bassein	S/ Okkalapa, Rgn	Dec;1996
1344	Zaw Zaw Aung	5J			Thayet		
1345	Zaw Zaw Latt	5J	7years		Mandalay		
1346	Zaw Zaw Latt	5J, 17(1)	24Years	Student	Thayet	Lapepyakan, Pegu	
1347	Zaw Zaw Lin	5J,17/1	20Years		Mandalay		
1348	Zawana	5J	7years	Monk	Mandalay	Masoeyein	
1349	Zawana	5J,17/1	28years	Monk	Tharawaddy	Shwepyithar,Rgn	
1350	Zawtibala	5J,17/1	7Years	Monk	Mandalay	Pattamya Taik	Sep; 1998
1351	Zawtiyaza	5J		Monk	Mandalay		
1352	Zay Yar	c	20Years		Mandalay		
1353	Zaya	5J	7years	NLD	Mandalay	N/ Okkala, Rgn	Sep; 1998
1354	Zaya	5J, 10 a	15years	Student (4th yr His;) &	Tharawaddy	Pabandan	Dec;1991
1355	Zin Mar Aung (F)	5J	7years	Student & NLD	Mandalay	N/Okkala,Rgn	Aug; 1998
1356	Zin Min Oo @ Angel Lay	5J, 17/1		Student (2nd yr Zolo;)	Insein	Pegu	June 2000

3.15 Personal Accounts

Name: Maung San Lwin

Age: Not given

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Not stated

Religion: Not stated

Address: Tamu, Tamu Township, Sagaing Division

Date of Interview: January 2001

Source: ThangJalun News

I, Maung San Lwin, lived in the central quarter of Tamu, and earned my living as a hill-side cultivator. On the evening of October 1 2000, I went to Nang-Pha -Long to pay my debt. When I arrived in Nang-Pha-Long, the Chief clerk of police, Sergeant Tin Myint arrested me, accusing me of being a wanted person. He took me to the Tamu police station, and searched everything on my body thoroughly, but found nothing which would make me guilty according the law. He then took the 47,000 kyat that I had brought to pay my debts with, and, being afraid of arrest, I had to give him all this money. Sgt. Tin Myint is also a broker for accused persons between the authorities and he has a habit of arresting and detaining people in order to bribe money from them. Others have suffered from this, like Daw Aye Kyi, an 80 year old woman who was detained for nine days in the Tamu police station. As she was poor, and was unable to pay the bribery fees, Sgt. Tin Myint forcefully took Daw Aye Kyi's ornamental earrings and released her. The In-charge-of-police at the Tamu police station knows well about these things, but pretends not to know. These events show SPDC abuses of human-rights, even as SPDC has vowed around the world that the public of Burma has their human-rights in Burma.

Letters from a political prisoner

(Source: Not stated for security reasons)

Undated Letter: We have a worse situation because a new officer arrived from Insein Prison in Rangoon and he forced me to remove the calendar which I had bought from the prison office [sold by prison staff for fundraising and forced families of prisoners to buy] from my wall. I am going to buy another calendar and make sure the officer in charge signs it [so it will not be removed]...You should try and stay out of [prison] and not be sent here because the situation is very difficult...I would rather stay on an island with my friends than in a small cell alone (After independence, in 1962, the political prisoners were sent to Coco island where they stayed together)

June 24, 2000: I am writing this letter in a difficult condition. We are only allowed one hour in the corridor to walk for exercise even though we didn't do anything wrong. We feel very angry and we asked why, but we didn't get any reply. One of the newcomers wrote a letter to her family, but the authorities saw the letter and we were moved to a different hall (separate from each other). If ICRC visits we are not sure if we will be allowed to see them. I want you to contact ICRC about our current condition. The newcomer is not feeling well, but they refuse to let her have medical care. We had to use the criminal prisoners as go-

between to pass her medicine. She was not allowed to have a family visit all day even though her family was waiting outside all day, they only allowed them in the next day. As for me, I didn't complain to the authorities so they don't treat me harshly. Although we stay separately, in late evening we talk to each other very secretly, even though the prison authorities are listening (in prison they are only allowed to converse with their cell-mates, not prisoners in other cells). So we don't have the chance to speak freely. I want to write down my feelings, more than that, because of lack of paper and pen, I can only write a little. When ICRC visits I will explain everything to them. One of the prisoners is having pain in his nose, another one is having problems with his teeth. I miss my friends.

August 1, 2000: xx: Don't be depressed b/c I wrote your name second. I still remember you. I think you are not in Rangoon so I only put the other name. I am going to write very frankly. You also need to reply very frankly about the conditions outside. All of the news is useful to me...I also share your letters with other prisoners, they like because you mentioned them (prisoners recently transferred). We need to deal/bribe (give food, money, treat like friends, help them write essays for competitions, not oppose them or always ask for prisoner's rights or they will not help them to communicate with their families or help them in other ways) with the prison staff to receive or send letters. If we do not deal with the staff they will be problems with them. So I explained this to the newcomers. I really respect your activities, but in prison we have to stay for a long time so sometimes we have to compromise. It doesn't mean we have given up with the authorities, we are just dealing with the prison staff. I am a senior prisoner here, but the newcomers are older than me and they thought I am really soft, not really hard, and I didn't participate a lot in human rights activities. But after reading your letters they better understood who I am. What's the condition outside? So next time tell me more, including your opinion. When will the U.N. delegation arrive in Rangoon? The anniversary of the 88 uprising is very near, so the newcomers asked me to wear clothes that symbolize the event (color) during that time, but I don't agree because things like that are not important, only what is in our mind is important. But I am not going to them this, I am going to pretend I don't have the right clothes. One of the newcomers is having a lot of problems with the prison staff, consequently we have to suffer. I don't want to talk about the inside condition anymore. Be careful in your activities. Write long letters to me.

October 1, 2000: I heard that xx went to Bangkok, did you contact him? Do you think he is o.k.? I heard that Aung San Suu Kyi was barred from traveling to Dala. The conditions in our prison are not good. We feel uncomfortable [because of Suu Kyi's trip, rules were more strict for the political prisoners] I remember everyone. You must be careful in your activities, ICRC has not come to our prison again. Next month (November) will be the first anniversary of their only visit. I want you to be in good health and to be happy and to be o.k. your finances.

October 24, 2000: I felt unhappy after reading your letter. I think about what will happen next. We do not know anything here in prison. Therefore we cannot analyze the political situation very well. I received clothes you sent. After my family visited, I received a lot of food (during visits, the staff have to record everything they received, how many, how much, what kind and record the conversations.) It is like Insein prison. In Insein we weren't allowed to receive yellow clothes (regarded as the color of democracy) or NLD

sarongs (Kachin style). I want to know about LS, did you hear about him? When you write next time write about the NLD news and news from RFA, BBC and VOA and news about our friends. Now I am getting thinner. So the head of the prison asked me why? What is the reason why I am getting thinner? This coming National Day, what will be the plan at Aung San Suu Kyi's residence? I miss SL, when he was in Rangoon he wrote regularly. I want you to write frankly to him. We have some criminal prisoners who recently moved from Insein prison. Most of them have HIV, in the past 10 days 2 criminals passed away and the prison authorities are worried there will more like that so they give regular treatment. In our country, the spread of HIV is deteriorating, there is no proper treatment, the country is poor in every area. Although the authorities know the situation, they are saying that everything is o.k. I want to have a flower vase, and I want to read some novels, but its impossible. I want to see you.

November 22, 2000: I am writing the same letter to both of you. In this letter I am enclosing your old letters (they are not allowed to keep paper in prison) According to our information, Aung San Suu Kyi will be released on the 20th on November. I hope she has been released. And we heard about the ILO sanctions against the military regime. Next time write me a lot of details about everything. We have another newcomer. But this newcomer is not a political prisoner, only a government staff in prison for taking bribes. By now LS is in safe place and is staying there very freely and happily, no need to worry. Now I am teaching some prison staff, general knowledge, math and English. It doesn't mean I am clever, only they are less educated than me. I need to train them for job promotions, for competitions and for writing essays. They don't know how write essays so they ask us to do it. I request the other fellow political prisoners to write for them and the prison staff gave them some food in exchange. Their writing is very good but the prison staff don't dare tell the authorities they are helping them. The cannot say there is any connections between the prisoners and staff. How are you? One of the newcomers is not very well. One of the doctor's treated the newcomer. We hope ICRC will visit but they still haven't come after one year. Is there any special news, (political situation). I hope you are happy in the New Year 2001. I wish to have democracy as soon as possible.

February 26, 2001: I want to knit a telephone cover, which color do you prefer? As for me, I do not have enough time although I am in prison. I pay respect to Buddha and knit, do my rosary and meditate for a long time. If I think about outside, I feel so uncomfortable and sad. I sometimes hear about the situation of the NLD and the political situation, I don't know if it is rumor or not, but I think it is true and I feel really unhappy as a human being. I'm really sad because the current situation is not good for the country. My family told me that one of my friends was also arrested. I want to grow flowers but it is not possible because the authorities will not allow me. I also want to have a cat because I love cats but it is also not possible to have pets.

Name: Soe Yal
Sex: Male
Age: 29
Ethnicity: Karenni
Religion: Christian
Occupation: Farmer
Education: 5th standard
Marital Status: Married with 1 child
Address: Daw-Ta-Hay village, Loikhaw Township, Karenni State
Source: KNAHR
Date of arrival to refugee camp: January 10, 2001

Three days before they arrested me, they arrested two other Karenni men. Then they arrested 6 people from our village, 2 people from Wan-Ngaw village, 3 people from Nan-Son-Koye village, 1 person from Tee-Lone village, 2 people from War-Kine village, 2 people from Ye-Kan village and 3 people from Daw-Sae village. All 19 people were arrested by the SPDC under the accusation that we had contact with Karenni opposition organizations. The day of our arrest they had summoned us for a meeting. When we arrived to Nan-Sone village, they tied all of us with rope and took us to Loikhaw. We then spent three years in prison. All of the villagers from our hometowns knew that we had been unfairly arrested and imprisoned by the SPDC, yet they couldn't do anything to help us.

We were all released from prison on August 22, 2000. I couldn't go back to my village because while I was in prison, my wife and Hla Min, a prominent SPDC MI officer, were having an affair. When we were released from prison, the families of all my friends came to meet their sons and husbands, but for me, only my father came. He told me that I was unluckier than the other people and then he cried and went back home. I looked for my wife after my release from prison, but she wasn't there, she had already run away with Hla-Min. When I arrived back in my village, one of my friends advised me that I shouldn't stay there, and that I shouldn't go to Loikhaw either. I then heard that in addition to Hla Min having an affair with my wife, he had also accused me again of having contact with Karenni opposition groups and was trying to have me arrested. So I stayed in my village for only 5 days, and then left to hide in Shan Sate. Things were not good for me in Shan State because I had no money to do business. I returned to my village once more during Christmas time, but the villagers told me not to stay, as the MI were always asking about me and looking for me. For this reason, I came to this Karenni camp.

After my arrest, I was tortured a lot. They sent me to MI 27 military unit in Loy Kaw 5 days after they arrested me. When I arrived at 27 military unit, they tortured and interrogated me for 3 days and 3 nights. When I couldn't answer their questions about Karenni opposition groups they tortured me in many ways. While we were in prison, they put leg irons on us and during the day they took us outside to work. At night, the MI agents got drunk and tortured and interrogated us one by one. During the day they ordered us to work and at night they interrogated us. They put a plastic bag on my head and held it under water. They also beat us with their hands and with sticks. We had to do "Poun San"

(various positions which prisoners are forced to sit or stand in at varying times) They ordered us to sit in the Motorbike "poun san" position and tortured us in various ways all night. Some people couldn't stand the pain and lost consciousness.

One time, a villager from Tee-Lone lost consciousness but the MI continued to beat him. A friend of the MI agent stopped him and the villager didn't die. After MI 27 military unit, they sent me to SPDC military unit No. 722, where I stayed for one month and then they sent me to Loi-Khaw prison.

We didn't get enough food in prison. For the breakfast they cooked beans ("Pae-Bount-Say") regularly and for dinner they cooked Hin-Nu-Noul-Ywet. As a result of the prison food quota, I couldn't imagine the day we would have enough food. The food they gave us was not fit for pigs, but we had to eat it in order to survive.

In prison, those who could pay were given easy jobs, other people who couldn't pay had to do very hard jobs. They also got beaten more than other people and had to sleep in a very narrow place. We had to sleep 27 people in a 10 foot room. In summer, we couldn't sleep, because there were a lot of people and it was very hot. If we wanted to take off our clothes to sleep because it was very hot, they didn't allow us. In prison, there were no mosquito nets, blankets and pillows. We got thin blankets. In the cold season, it was very cold.

When we were in prison, there were about 580 prisoners and some of them were elderly. Ku-U-Yal, a political prisoner, was about 70 years old. Another one was older than him, over 80 years old. There were no children in prison because they sent them to children's prisons.

Also in prison, the prisoners were tortured. If we couldn't pay money to wardens, jailers and warders we had to work more and got beaten more than other prisoners. There was corruption at every level in prison. Also, they often came and took prisoners to be used as front line porters. They took at least 40 or 50 prisoners at a time. I didn't see these prisoners return to prison. I don't know where they went. I also saw them take prisoners to work in the prison authorities' hill-side farms. Some of the jailers ordered the prisoners to labor in the villages' hill side farms, doing things such as cutting, threshing and winnowing paddy.

Our rights were not respected in prison. In March 2000, the ICRC came and met us face and face. We reported to them about the inside of the prison. One of the foreigners from ICRC met with me face to face. Even though he was a foreigner he could speak Burmese. Before he went back, he gave me an ICRC card, but the jailers took it from me after ICRC left. When ICRC came, the jailers told us to lie and say we got enough food, had good bathing conditions and good places to stay. They told us to say everything was good. They told us that if we told the ICRC the truth they would beat us and increase our time in prison. In reality, if we wanted to bathe freely we had to pay 300 kyat a month to the jailers. People who have money can use alcohol and drugs like "Ya-Ma" in prison.

I want to say that even though we were all prisoners, some were chosen to be the leaders. None of those chosen to be leaders were Karenni. The jailers only made Burmese people the leaders. Out of 580 prisoners, 100 of them were Karenni.

There was one problem between jailers and prisoners. That was a problem with rice. When the prisoners told the jailers that they didn't get enough food, they were beaten by the jailers. In reality, every prisoner got 25 "Aung san" of rice per meal, and the jailers sold the

rest. If prisoners wanted to eat more rice, we had to pay 400 kyat a month to the leaders (who were also prisoners). If we couldn't pay the money, they gave us the quota of one spoonful of rice. If we paid, they gave us two spoonfuls. In prison, there were many kinds of corruption.

When we were not in good health in prison, we had to get our own medicine. In prison there was a prisoner doctor. Even if we were not sick, and the jailers ordered us to buy medicine, we had to do it. The warders sold the "BPI" medicine which they had received from the authorities and substituted it with (cheap) medicine made from China. The things we had to face in prison were numerous. If we talk about all of them, we will never finish.

My life has been very bad. I was arrested by SPDC unfairly and imprisoned. In addition, my wife was stolen by MI. Since I have been released from prison I have had to live in fear. I am afraid to live in my village, and couldn't return, and everywhere I wanted to go I was in fear of the MI and my wife. I am afraid that if I take my child, they will arrest my parents. Now, in my mind, I don't know what to do.

Name: "Than Aung"

Sex: Male

Age: 28

Ethnicity: Burman

Religion: Buddhist

Occupation: Day Labourer

Marital Status: Married, two children, ages 1 and 3 years old

Address: xxxx section, Pegu town, Pegu Division

Date of Interview: July 2000

Source: KHRG

[He had been a prisoner in Lashio Prison in Shan State. He was interviewed after escaping from portering in Dooplaya District.]

Q: Do you have brothers and sisters?

A: I have three siblings. I am the middle one. I have one elder sister, who is 31 years old. She is already married. I also have a younger brother, who is 25 years old. At present, he is studying in school.

Q: What did you do when you were a child?

A: I started studying in kindergarten when I was five years old. I passed kindergarten but failed one year when I was in 1st grade. I passed 2nd grade but then failed three years in 3rd grade and three more years in 4th grade.

Q: What did you do after you were fifteen?

A: At first I stayed with my parents, and then I worked with my friends at any job we could find like masonry or cutting grass. When people sold things, I also sold things. When

Arbitrary Detention and Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

I was 20 years old, I got married and had two children. A friend told me there was a good job in Lashio and he called me to come there, so I went to xxxx in Mong Hsat [township]. My wife stayed with my parents.

Q: Why have you come here?

A: I was portering for an Army unit.

Q: Are you an ordinary civilian or what was the reason you were portering for the Army?

A: I had gone from Pegu up to Mong Hsat township near Lashio. I picked tea leaves and baked charcoal there at xxxx village. After I baked charcoal, I cut bamboo. One day, in the evening, I went to sit in the teashop with my friend. While I was sitting, the police who were patrolling said that the time was up [to be out on the streets]. When I turned around, I didn't see my friend, he had run away and fled when he saw the police patrol come. I alone was arrested. The offence when the police arrested me was hiding in the dark [being out after curfew]. When they arrested me, they asked me, "Where are you from?" I told them I was from xxxx. They asked me what time it was. I told them it was still very early, but they didn't agree. They punched me and asked me, "Why are you still out now?" I explained to them I was leaving the teashop, but they didn't believe me. They punched me there on the road and took me to xxxx jail.

Q: What was the offence they charged you with?

A: They charged me with hiding in the dark, Article 42. It was past 9 o'clock at night and they had declared no one was allowed out after 9 p.m. I was arrested on March 24th 2000. They put me in xxxx police station for three days. They fed me rice with a standard prison meal.

Q: Did they sentence you after that?

A: Yes, they passed the judgment in Lashio District Court. I was sentenced to more than one year at Lashio Prison. I was put in the prison on March 27th 2000.

Q: What happened when you first entered the prison?

A: When we entered we had to sit and we couldn't look up at their faces. If we looked up at them, they would beat and punch us. The first time I looked up, one of them kicked me in the jaw with his leg one time. When I got to the cell, the one who waited at the door kicked me in. He wasn't a jailer, he was a prisoner who waits at the door.

Q: How did your day begin in the prison?

A: In the morning when we woke up and had finished washing our faces, we had to wipe the floors. After that I had to choose the rice [sifting the rice and picking out the husks]. In the evening we had to move all the old excrement from the toilets and put it on the plantation.

Q: What did they feed you in the prison?

A: When we arrived at Lashio Prison they fed us enough rice. They fed us bean curry and fish paste. In the evening we were fed Ta Ler Baw curry [boiled rice mixed with any vegetable on hand] and uncooked fishpaste. We got enough drinking water.

Q: How many times did they let you bathe?

A: They let us bathe only one time [each day]. They gave us only 7 bowls of water to use for our bath.

Q: Did people get sick in the prison?

A: There were sick people, but they didn't treat them. They gave them only one or two tablets [of medicine]. When the prison officials thought they couldn't work anymore, they were sent to the Lashio hospital. When they were sent to Lashio hospital their feet were shackled. They were also shackled to the bed in the hospital, they couldn't move.

Q: What was the most common disease in the prison?

A: Most of the diseases were from drugs or itching [scabies]. I saw only these. Some people had very big wounds. I saw only one man die because he had diarrhea.

Q: Are there women in the prison?

A: There is a different building for the women. There are about 300 women prisoners. Most of them were drug offences.

Q: How many prisoners are there in Lashio Prison?

A: I estimate there are over 8,000 prisoners [there are actually between 1,800 and 2,400 prisoners, according to other testimonies]. There were over 300 prisoners in our building.

Q: What offences are most common in the prison?

A: Drug offences are the most common.

Q: Did the ICRC [International Committee for the Red Cross] come to ask questions in Lashio Prison?

A: They didn't come [they had already made their inspection].

Q: Were there any political prisoners in Lashio Prison?

A: I didn't see them.

Q: How long did you stay in Lashio Prison?

A: I came here in May, so it was only over one month.....

(HRDU note: For the end of the interview regarding "Than Aung's" experiences as a prison porter please refer to the chapter on forced labor)

Name: "Hla Shwe"

Sex: Male

Age: 26

Ethnicity: Burman

Religion: Buddhist

Occupation: Construction Worker

Marital Status: Single

Address: Mandalay city

Date of Interview: July 2000

Source: KHRG

[He was in Lashio Prison and escaped while portering in Dooplaya District.]

Q: What is your education level?

A: I finished 9th Standard [grade 9] in Mandalay town.

Q: Are your parents still alive?

A: My father is still alive, but my mother is dead. My father is a gold and silversmith.

Q: How many siblings do you have?

A: We are three siblings. I am the middle one. The eldest is my sister. My younger sister is 24 years old. They are both selling goods in a shop house.

Q: What did you do when you were young?

A: Since I was 12 years old, I was growing roses and taking care of my life. In 1984 I was getting 60 kyat per day and staying with a teacher. It was in Mandalay Industrial New Town. I stayed there and sometimes I sent money to my grandmother. I had finished school. When I was 15 years old I had passed 8th Standard. I was working in the industry business and then I went up to xxxx. I stayed there for five or six years. I went to do industry business there. I didn't do it alone, I did it with my friends.

Q: Why were you arrested to become a porter?

A: I was not arrested to be a porter. I was imprisoned because of an offence. It was Article 363, not agreeing with the parents.

Q: Did you rape someone?

A: No, I didn't rape anyone. I eloped with my wife. She was from xxxx town. She is Shan and over 16 years old.

Q: How did it happen?

A: Nobody knew that I was in love with that girl. Then I eloped with her. My friend went to tell her mother and stepfather to make a wedding for us, but when they knew we were there, they came to arrest us. Her parents accused me. I was not so friendly with the village secretary, so the chairman was called and they interrogated him. My weak point is a good point for him [the village secretary didn't like him so he arranged it so he would go to prison].

Q: When were you arrested?

A: On February 25th 2000. I was arrested in yyyy and kept in a jail cell in xxxx town.

Q: Did they torture you when they arrested you?

A: Yes. They hit me hard two times and then Bo xxxx pulled me into the car and said, "You go. Clear it up when you arrive at the office. Come."

Q: How many days were you held before they sent you to court?

A: One month and 20 days.

Q: Which court did they try you in?

A: xxxx township court of law. The judge's name was xxxxx.

Q: How many years was your sentence?

A: Three years. I was sent to prison on April 20th 2000. There were 12 other people sentenced with me on that day. All of them were drug cases.

Q: Did you know the ICRC came to Lashio Prison?

A: I didn't know that.

Q: Where did you stay at that time?

A: I was staying in the jail cell in yyyy jail. I hadn't arrived at the prison yet. I arrived at the prison at the end of April. I was there for one month.

Q: How many prisoners are in the prison?

A: There were over 1,000 prisoners in the prison.

Q: The other prisoners said there were 7,000 or 8,000 prisoners?

A: They are telling a lie. You can estimate it. There were 320 prisoners in each room and there are only 4 buildings. There are four buildings in Lashio Prison. There are eight rooms. You can estimate it using 300 prisoners per room and there would be about 1,800 prisoners [sic; 2,400].

Q: How many prisoners were in one room?

A: In Lashio they kept 50 prisoners in one room. It was about 20 feet all around. In the big room they kept 204 prisoners and some times 220 prisoners. There was also a separate extension room and they kept 70 prisoners there. If I make an estimate for the whole room, there was more than 300 prisoners. In my building there were over 200 people. [His building had two rooms and an extension built on which served as a third room.]

Q: How many women were there?

A: I didn't go to see them.

Q: Did they have a hospital in the prison?

A: They didn't have a hospital, they only had a clinic.

Q: Was there a place for children?

A: No, there wasn't.

Q: How many people did they keep in one cell?

A: They kept two people in one cell [these are the single or double cells normally reserved for political prisoners]. Some are imprisoned forever and some are politicians. I don't know about them exactly, but there was one politician.

Q: There were political prisoners in Lashio Prison?

A: I met only one, but I don't know his name. He was sentenced to seven years. He was about 50 years old [see interview #4; another prisoner says this man is not really a political prisoner, but was arrested for making fake National ID cards in Shan State]. He had been in prison for over a year. I saw him. When I got sick, he gave me medicine. He was able to deal with the warden.

Q: Was the warden kind?

A: He was kind. He was the big warden, but I forgot his name.

Q: Explain to me how you lived in prison.

A: When we first arrived in the prison we had to wipe the floor. It was one hundred feet around. We had to wipe it going and coming 20 times. After we finished wiping, they gave us a chance to rest outside. They forced us to wipe for three or four days. Then they chose people whom they forced to carry Main La, we had to carry it. It is the excrement pot. Some people had to carry the excrement pot 14 or 15 times. Some people only carried it two times. When we carried the excrement pots, they gave us cheroots. Some people exchanged their cheroots for curry to eat. Some people collected the cheroots and sold them. Then they found things to get to cook curry.

Q: Was there other work?

A: The other work was agriculture.

Q: Did they give you a chance to exercise and read?

A: They did. For me, when I had finished working, I sometimes played caneball. I didn't know where to find a book.

Q: How about taking a bath?

A: They gave eight cups of water for one day, every day.

Q: Did they give enough medicine to the sick people?

A: They didn't give enough. They broke off half a tablet of medicine and said, "You are sick. Take it."

Q: Did that medicine cure the disease?

A: No, it didn't.

Q: Where did they send the people who had serious diseases?

A: The people in bad condition were sent to hospital. Some died. After I arrived at the prison two people died. Two people died in one month.

Q: What was the most common disease that people died from?

A: Diarrhea. Some people who smoke opium get diarrhea. Most of the diseases are abscess, scabies, ringworm and people who get diarrhea from smoking opium. Those people stayed at the hospital for two or three days and then usually they died. This was because the people knew that using it was bad, but they kept doing it.

Q: Why do the people who don't smoke get scabies?

A: The mosquitoes, lice, and many kinds of insects bite these people and they scratched and then the disease spread. They scratched and sometimes the skin was bruised. Slowly by slowly it became worse and they didn't have medicine. Some people who had abscesses on their buttocks, cut them with a knife and put torn pieces of cloth inside and then took the pieces of cloth out. They then put another torn piece of cloth in and then took it out. Then they closed it with a plaster and treated it.

Q: Who treated them?

A: The people from the medical room.

Q: Were you able to sleep well?

A: I couldn't sleep well. The people who had money, they could sleep well. The people who didn't have money, they had to sleep one on top of each other. We had to bend slowly and sleep. We had to put our legs on each other and sleep. They didn't have beds.

Q: How many people could sleep in a four cubits space? [1 cubit = 1.5 feet / ½ meter]

A: If it was a four or five cubits space we would have died. We can't. There are many diseases. Sometimes they beat people and ordered them to sleep. For example, four people could sleep in a place, but eight people had to sleep there. If we didn't sleep, they beat us.

Q: Did they feed you enough food?

A: They didn't feed us cooking oil. We had to eat Ta Ler Baw [rice soup with a few vegetables in it] every day.

Q: Who did they plant the vegetables for?

A: It was for the prisoners.

Q: Could the prisoners eat them?

A: Yes, we ate them, but we didn't get enough. There was a lot of water in the curry.

Q: How did you feel when you were in the prison?

A: When I stayed at the prison, I looked at the brick buildings every day and thought about when I would leave those brick buildings. On this day I met those brick buildings and on the next day I also met those brick buildings. Sometimes I felt in my heart that I wanted to cross over [the wall] and run from those brick buildings. I felt that until I didn't want to stay anymore.

Name: James Mawdsley

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Anglo-Saxon

Date of Interview: October 22, 2000

Source: DVB

Q: Why do you think the military finally let you free?

A: Certainly because of the buildup of pressure from the international community putting more and more attention on the junta. They had broken the international law so many times on separate points. They had no right to keep me there. This is the case with thousands of prisoners in Burma. They are innocent men and women and there is no reason for them being in prison except that the junta wish to oppress. But unfortunately for the Burmese there is not the international attention. For me they eventually became so afraid and ashamed of all the buildup that they thought, "we have to get rid of him."

Basically from the beginning they didn't want to keep me in prison, but they wanted to save face; they wanted to show their strength.

Q: Can you tell me which laws you are talking about?

A: I came in with a one-day pass with a visa. My passport was stamped, so I went in legally. The consular staff confirmed that. They saw my passport and said that I was here legally. But they gave me five years on an immigration charge for which there is no provision at all for a prison sentence. The maximum recommendation is deportation. They said I had broken the conditions of immigration. The maximum they could give me was deportation, but in fact they gave me five years. And even that law shouldn't have applied at all because I distributed my letters and was prosecuted under the Printing and Publishing Act. Then they added the immigration charge by saying that I had broken the law and that is illegal. So they charged me twice on the same issue. That in itself is wrong. And as for the seven years for the Printing and Publishing Act, I was at no stage allowed to refer to the content of what I had distributed, and there is provision for distributing religious or social material. I don't care because what I wrote was, "this regime is corrupt and we need to re-open universities, release political prisoners, and the SPDC should have dialogue with the NLD." I said that straight and I don't consider that to be anti-government. I consider that to be pro-truth. It needs to be done. And apart from anything else, the SPDC is not the government; the NLD is government.

Q: During the last years that you were in prison you tried to fight legally with the charges that they had imposed on you?

A: When I got there, I was saying for four months that I am not even going to bother with the appeal because I have no faith in the judicial system because it is so corrupt. That was proven by them not even admitting the appeal. They dismissed it even though U Kyi Min, my lawyer, proved that they had broken their own law. They are absolutely obliged to hear that appeal. The whole legal approach was basically just to highlight the corruption, and I knew that I would get out through international pressure and nothing to do with the legal system. Part of the pressure was showing how corrupt the legal system was.

Q: Recently we heard that you have been badly beaten by the prison guards. Can you tell us a bit about that?

A: One thing I understand about Burma is that everyone is afraid with very good reason. When I was in Insein prison I understood perfectly the fear. I was devastated by fear in Insein prison. Fortunately after two months I got my feet back and was no longer afraid. But I understand that when someone is given the order to give someone a beating, it is not easy to outright argue with that. So, the guards and prisoners who carried it through, some of them were reluctant, some of them weren't and went ahead with great enthusiasm. It was severe beating, but I know that the Burmese people that I have met have had far worse treatment that has gone on for weeks and weeks with torture and real abuse. I am aware that the conditions that I was kept in was much better than so many prisoners in Burma, so I have no right to complain. In my heart I had to recognize how lucky I was. Even with the beating I recognized that for a Burmese it would have been so much worse.

Q: Why did they do that?

A: I spent a whole year in prison protesting; I didn't stop. They were finding it impossible to contain me because they don't know how to sit down and listen to someone. The regime as you know and everybody in Burma knows, will not listen to anyone. The solution is always to come back with violence. And by coming back with violence they can, for the meantime, think they are in control in the country. But they are not; they are just building up a problem that is going to explode. With me, they avoided the violence as long as they could because they were scared of the international response. But at the end of the day they didn't know what to do. They thought they could shut me up like that. But even after three days, I was still saying that I was going to continue. Then they said, " we're sorry; we're not going to do it again. What is your point? What do you want to say? We will take it to the higher authorities." They were probably lying. They made a mistake by drawing so much attention to themselves on their brutality

Q: We also heard that last December that you had a hunger strike demanding to release Min Ko Naing. Can you tell us a bit about this?

A: The first time was the 7 day hunger strike and in March and April there was a 20 day hunger strike. One day for each year of Min Ko Naing's 20 year sentence. Basically throughout my involvement with Burma, I have been so inspired by the courage of those I met, and those I haven't met, but only read and heard about. I just know that I am not suffering out there and that there are people in far worse conditions. I believe Min Ko Naing keeps strong in prison. I have heard of his resistance.

I don't want the outside world to say, "look here is a white man who spent one year in prison." Min Ko Naing has done more than 11 years in solitary, and there were 6 men in Keng Tung prison who were there for life. That means until they die, not 25 years. I want to bring the attention of the West to this; to shake them up and say, "what are you doing in England or America that is as important as the injustice happening in Burma?"

Min Ko Naing is a huge inspiration to me.

Q: Can you tell me briefly about your daily life in prison?

A: To try to keep a routine. To do a lot of exercise in the morning. I was lucky enough, due to British and Australian Consular staff, to have a bible in my cell. Later I was able to get quite a few books. To be able to read and to pray. I got a book from the authorities on the Mingla Suit; the 38 points of the Mingla Suit. It is brilliant; it is truth. It sounds foolish to say, but if only people respect the truth of Buddhism because the regime chokes out so

much propaganda. They want to give the impression they are Buddhist, but they are not; they are evil. Buddhism is so true. I am a Christian, but I see them both as paths to the truth. So, in my cell it would basically pray, exercise, and read.

Q: Were you able to meet other prisoners?

A: Not really, but there were of course a lot of people guarding me because the regime are so paranoid and stupid. They could have had one guard outside my cell, but there were up to 12 at the time, and I am sure the guards were there to watch each other rather than watch me. Some of them helped me just by a smile. It was good to get to know some of these prisoners and guards over the year, and they kept me alive.

You, the DVB, are broadcasting to Keng Tung prison. Please give the message to the prisoners and guards, who might not even know they were helping me, that just a kind word or a kind smile meant the world to me. Burma means the world to me, and I don't want to be a stupid white guy charging in and who doesn't understand the problems. When Burmese people treat me with kindness.....

Q: We will definitely convey the message. Why are you risking your life for Burma?

A: I believe that I will live. I believe I can do more alive than dead, and I am very very careful. I know what the outside people think, "he is crazy; he is taking big risks," but I am extremely careful about what I do.

On my journey from Thailand to Moulmein I had the best help in the world from the KNU and other people who helped get me to Moulmein. I could trust them absolutely. There is no way they would allow harm to come to me. They are the funniest soldiers I ever met; they are brilliant, and I could trust them and the members of the ABSDF, who have helped me in tight spots and the KNPP. So I don't really fear for my life, but the reason I am committed to Burma is two reasons.

One is the inspiration of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who I think the whole world should value for what she is teaching us and showing us.

The other is individuals that I have met first of all on the Burma-Thai border, but also elsewhere in Burma. They are dedicating their lives. I have seen the injuries they have from bullets. I have seen the dead bodies and the dying bodies. These people that the world is not hearing about, who with such amazing courage and dedication, obviously to their own country, are far more important to me, or far more of an inspiration to me, than when I look around London or England. In this country we are missing the point. The freedom and truth is everything, and it is worth all of your dedication. From what I have learnt in Burma, I would even now like to help my own country to focus on the essentials of life, which is to fight for your dignity and truth. The Burmese have taught me and helped me far more than I have done for Burma.

Q: Yesterday during the press conference you charged the regime for committing genocide. Can you tell a little more about it?

A: Saying genocide is not an exaggeration; it is not just throwing around a word. What is happening in Burma is genocide. There is a legal definition, and there are five criteria. Any one of these criteria prove genocide. What is happening in Burma satisfies three of these criteria. I would prefer if you talk to someone like Lord Alton of the Jubilee Campaign who understands far more than I about international law. But they have shown me proof that I cannot repeat now; legal arguments. What is happening is genocide, and of course

the Western governments are reluctant to admit that, because then they must act or else they have no moral authority in our country. We will say to them, "what is the point of admitting this is genocide if you will not take international strong action?" If we can push our government to admit the truth, and to look at the facts that this is genocide. Our country is changing too, and we need to shape them up. Lets tell the British people to obey the facts and take consequences for those facts, which means we have a duty to use force on the SPDC because they are breaking international law, and for me, more importantly, they are breaking every moral law and God's law. What they are doing is wicked, and the way to stop that is through legal means; possibly through the UN. Preferably, the SPDC will disappear and the NLD and CRPP are established as governments in Burma

Q: Upon your release, did you have to sign any paper that you are not going back to Burma?

A: Not at all. They wanted me to sign something, but there was no way that I would sign anything for the whole 416 days I was there. I refused to sign anything even just the list of inventory. I said, " Look you are not the government. " On my first day of arrest during the interrogation, I said, " You do not represent the government. You are illegal, anti-constitutional, terrorist thugs. You are wicked, and I am not going to sign anything. I am not even going to answer your questions. The NLD is government, and I will answer questions from a representative of them or a judge or a policeman appointed by them in the court." When they asked me if I was guilty or not, I said " you are not a judge and this is not a court, and I will not recognize the SPDC's authority because they are anti-constitutional. I will recognized the NLD. " I said that in court clearly three times. On the court record they wrote down that I pleaded guilty and understood the charges. They lied so much, they broke their own law. They said I pleaded guilty to three charges. They only leveled two charges in the court room and then added on my previous sentence later.

I would sign nothing, and I would never bow the knee to that regime. After two months in Insein prison I basically got a big help from God. I will never bow the knee to the junta, I will never recognize them because they are not the government. They are an army; they have no legal, moral or constitutional authority. A representative of the junta said to me at Rangoon airport, when I was handed over to my Ambassadors, " will you sign this paper?" I said "no, " and he said, "are you willing to go back to Keng Tung?" I said, " yes, I will do another year. Send on the next plane back to prison. I am not signing your paper." The Ambassadors did great work to make sure they could not argue with that.

Q: So they were trying up to the last minute to make you sign something?

A: I think eventually the Ambassadors signed it saying that Mawdsley has read this document. They wanted us to say that I had understood it, but I don't understand their lies. They could have sent me back to prison, and I wouldn't care. I wasn't going to sign.

Q: After being in prison for more than 400 days, did you hear any news about yourself being in prison or about the people demonstrating outside?

A: Obviously I don't want to make life difficult for anyone there now, but I did get messages from DVB and BBC, and it gave me great encouragement. I love Burma. A lot of people in Europe don't understand why I did it. I think most people in Burma understand perfectly, because we all know how unjust and oppressive the regime is, and there has to be protest against it. When a Burmese person protests, and they do, they are in for a terrible time. But when a Westerner protests, we has so much protection, and live in

much better conditions for the very short time we are in prison compared to what the Burmese go through. So, when I get messages about what the DVB and the BBC are reporting, that makes me very happy.

Q: Are you going back to Burma again?

A: I will never drop this cause before Burma has democracy, and I don't see how I can stay away from Burma once it has democracy. Then I will be over very soon. I don't know what will happen if I go back to Burma or not. I don't think there is any need for me to go back to prison; I don't think that will be helpful. The main reason I went was that I wanted to understand why and how the junta is doing what it is doing. How can such an evil organization exist? It comes about to untruth; people who say there is no fighting in Burma. I have walked through the Karen and Karenni states and I have seen bullets going over my head, grenades exploding, people shot and killed. I know there is fighting and hundred thousands of displaced people and refugees, and yet the regime is saying there is no fighting. If everyone rejected their lies solely for the truth they couldn't exist, because people at lower ranks are willing to accept their lies and repeat them. But the reason they do that is because of fear. Even people in the West do the same because in my country we are afraid to loose our material advantage; afraid to loose our wealth; afraid to loose our safety.

Therefore, we make the lie that the Burmese people have made their problem and it is their job to sort it out. That is a lie. The whole world has made that problem because the whole world supplies the junta with fighter planes, automatic weapons, and with internet technology for communication and satellite phones. So, the junta has this massive technological advantage over the people, so they can crack down with real brutality. The world has a duty to sort out this problem, and yet we in my country tell the lie that it is not our problem because we are afraid, not of violence, but of loosing our comfort. So, it requires every single person in every country to try their best to stick to the truth and to give as much as they can. Although we face different penalties for our stands, I don't want to die, so I am not going to fight till the death without being sensible about what is the best approach. If you die you die, but be sensible about what you can do.

There were people in the prison, the ABSDF, KNPP and KNU members, that are standing up for truth, and they are saying the truth. That is what you do at the DVB- giving the truth back into Burma in your own way. It is so important to be as truthful as you can in the reports. This is what will change the whole situation in Burma - the VOA, DVB, RFA, and the BBC. If they can broadcast the truth of the situation it will bring massive change. Most of all police officers, prison officers and soldiers need to start living truthfully and should be saying, "my orders are illegal, immoral and unjust, and I will not carry them out even if it means no more promotion for me; even if it means I will loose my job; even if it means I will go to prison, I am not going to obey these orders. I want to obey the Lord Buddha, because if we obey him things will be fine." But you can only do that as an individual. I can't complain that the world has problems, I can only deal with the problems that I have inside me. One year in solitary confinement is a good way for me to try to make myself a little bit more humble and a bit less greedy.

Q: Do you have any plans of suing the Burmese government?

A: Really I can't speak about the future. The pressure for change in Burma must be relentless and increasing, and I will be part of that.

4. Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment

4.1 Background

"Torture of political detainees and ethnic minorities is widespread and systematic in Myanmar..." UN human rights report (October 16, 2000)

"Torture and ill-treatment have become institutionalized in Myanmar. They are practiced by the army as part of counter-insurgency activities; by Military Intelligence (MI) personnel when they interrogate political detainees; by prison guards; and by the police." Amnesty International Report, 'The Institution of Torture'. (December 2000)

The use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in Burma has been documented particularly since the time of the 1988 popular uprisings, when the occurrences of torture increased, yet torture has been used by the military government in Burma for over 40 years. The use of torture portrays how little the military regime values human dignity, and is even against the junta's own laws. Articles 330 and 331 of the Burmese Penal Code (1957) prohibit torture and ill treatment during interrogation. Yet it is the personnel associated with the regime that are given the power to torture during interrogation, and when complaints are occasionally made, no action is taken, or the complainant occasionally is then detained and interrogated.

Members of the SPDC army, the MIS, the police, the USDA, and armed groups aligned with the SPDC such as the DKBA and the village people's militias ("*pyi thu sit*") use torture to punish and degrade (break) those who have been detained on allegations of suspected of "anti-government" activities, including political prisoners and villagers in ethnic areas of armed insurgency. Torture is also a method of obtaining information concerning anti-government or rebel activities and a way of putting terror into the hearts of others to keep them away from association with anything deemed anti-government.

In addition to torturing individuals suspected of "anti-government" contact, there are cases where SPDC personnel have tortured individuals in order to extort money, to give punishment for failure to pay a required fee or tax, or out of personnel prejudice or dislike. One of the pillars of SPDC power is the privilege and authority that is given to military officers, and the impunity that they receive from any crimes committed. Torture and ill treatment is also utilized against villagers and prisoners forced to labor or forced to porter for the military. Torture of political prisoners, both in prisons as well as in prison labor camps and during prisoner forced labor duty, is the norm, and notoriously cruel in the way it is carried out.

4.2 Torture, and other cruel or other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in areas of ethnic armed conflict

Torture is commonplace in areas of ethnic armed insurgency, where the "Four-Cuts" and other military policies have denied people human dignity at all levels. Villagers live in terror of SPDC officers who may arbitrarily suspect them of contact with the opposition, and then detain, interrogate or even kill them because of this assumed contact. As a result of the frequency with which SPDC soldiers deny villagers their dignity in these areas, many ethnic minority people subjected to such torture or degrading treatment have come to the conclusion that much of the torture is not only due to alleged rebel contact, but also due to their ethnicity or religion. At the end of this chapter is a list of incidents which occurred in the year 2000.

4.3 Ill-treatment during Forced Portering and Labour

Ill-treatment during Civilian Forced Labor and Porter Duty

Throughout the year 2000, civilians continued to be conscripted or arbitrarily seized to carry heavy loads as porters for the SPDC army battalions. Porters who finished their duty or who managed to escape have given consistent and horrific accounts of the ill treatment given to the civilian porters. There is almost always an acute shortage of food for the porters, and they are occasionally tied together with rope or forced to walk in front of the soldiers as shields and land mine sweepers. When porters become exhausted from being overworked, underfed, and sometimes beaten, they are subjected to physical and verbal abuse and sometimes beaten to death and left in the jungle. Female porters, mostly ethnic women living in combat areas, are subjected to sexual harassment, and occasionally rape, gang rape, and other sexual crimes.

At forced labor sites across the country, villagers are often mistreated and degraded by SPDC personnel who are supervising the work site. Conditions at work sites are often harsh, and the hours long. Villagers who become exhausted due to lack of food, rest or medicine are commonly verbally or physically abused in order to keep them working. The subject of forced labor in Burma and the conditions which occur during this forced labor are covered extensively in the chapter on forced labor.

Ill-treatment, and cruel or inhuman treatment during prison labor and portering

Prisoners in prison labor camps, prisoner porter recruiting camps, and in the front lines as porters are treated in particularly horrible ways. (These are all discussed more thoroughly in the chapter on forced labor.) Prisoners are denied all human dignity, as they are forced to labor in inhuman ways. Prisoners are often used in the place of animals to carry heavy loads or plow fields.

4.4 Torture during Detention

"Torture or other forms of inhuman treatment of political detainees are believed to be routine, especially during initial interrogation," Judge Rajsoomer Lallah,

Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights

Political opposition activists often endure particularly brutish treatment while in detention. Torture is used to punish them and to compel them to cooperate with their interrogators. These prisoners endure both physical and emotional torture during the often prolonged periods of detention following arrest while they are isolated from public scrutiny and protection. Many of them are forced to sign "confessions" admitting to anti-SPDC activities or implicating colleagues or friends in such activities. Some are forced to sign documents confirming that they had been well-treated during interrogation or in jail, and other says that they have been incommunicado following torture to allow time for the physical signs of torture to heal before anyone could see them.

At least six departments of the SPDC's security forces have been implicated in torture and ill treatment by former detainees, including political prisoners. The six departments are as follows: (1) SPDC's army of Phythu Tatmadaw (People's Defense Forces); (2) The People's Police Forces; (3) the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence (DDSI); (4) the Special Investigations Department (SID); (5) the Criminal Investigation Department (CID); and (6) the Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI). The activities of DDSI, SID, CID and BSI are coordinated by the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB), under the direct control of the SPDC. The DDSI is also commonly known as the MIS or Military Intelligence Service and is the agency most frequently identified as inflicting torture during interrogation. Since 1988, the units under its control (MI-1, MIS-1, MI-3, etc.) have nearly doubled from 14 in 1989 to 23 in 1991. Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt, Secretary of the SPDC, is the head of the DDSI.

In Burma the practice of shackling of prisoners still persists. The prisoners are shackled in heavy chains, like the ones used to tie elephants even when they are kept in cells which are securely locked while they are waiting to be called before Courts. The practice of shackling prisoners in this manner dates from medieval times. Such shackling clearly falls under inhuman and degrading punishment. Such shackling should be declared illegal and more suitable methods must be developed to ensure that prisoners do not escape while in custody.

SPDC's use of cruel and unusual torture techniques has been well documented by survivors of such techniques and human rights groups. SPDC's methods of torture include beatings rigorous enough to cause permanent injury; shackling of the legs or arms, both in prison cells and in work camps; burning victims with cigarettes; applying electric shocks to the victim's genitals, finger tips, toes, ear lobes, and elsewhere; suffocation; stabbing; rubbing of salt and chemicals in open wounds; forcing victims to stand in unusual and uncomfortable positions for extended periods of time, including "riding the motorcycle," which entails standing with arms outstretched and legs bent and the "helicopter" in which the victim is suspended by the wrists or feet from a ceiling fixture and then spun around; deprivation of light and sleep; denial of medicine, food, exercise and water for washing; employing the "iron road" in which iron or bamboo roads are rolled up and down the shins

until the skin is lacerated; ordering solitary confinement with extreme small and unsanitary cells for prolonged period; rape and sexual assault and the use of psychological torture, including threats of death.

Prison punishment is often very similar to the cruel treatment endured during an interrogation period. Prisoners are severely beaten, placed in solitary confinement, transferred to other cell-blocks. And denied contact with the outside world. Political prisoners are often sent to police dog cells, intended for dogs, where they are subjected to beatings and placed in leg-irons made of chains or of iron rod thrust between the feet.

Beatings

SPDC uses many forms of beating to intimidate and torture prisoners and detainees. Soldiers use typical as well as unusual implements to beat their victims, including their fists, combat boots, rifle butts, leather-coated pipes, wooden sticks, stick made from three interlaced pieces of cane, solid bamboo sticks, about three feet in length, and hard plastic water pipes. Victims often sustain serious permanent injuries including paralysis and even death.

SPDC beating are designed to physically harm and to humiliate their victims, The following are a few of the typical types of beatings: the prisoner is beaten while he/she stands and embraces a post and both hands are held firmly by another person; the prisoner is beaten while laying prone on the ground; the prisoner is beaten while being forced to stand with both legs chained; the prisoner is beaten while being forced to crawl along the ground; the prisoner is shackled, along iron bar is placed in between their legs, and they are forced to crawl while being beaten; prisoners are beaten while being forced to do continuous squat-jumps. Authorities do not hold back during these beatings; they strike victims in the face, chest, abdomen, and back; they also jump on the backs of prisoners while they are being forced to crawl on the ground. Prisoners are routinely seriously wounded; they suffer severe internal bleeding, fractured skulls, broken bones, and paralysis.

Solitary Confinement

An iron rod, about 1 1/2 to 2 feet long is often placed horizontally between the shackled legs of prisoners in solitary confinement, forcing them to stand or lay with their legs astride. Prisoners are locked in tiny cells during their confinement. Normally, small chamber pots are placed in each cell. The pots are never emptied, so the smell becomes unbearable and the cell damp and wet. In the worst case of solitary confinement, prisoners are forced to stand with both arms tied above their head; they are forced to urinate and defecate while standing. Small daily food rations of soup made from rice are slid through the iron bars from outside of cell. No blankets or mats are provided; prisoners are forced to sleep on the concrete floor. Most days, prisoners are taken out of the cells, forced to stand in the standard position, with their legs splayed apart, and beaten. Solitary confinement usually lasts for at least one month and may continue to three months. In some cases, political prisoners are forced to remain in solitary confinement indefinitely.

4.5 Partial list of incidents in 2000

On January 14 2000, Maj. Maung Maung Soe, commander of IB 72, ordered the leaders of Daw Tamadu village in Karenni State to come and see him at his military base that day. They were then threatened by the commander because of the recent fighting at Daw Kauk

which had killed 5 and wounded 9 other SPDC troops. The following day, the commander summoned the Daw Kauk village secretary, his assistant, and the Daw Tacha village secretary to his Daw Tamadu base. Upon arrival, the three were severely beaten and kicked by the Burmese troops, for the same reason the leaders have been threatened. Due to the torture, the Daw Tacha village secretary's back was injured and he lost some teeth. In addition, the two others from Daw Kauk, Kei Mah, 30, and Moi Reh, 42, reported after their release from serving as messengers for the Burmese troops that they also had been masked and terribly tortured while they served as messengers. (Source: KNAHR)

On January 16, 2000, the village secretary of Daw Nye Ku, Karenni State, Kun Ai, age 45, was summoned to come to the Daw Tamadu base by Maj. Maung Maung Soe, commander of IB 72. When the secretary arrived to the military base, he was beaten and kicked by Maj. Maung Maung Soe without questioning or any reasons given. They then put him in a ground hole for one day and one night. (Source: KNAHR)

On January 24 2000 60 troops from IB 422 based in Loi Kow, Karenni State entered Loi Khawng village, Loi La tract, Mong Nai Township, Shan State, robbed the people and the monastery of about 20,000 kyat in total, and then seized 3 villagers from Wan Keng Kam who had been working in their fields near Loi Khawng village. Loong Pan Ta, Loong Htoon, and Loong Phaw Ka were accused of being Shan resistance troops, tied up and tortured. Later these victims were dressed in army fatigues missing insignias, and sent to an SPDC garrison in Nam-Zarng for further interrogation, with the message that they had been captured by IB 422 in a skirmish with Shan rebel troops. (Source: SSANews)

On January 27 2000, 15 villagers of Daw Thè, Karenni State were arrested by troops from LIB 516. They were arrested in retaliation for a battle which had occurred earlier that month near Linphon village between the Karenni forces and LIB 516. The villagers were badly tortured by the troops. Among the arrested was a Christian pastor Antoni, 25, who was also tortured severely. As of April 2000, he was near death's door. In addition, the same troops arrested two villagers of Daw Papah, one of Nam Sukuay and four of Wam Ngaw village. All arrested villagers were brought to the military base and detained there. Their families are not allowed to come to the military base. Villagers living in those areas are very frightened to stay at their homes. (Source: KNAHR)

On January 29, 2000, headman of Tong Wa Nur village was beaten until he lost consciousness and 12 viss of fish, belonging to the villagers, was robbed by SPDC troops from IB244 at the fish ponds of Tong Wa Nur and Tong Wa Tai villages in Paang Kiu tract, Kaeng-Tung township. (Source: SHRF)

On January 30 2000, Khu Meo Feh, 40, of Kaybisoe village, Deemaw Soe Township, Karenni State was sent by his village head to deliver a message to the Daw Tamadu army base. When he arrived at the military base, he was arbitrarily mistreated by the troops of IB No. 72, who put him into a ground hole. He was interrogated in relation to fighting that took place at Daw Kauk early that month which had killed 5 and wounded 9 other Burmese soldiers. (Source: KNAHR)

On February 2 2000, village youth leader Moh Ieh, 24, of Daw Tamadu, Karenni State was arrested by troops of IB No. 72. He was accused of having connection with Karenni forces and was terribly tortured by the troops. The troops then put him in a ground hole. As of April 2000, he had not been released. (Source: KNAHR)

On February 3, 2000, a private from SPDC LIB 560 deserted the army, taking along with him his sergeant's MC1 assault rifle, in Tenasserim Township, Tenasserim Division. Thinking that the deserter was heading for Kawk-Bawk village, the Battalion Comdr. and LIB 559's company Comdr. Capt. Thet Naing and his 80 men went to Kawk Bawk village on February 6, 2000. When they arrived to Kawk Bawk village, the angry Battalion Comdr. That Htun rounded up all the villagers into the church compound. He ordered all the male villagers to search for his deserted soldier and the weapon he took along with him, without failure. He threatened that if they failed to find the deserter and the guns that he would cut down all the beetle nut and coconut palms in the villagers' plantations and forcibly relocate the villagers to other villages. As the villagers had to stay all day and night in the church compound, some children and elderly people became sick. The church is too small to hold all the villagers at nighttime so that most of the villagers had to sleep outside the church without protection from cold and heat. The sickness increased day by day.

On February 7, 2000 the troops summoned a Manoerone villager called Saw Ba Tin and his wife Naw Si Htoo Nwe to Kawk Bawk. The Battalion Comdr. accused Saw Ba Tin of secretly guiding the deserter from Manoerone to Kawk Bawk and beat him severely. As of February 15 2000 he had not been released.

The same day a woman named Naw Neh Low was called out of the church compound. The Comdr. then tortured her cruelly, accusing her of being the wife of a rebel supporter, as her husband was not in the village. He tied her wrists and ankles, then rolled a bottle repeatedly over her legs, arms and whole body. She was ordered to stand, to squat, to lie on her belly, lie on her back and was tortured inhumanly. Nothing was left for pride as a woman. Her body was repeatedly burned with a piece of burning charcoal. When the troops had entered the village, her husband had been at his rice plantation and dared not to come back when he learned the troops had arrived and what was happening.

On February 9, 2000, LIB 560 Comdr. Thet Htun then called the Kaw Bawk church pastor Saw Maung Naing, saying that the pastor had lied and had in fact helped send the deserter to another place. He beat the pastor, pulled out the pastor's pubic hair, beat him again and bored his urethra with a chicken quill. He repeatedly tortured the pastor in this way, and interrogated him.

On February 10, 2000, as nobody was able to find the deserter, the LIB 560 Comdr. Thet Htun kicked an old man named Pu Kabaw from the church to the ground. As Pu Kabaw is very old, he received internal injuries as a result of the fall, and bled from his nose and mouth. The same day he sent 5 women, namely Naw Neh Lo, Naw Koray, Naw Kema, Naw Theh Hpaw, and Naw Tetpwa to a jail in Manndain town. As of the time of the report on February 15 2000, the woman had not been released and the rest of the villagers were still being held in the church compound. (Source: TIR)

On February 6 2000, a villager of Daw Nye Ku in Deemaw Soe Township, Karenni State named Kar Beh, 30, was arrested without reason by the Daw Tamadu based IB No. 72. He was brought to the military base, tortured by the troops, then put in a ground hole, where he was kept for two days. He was released only after an agreement had been reached between the village secretary and the commander. (Source: KNAHR)

On February 7 2000, as a result of soldiers who had deserted the army, Commander Thet Htun from LIB 560 summoned Naw Sein Htoo and her husband Dee Pah Tin of Ma Naw

Yow village to come to Kow Powt village, Merqui-Tavoy District, Tenasserim Division. They accused them of protecting the soldiers and beat them severely. The same day, they also accused Kow Powt villager Naw Nay Loh of assisting insurgent groups and helping SPDC troops to desert the army. They then tortured her. They forced her to stand on sharp stones, rolled her shins with bamboo, and burned her with fire torches. (Source: KWO)

On February 22 2000, a PNA (a cease-fire Pa-O group) soldier named Sai Koong robbed a shop at Parng Kwai, Murng Paeng Township, Shan State but was caught by the villagers. After the event, on February 23, the PNA deployed their men to the site and captured, and tortured the villagers who had tied up their soldier. They beat two villagers named Sai Ku Na and Sai Paet with a wooden stick and seized whatever property they wanted from the village. (Source: SSANews)

On February 25 2000, a patrol from IB 336 beat an old man who had been relocated to Kho Lam. The victim was Loong Htoon (m), age 70, a former villager of Wan Nong Pha. When his whole village had been forced to relocate, he had chosen to relocate to Kho Lam. Thinking the troops would not harm him because of his old age, he had driven his bullock cart outside of the relocation site to find posts for his new home. On his way he met up with the patrol who beat and interrogated him. He was released, but was seriously wounded and unlikely to recover. (Source: SSANews)

On February 26, 2000, an Akha villager, Aa Nyoo (m), aged 52, was kicked and threatened by a patrol of 12 SPDC troops from LIB328 near Nawng Yaao village, Nawng Long tract, Murng-Khark township as he was collecting firewood with his son Aa Nyoo, 21. He was questioned about Wa soldiers that had passed through 2-3 days before and when he could not answer their questions the troops became angry and accused him of covering for the Wa soldiers. One of the troops who looked like a leader got angry and kicked Aa Nyoo in the stomach, and he fell on his back. Aa Nyoo could not get up even after the troops left and his son had to carry him back to their house. (Source: SHRF)

On March 2, 2000, Column 1 commander, Mya Win, and Column 2 commander, Thein Win, of SPDC IB 735 kicked and beat the villagers contributing voluntary labor in the construction of Mar-lar-daw-Saw-tay-doe motor road. The commanders had commandeered 5 bullock carts from Mar-lar-daw-village and 6 bullock carts from the plains and driven them to Saw-tay-doe village, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On March 11 2000, at 8 AM, 28 SPDC troops on patrol from Lai-Kha Township captured 4 innocent villagers in their paddy fields at Pang Oo Sae tract, Lai-Kha township, Shan State. The victims were tied up and beaten with rifle butts and sticks. They were then tied up in pairs until March 12, when they were forced to follow the troops as porters to carry rice. The 4 victims were:

- Loong Phit, age 48, whose arm was broken due to the beating
- Aw Ta, age 25
- Sarng Loo, age 18
- Sarng Lu, age 35

As of the end of April 2000, no news had been received of their whereabouts after they were taken as porters. (Source: SSANews)

On March 23, 2000 a patrol of about 60 SPDC troops from Murng-Phyak-based LIB333 came to Kawng Mu village, Murng Tawm tract, Murng-Phyak township, Shan State and arrested and tortured 3 villagers, accusing them of being secret intelligence agents of SSA-E. They took them to the village Buddhist temple and interrogated them for 9 hours. The soldiers beat the villagers with rifle butts, kicked them with their army boots and squeezed their testicles until all 3 of them lost consciousness several times. The soldiers demanded 3,000 kyat for the release of each. The victims were: Zaai La (m), age 21, Zaai Pan (m), age 20, and Zaai Long Laen (m) age 32. (Source: SHRF)

On March 26, 2000, 5 villagers, the headman and members of the village committee, of Kham Tee village, Pa Kha Long tract, Murng-Khark township, Shan State, were arrested and tortured by a patrol of 12 SPDC troops from IB227, led by Capt. Kyi Win, after being taken to Wan Tap village in Murng Nung tract. The villagers were accused of helping the 'Wa' group in keeping and trafficking in amphetamines. Pu Sen Zala, age 50 suffered from a fractured head, Loong Za Wi, age 41, suffered from a sprained waist, and Loong Pa Pae, age 46, Loong Lee Lo, age 49 and Loong Zalu, age 39 suffered from sprained legs as a result of the torture. (Source: SHRF)

On March 28, 2000, 3 villagers from Nam Lin village in Murng Kok tract, Murng-Sart township, Shan State were arrested, beaten and tortured at the village Buddhist temple, while other villagers were forced to watch, by 60 SPDC troops from Murng-Phyak-based LIB527. They were accused of being SSA-E intelligence agents. The troops beat and kicked them, hit their backs with rifle butts, rolled bamboo stems on their shins and, and used other various torturing methods. When the troops were finished they ordered the village headman to kill a pig and cook them food and provide whiskey. (Source: SHRF)

In April 2000, in retaliation for 2 soldiers that had deserted the army, and then been caught, the Ta Pa Ka [Southern Regional Command] ordered all of the columns from IB #39, 53, 73, and 92 to find the guns of the two deserters. In mid April, troops entered Swa Loh village looking for guns of deserted soldiers, and arrested and tortured many villagers, including men, women, children and old people. Then they drove all the villagers they could capture together into the church and tortured them in many ways and killed some of them. They demanded the villagers look for the guns until they found them, and said that if they could not find them, the soldiers would torture and kill more villagers and burn down the whole village. The villagers knew nothing about the 3 guns that the deserters carried with them because the deserters had already gone to the place where Company #1 [KNLA] was. The villagers were still tortured in many ways and as ordered from above, they burned down 'xxxxx' As per their orders from higher up, they had to torture the villagers until they got back their guns." (Source: KHRG)

At 5 a.m. on April 10, 2000, about 30 SPDC troops from Company No. 3 of LIB331 surrounded Huay Sa, an Akha village in Murng Hai tract, Tachilek township, and selectively arrested 6 male villagers. The troops tied the villagers together in the center of the village and interrogated them, accusing them of spying for SSA-E. They were tortured by being beaten, kicked and hit with rifle butts. All the victims suffered from fractured heads, sprains and bruises and could not walk or stand up. Most of the serious wounds were said to have been

caused by the beating with rifle butts which was extremely painful and more damaging than the beating and kicking with hands and boots. The victims continuously denied the charges and the troops then called out the village leaders and ordered them to take responsibility and guarantee that the villagers would behave themselves in the future, after which they released the prisoners. Aa To (m), aged 34, was the oldest among the victims and sustained more injuries than the others. He was beaten to near death. (Source: SHRF)

On April 12 2000, a group of USDA members from Hliang Dwin Gwin village, Moulmein township, Mon State approached U Saleh, age 28 because he had not given the required money contribution for the Buddhist new year celebrations. When the man explained that he was too poor to even buy rice for his family, the USDA members severely beat him. As a result of their treatment, the man had to be hospitalized. The matter was reported to the police, but no action was taken. (Source: MICB)

In the second week of April 2000, about 40 soldiers from LIB 273, led by major A-Pae, entered Paunt-Pin-Qwin village, Tenasserim Division. They arrested the secretary of this village, U Ye, age 40 and Mounng Pain, both of Mon ethnicity, and accused the men of having contact with a Mon branch out-group. After they captured the men, they tortured them. They beat them with bamboo and burnt them with cigarettes. They asked, "Where is the Mon branch out-group? Give a description of where they are!" and tortured the men in many ways. However, both of the men answered that they knew nothing. The men were not released until the next morning. (Source: THRF)

On April 25, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 48, based in the village of Baw-ga-li, Toun-goo District, Karen State, arrested relocated villagers Saw Ba Ray, Saw Heh Ser and Saw Thana and tortured them. In addition, they arrested Naw Wah Wah and Saw Doe Tha, who were still held in custody as of June 23, 2000. (Source: KIC)

In the last week of April 2000 a villager from PaukpinGwin village, Yebyu Township, Mon State, Nai G— (54 years old) went to his betel-nut plantation secretly following an SPDC order which prohibited villagers from leaving their villages (see chapter on restriction of movement). He was then seen by soldiers from LIB 273 while he was gathering betel-nuts. The soldiers arrested him, tied him up, and tortured him, demanding to know why he had not obeyed the order. Although he explained that he had come to gather betel-nuts to sell so that he could buy rice to feed his family, the soldiers did not trust him and accused him of supporting rebel soldiers. The soldiers poured water down his nose in an attempt to force him to admit that he was a rebel supporter. When he refused, they then rolled a round stick of bamboo up and down his knees and shins until he lost consciousness. The soldiers then left him behind and went into the village where they warned the villagers that if they went to their rice-farms and plantations they would be killed or tortured like Nai G—. After the troops left the villagers brought back Nai G— to village. (Source: HURFOM)

On April 29 2000, about 50 troops from LIB 273, led by Major Aye-Pae, arrived in Paunt-Pin-Qwin village, Ye-Byu Township, Tenasserim Division. They called all the villagers and ordered them to assemble in a field, and to bring their bullock carts without their cows. After all the villagers had assembled, the troops shouted at the villagers, "*Why do you have to support the Mon opposition group, why do you accept them? You all are worse than*

cows!" Then the troops ordered the villagers to pull the bullock carts. Some people were forced to ride on the carts and some had to pull. This happened at midday, and Major Aye-Pae ordered them to continue all day, taking turns riding and pulling. Villagers unable to speak Burmese were ordered to pull more than other people. In addition, villagers who had been in their gardens and arrived late in the village were tortured and beat by the troops. The troops then ordered the village to relocate. The chairmen of Paunt-Pin-Qwin village, U To, age 45, and U Ye, age 40, both of Mon ethnicity, pled with them not to move their village. Yet the troops didn't listen to them, and instead began torturing them. The 2 men couldn't stand the torture and managed to run away. Therefore, the troops went and burned both of their houses. The next morning, April 30, Major A-Pae and his troops ordered 20 villagers to go with them as they left. They placed the villagers around the troops as a shield, and released them a ways out of the village. (Source: THRF)

On May 1st, 2000, SPDC troops from Loi Kaw, Karenni State captured an innocent villager named Sai Nyunt Mawng (husband of Nang Khin) in Wan Parng Phone village, Kesi township, Shan State and interrogated and tortured him about the recent death of one of their men who had retired. But the innocent villager knew nothing about this so he was unable to answer their questions. After the interrogation the SPDC soldiers wrote up a statement and ordered him to sign his name on the paper. They threatened him that he could die if he disobeyed. The helpless villager had no choice but to do as they asked. Before they released him they threatened him that if he went back to the village, he must not mention anything about the torture that he had received from them to anyone. The villager then spent a lot of money on treatment for wounds that he had received from the brutal SPDC troops. Later the same day, the same troops captured two village headmen from Wan U Marng and Wan Nong Leng villages, Parng Phone tract, Kesi township, Shan State. The soldiers also interrogated and tortured them. They then released the headman of Wan Nong Leng but the headman of Wan U Marng had to escape by himself. (Source: SSANews)

On May 1 2000, at about 7 AM, a unit of troops from LIB 530 entered Lawkuku village, Kaylya township, Karenni State and ordered all villagers to line-up at the primary school play ground. The Burmese troops then called young girl named Day Mar, 17, out from the lines and beat her in the presence of the other villagers. The troops accused her of having contact with Karenni soldiers. However, the accusation was false. (Source: KNAHR)

On May 1, 2000, Zaii Naw, male, aged 21, from Wan Yaang village in Lang Saad tract, Murng-Phyak township, was arrested while catching fish in Nam Yaan stream and shot at by a patrol of 25 SPDC troops. The troops had come from the direction of Murng Ngen village and after ordering Zaii Naw out of the stream, tied him up a interrogated him while beating and torturing him. The troops wanted to know where former MTA (Mong Tai Army) soldiers had hidden their arms caches. Since Zaii Naw did not know about any hidden arms caches, he could not answer their questions. The troops became angry and shot at Zaii Naw, after which he fell into the stream. Zaii Naw was hit in his left shoulder, and when the troops left the scene, he managed to stagger back to his house. As of June 2000, he was in hiding and treating his wounds himself. (Source: SHRF)

On May 7, 2000, SPDC troops from IB 286 captured a villager named Sarng Su from Warng Murng, Murng Kerng Township, Shan State. They tortured him and looted 1,400 kyat in cash. After that they went back on their own way. (Source: SSANews)

On May 7, 2000, a group of SPDC troops, led by Zaw Htun Oo, came to Sa-bah-kee village, Toun-goo District, Karen State and arrested Saw Sha Loe, secretary of the village committee. They accused him of supporting the resistance and tortured him in various ways. As of June 24, 2000 he was still being held in detention. (Source: KIC)

On May 9, 2000, a column of SPDC troops from LIB 516, led by Maj. Saw Shwe entered Kwakee village, Lopwakoe Province, Karenni State and opened fire on three villagers without questioning them. One of the villagers named Saw Kuku, 24, was injured in the leg. Another two villagers, Karpli, 44, and Saw Nidoh, 33, were captured and tortured by the troops. They were released on the following day with serious wounds. (Source: KNAHR)

On May 17, 2000, troops from SPDC army LIB 546 arrested Saw Maung Aye, M, 28, of Kah-ma-ret-jee village, Doo-pla-ya District, Karen State and tortured him in various ways. They then put him into a cell at Kah-mu-ret camp. On May 19, 2000 he seized a gun and shot and killed the camp commander, Win Tin, and ran away. (Source: KIC)

On May 22, 2000, 30 people from Ohntapin Quarter in Sittwe town, Arakan State surrounded and attacked four Burmese soldiers from IB 20 who had earlier that day physically molested a girl of the same quarter. One of the soldiers died as a result of the villagers' retaliation, and so at 12:00 o'clock the same night, about 40 soldiers arrived to the quarter and arrested one person from each house. More than 100 residents were tortured and interrogated by the soldiers to reveal the names of attackers. (Source: Mizzima News Group)

On May 30, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 273 led by battalion commander Col. Htin Kyaw, entered Sinswe village, Yebyu Township, Mon State and arrested two men, accusing them of being rebel-supporters. According to villagers, these two men were innocent farmers who had no background or relationship with the Mon rebel group. The two men were Nai Krot (28 years old) and Mehm Kun Blai (18 years) who were born in Sinswe and helped their families in their paddy farms. After the arrest, the soldiers tortured these two men to get them to admit that they were rebel soldiers. The soldiers beat them with their fists, sticks and gun-butts, kicked them with their jungle-boots and also cut Nai Krot's face with knives. Then the soldiers took them away to another village, even though they were in severe pain from the torture. As of the end of June 2000, those two men had not been released and they were feared to have been killed. (Source: HURFOM)

On June 1, 2000, column commander, Tin Myo Khaing, and company commander, Si Thu, from SPDC battalion IB 55 and column commander Lwin Naing of IB 20 arrested, tortured and detained Ka-thwee-day villager, Saw Mah Mu, M, 32 in Toun-goo District, Karen State. As of June 26, 2000 he had not been released. (Source: KIC)

On June 3, 2000, troops led by battalion commander, Han Thu, from SPDC army IB 2 under LID 44, seized and beat up villagers, between Wa-tho-kla and Hsa-law-the, Pa-pun District, Karen State, who were ploughing their paddy fields. The victims were (1) Saw Kyaw Baw, (2) Saw Hsaw Mee Po, (3) Maung Thein, (4) Pah Peh Lone, (5) Saw Htwe Nge, (6) Naw Dah Pah and (7) Pah Kyaw Hgeh. (Source: KIC)

On June 4, 2000, Battalion second in command Sann Aung, from SPDC IB 26 and police station commander Soe Moe Khaing, arrested and beat up the following Maw-ko-doe villagers:

1. Saw Day Ber, M, 35
2. Saw Kay La, M, 25
3. Saw Heh Po, M, 30

They took 9,000 kyat from them and later released them. (Source: KIC)

On June 7, 2000, comedians U Shwe Ghai and Khin Maung Win (a) A-shai-gyi, residents of Kwai-lai ward, Myaungmya township, Irrawaddy division were arrested and taken away for questioning by Sergeant U Kyi Swe, and three lance corporals from the Kha La Ya (94) unit. The two men were bound with rope and beaten before they were taken away in motor vehicle number 7A-4927 to the Kha La Ya (94) unit. While being detained they were questioned about the abduction of Sergeant Kyi Swe's wife and beaten further until the Captain of the unit intervened and they were released. Upon their release they sought medical treatment for the injuries they sustained while in custody. The hospital authorities advised them they had to file a report with the police before treatment could be given because the nature of the injuries indicated criminal force. After a report was filed they were given medical treatment. (Source: NLD)

On June 7, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 26, based at Baw-ga-li village, Taun-goo District, Karen State, seized and beat villagers whom they disliked. They accused them of having contact with the resistance group and extorted money from them. (Source: KIC)

On June 8, 2000, 50 soldiers from LIB 705, led by Commander Tin Kyaw So, marched to Po Kyaw Village, Doooplaya District and arrested (Christian) Pastor Saw Wah Mu. Soldiers hog-tied and interrogated the pastor with a (rifle) "bayonet pressed on his face." (Source: DIR)

On June 15, 2000, DKBA troops led by Par Taw Sue, went to Par-law-doh village, Pa-pun District, Karen State, and without reason beat up village head Saw Chit Lay and sent him to Paw-tee-ku. (Source: KIC)

On June 20, 2000, in collaboration with the KNPLF, about 60 well-armed soldiers from LIB 337 led by Maj. Aung Naing Oo entered Phukraku village, Kayla Township, Karenni State, and arrested the village tract secretary. The troops accused him of having contact with the Karenni forces, detained him in the Catholic church for 3 nights, and tortured him during this time. He was then told that he would be killed, and forced to go along with the troops to Daw Kuleh village. He managed to escape with the help of other villagers after serving as a porter for 6 days. However, he dared not return home. (Source: KNAHR)

On June 27, 2000, in Pa-pun District, Karen State, troops from SPDC LIB 104 troops arrested Naw Kya Heh and Naw Pah Kyay and tied their hands behind their backs and tortured them. (Source: KIC)

In mid-2000, a man from Thaya-Chaun Township was stopped at the Pan-Taw quarter checkpoint gate. He was bringing his niece, Ma Tin Ngae, to hospital because she had been gang-raped and had lost consciousness. The troops at the gate didn't check for anything (ID) because of the condition of the girl, but one of corporals asked why the girl had to be sent to

hospital. Ma Tin Ngae's uncle answered that it was because SPDC troops had raped the girl. The corporal then suddenly shouted at Ma Tin Ngae's uncle, saying, "*How can you say such rude things about our military?!*" He then proceeded to torture Ma Tin Ngae's uncle so that he also lost consciousness and also had to be sent to hospital. (Source: THRF)

On July 1, 2000, at about 8 in the morning, a military column from SPDC IB 59, shot up Saw-mu-doe village, Toun-goo District, Karen State, wounding villager Saw Naw Htoo, M, 25, son of Saw Ngamauk. On the same day, the column came to Si-daw-ko village and arrested an innocent villager, Saw Ta Tu, M, 32 and tortured him by beating. On the same day, battalion commander Myo Aung of SPDC IB 124, summoned heads of the wards in Tharn-daung Town, (1) Saw Nee Doh, M, 40, (2) Saw Kwar Kwa, M 42, (3) Saw Mu Doh, M, 40, (4) Naw Ler Wah, F, 45, and (5) Saw Kyaw Pe, M, 43 and beat them up. (Source: KIC)

On July 2, 2000, a patrol of about 70-75 SPDC troops of Company No.4 from IB99 led by Capt. Aung Htun, with 12 civilian porters, 2 guides and 1 interpreter, searched Nawng Long tract in Larng-Khur township and abused the villagers they found. The burned down all the rice granaries, beat farmers and stole their money and gang-raped women. Lung Zaang Wi, age 51, originally from Kung Sa village, Wan Zid tract lost consciousness for 1 hour and suffered from a broken left leg, Lung Pan Zitta, age 50 originally from Kung Sa village, Wan Zid tract, was blinded in his left eye, Lung Paan Nyo, age 47, originally from Nam Tai village, Wan Zid tract suffered from a broken left arm, Zaai Ma-La, age 39 originally from Wan Kyawng village, Son Oi tract lost consciousness for 1-1/2 hour, and 3 other women, Naang Sai, age 45, Naang Muay, age 36, and Pa Non Zing, age 44 were gang-raped by the troops. (Source: SHRF)

On July 7, 2000, Company Commander Daw Moe Naing of LIB 705 ordered the detention and torture of eight (8) civilians at Kaza (Kawat) Village, Kya Aein Township, Dooplaya District, Karen State. The villagers were identified as: Maung My Aung, m, (20 yrs. old), Ma Hla Sein, f, (23 yrs. old), Muang Paw Aye, m, (54.yrs. old), Ma Win Laing. F, (23 yrs. old), Ma Ngwi Chyi, f, (20 yrs. old), Pho Da Pey, m, (20 yrs old), Naw Mu Kyi. F, (Pregnant) and Pho Naw Wah. F, (27 yrs. old). Pho Naw Wah was severely beaten and "vomited blood." (Source: DIR)

On July 10, 2000, column 2 of LIB 104 accused Naw Say of being the wife of an insurgent and beat her severely. She was from May Nyo Tah village, Papun District, Karen State. (Source: KWO)

On July 12, 2000, troops from a Pa-O militia, led by Captain Nya Tun, captured an innocent villager named Sai Parn, age 29, son of Loong Zong and Pa Ku from Wan Ta Naw village, Loi Sak tract, Murg Paeng township, Shan State. They tortured him without reason and after that they took his left eye out with a dagger. As of September 20 2000, it was still unknown whether the villager was dead or alive as he was still under detention. (Source: SSANews)

On July 12, 2000, Abdul Gaffor son of Amin Ullah, Abdu Ramhim son of Abdul Latif, Abdu Rashid son of Nazir Hussaain and Nizamuddin son of Mohammed Nasim, all of them belonging to Nanragone village in Buthidaung township, Arakan, were arrested by Capt. Kyaw Win of Military Intelligence (MI) No. 18, from NaSaKa area No. 9 with the

allegation of having link with and receiving money from their relatives living abroad. They were severely tortured to extract confession so as to extort money. All of them were later released, on 26 July 2000, when Captain Kyaw Win obtained kyat 30,000 from each victim by extortion. (Source: ARNO)

On July 14, 2000, troops from LIB 561 arrived in Ta Hpo Hki area, Mergui District, Tenasserim Division. They captured villager Saw Nya, and accused him because he had a firearm in his possession. The troop tied him to a tree, beat and tortured him and left him by the tree without food or water for one day. (Source: TIR)

On July 17, 2000, troops from LIB 705 surrounded Then Pyu Village, Kya Aein Township, Dooطلا District, Karen State and ordered the village headman to provide 5 porters. The headman was kind enough to grant the request and the soldiers left. The recruited porters were subjected to interrogation, and accused of supporting Karen revolutionary movements. They were all tortured "until they vomited blood" at Shwe Po Ha Village. The porters were identified as: Saw Ka Mo (46), Ta Mu Klu (21), Than Pin (23), Saw La Po Cha (26) and Tay Po Gin (22). (Source: DIR)

On August 6, 2000, troops from LIB 427 arrested and tortured all workers on a road construction site 2 miles south of Prusoe city, Karenni State. The workers were accused of having supported Karenni troops who had ambushed 5 military convoy trucks from LIB 427 near Lawjar village, 2 miles south of Pruso city the previous day. The ambush had killed four soldiers and left three others wounded.(Source: KNAHR)

On August 12, 2000, troops from LIB 705, led by Aung Hay, came to Mae-tha-klet village, Kya-in Township, Doo-pla-ya village, Karen State and seized and tortured headman Saw Toe Noh Wah and villager Saw Yweh Htoo of Lay-wah-kha village, headman Saw Thay Paw of Htee-ka-ma-la-ta village and headman Moo Ku Ku of Htee-law-bleh village without any reason. They also demanded 5,625 kyat and a pig estimated worth 15,000 kyat from the headman of Mae-kaw-kee village. (Source: KIC)

On July 17, 2000, in Doo-pla-ya District, Karen State, troops from SPDC LIB 705, led by Column 1 Commander, Aung Hein Chan, beat Kyu-ma-tee villagers Toh Day Baw, 21, and Apain, 27. (Source: KIC)

On August 18, 2000, SPDC troops from IB 109 led by Major Kyaw Naing Zin interrogated villagers at Wan Nong Nang, Ho Khai-Ham Ngai tract, Murng Kerng Township, Shan State about the news of Shan resistance groups. They called on a young villager named Sai Noom, age 13 years, son of Khing Karn and Pa Nang Hom to answer their questions. But the innocent villager did not know anything about the Shan armed troops so he was not able to answer any of their questions. They therefore tied him up and covered his head with a plastic bag so that he could not breathe. Then they kicked, and tortured him as they wished, but before long the boy fainted. On seeing this they thought he was dead, so they left him there alone. As a result of the torture and lack of oxygen, the boy is now suffering as a cripple with an uncertain future. (Source: SSANews)

Torture

On August 22, 2000, a combined column of troops from LIB 560, led by 2nd Battalion Commander Maj. Htay Win, IB 101 and Taung Nge village militia (a total of about 200 men) arrived in the Manorone area, Mergui District, Tenasserim Division. They captured a villager called Tee Thu Baw from Hto Hsa Hkee and beat and kicked him severely. Then the troops ordered him to show them the place where the rebels were. Later, they dragged him to Taung Nge village where they again beat him severely and put him into confinement. (Source: TIR)

On September 19, 2000, at 3 a.m., combined troops from the DKBA, led by Moe Gyo, SPDC and LIB 1, led by Bo Kyaw Mint Lwin, and SPDC LIB 118, led by Bo Kyaw Zeya went La-kyo-kho village, Tha-ton District, Karen State and seized and severely beat Saw Chit Tin, M, 40. (Source: KIC)

On the night of September 25, 2000, the combined forces of SPDC IB118, led by Kyaw Soe Naing and DKBA troops led by Moe Gyo, went to the house of Naw Dah (F) in Yo-kla village, Tha-ton District, Karen State and stole 100,000 kyat. That night they also arrested villager Saw Pah Day (M, 45) and severely beat him, accusing him that his son had joined the resistance forces. (Source: KIC)

On September 29, 2000, in Pu-pun District, Karen State, troops from SPDC LIB 93, led by Bo Maung Htwe accused Mae-pu-hta village headman Saw Maung Htwe of being connected with the KNU and tortured him. (Source: KIC)

On October 2, 2000, 4 SPDC troops in plain clothes from LIB520 led by Sgt. Thein Myint beat a man with a stick at his house in the outer market quarter of Murng-Pan town, causing serious injuries to his head. The evening before the day of the incident, Sgt. Thein Myint and 2 soldiers were found by Zaai Wi-La-Sa while stealing chickens from his house. There was still light enough for Zaai Wi-La-Sa to recognize them and so he shouted that SPDC soldiers were stealing his chickens until many people in the neighborhood ran to his house. The chicken thieves, however, managed to escape with one chicken. The next day, Thein Myint and 3 soldiers wearing civilian clothes came back to Zaai Wi-La-Sa's house and beat him on the head with a stick, splitting his scalp and fracturing his skull. Later, when Zaai Wi-La-Sa and community leaders lodged a complaint with the military authorities, they only said that they would reprimand the soldiers and would not let such thing happen again and gave Zaai Wi-La-Sa 100 kyat to buy medicine. (Source: SHRF)

On October 7, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB (1), led by Bo Myint Lwin and Ko Ko That, went to Mae-naw-theh-khee village, Tha-ton District, Karen State and seized and beat up Maung Htun Lay M, 37, son of Tee Htun Khin and took him to Bee-lin town.(Source: KIC)

On October 9, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 96, Company (2), led by Bo Khin Shwe, combined with troops from the anti- insurgent group came into Mae-paw-hta village, Tha-ton District, Karen State and seized and tortured villager Saw Poo Yo and took him to Kyaik-to town. The troops also extorted 30,000 kyat from Mae-praw-hta village and 15,000 kyat from Htee-pa-doh-hta village. (Source: KIC)

On October 11, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 289, led by Battalion commander Win Myint, entered paddy field huts in Kaw-law-kah area, Toun-goo District, Karen State and seized and severely beat villagers Saw Kho Kla, M, 32 and Saw Kata M, 38, with out reason. (Source: KIC)

On October 14, 2000, at 11: 00 AM, about 40 soldiers from LIB 427 led by Commander Htin Paw went to Daw Law Khu village, Kaylya Township, Karenni State. As soon they arrived in the village, they abruptly arrested two village chiefs and six villagers and brought them to the village's primary school and tied them up. The village chiefs were put in a rice sack and beaten by the troops and others were also tortured in different manners. They were accused of connection with the Karenni troops. (Source: KNAHR)

On October 17, 2000, in Pa-pun District, Karen State, the Battalion commander of LIB 2, under LID 44, arrested three Mae-ta-ru-khee villagers, Saw Kyaw Mya (M, 44), Saw Soe Aye, (M, 58) and Saw Toe Nyo while they were on their way to their paddy fields. The troops tied up their hands and beat them severely and forced them to search for arms. They were threatened that they would be killed if they did not find any. (Source: KIC)

On October 17, 2000, a village PDC chairman named Eliyas, son of Bashah Mia of Thay Chaung (Balukali-Molvi Para), 16 miles north of Maungdaw town, Arakan State was arrested and detained by Maj. Sein Maung of Na Sa Ka area No. 3 accompanied by two other Sergeants of MI (18) on false accusation of spying for UNHCR. It may be mentioned that some days before the arrest, the UNHCR of Maungdaw town had given him some tin-sheets for roofing a primary school. For this reason alone he was arrested and detained under false and fabricated charge of unlawful association with UNHCR. He was severely tortured to extract confession. Although he was later released, he was dismissed from his village PDC post. (Source: ARNO)

On October 18, 2000, in Toun-goo District, Karen State, Sargent Kyaw Zaw and Sargent Win Myint from SPDC guerrilla battalion 930 ordered Ku-thay-doe villager Saw Eh Doh, M, 35, son of Saw Ta Nge, to collect a list of family units and beat him severely. The troops also looted chickens, 500 Viss of pork and 25 Viss of cardamom seeds from the villagers. That evening the troops went to Kaw-lor-kah village and threatened and beat villagers Naw Taw Shwe, F, 34, daughter of Saw Kee Na and Saw Ka Ta, M, 32, son of Saw Eh Bwe with out reason. They then looted 30 viss of cardamom seeds from cardamom plantation owners. (Source: KIC)

On October 18, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 545, led by Company 4 commander Myint Swe, seized Ma-na-kone villager, Saw Kway, near Kaw-ka-reik Town and tortured him, without reason, knocking out 2 teeth. (Source: KIC)

On October 18, 2000, sergeant Kyaw Zaw from and Win Myint IB 92 beat and tortured Kaw Law Kar villager, Naw Thar Shwe, age 34, without reason. (Source: KWO)

On the evening of October 20, 2000, SPDC guerilla troops took the village headman of Htee-tha-blu village, Toun-goo District, Karen State, tied him up, beat him and demanded curry and meat from him. (Source: KIC)

On November 19, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 401 seized Kler-kee villager, Saw Paw May, and tortured him in the Taung-thone-lone area, Mergui-Tavoy District, Karen State. They asked their tactical commander to issue an order instructing those concerned to come with 2 guns as ransom for the villager. (Source: KIC)

On December 9, 2000, SPDC troops from IB 226 arrested 2 Lahu villagers, Aa Yu (m), aged 30 and Kya Waa (m), aged 29, of Paang Waai village in Loi Muay tract, Kaeng-Tung township, Shan State who had gone out to cut some firewood in the woods near the village. The troops accused the men of stealthily cutting wood in the woods designated for the military and severely beat them up. They threw the men to the ground, kicked them with their army boots, and Kya Waa's forehead was fractured when a soldier beat him with a rifle butt. After that, the troops forced them to bundle up and carry the firewood they had cut to the military base and, after they reached the base, said to them, "Don't come and steal firewood again. You will get harsher punishment next time". Aa Yu and Kya Waa did not understand why they were punished for cutting the trees, as they had planted these trees by their own hands. (Source: SHRF)

4.6 Partial list of incidents of death resulting from torture in 2000

On January 22, 2000, a patrol of 50-60 SPDC troops from IB246, led by Capt. Aung Moe, traveling with 14 civilian porters, came to a rice farm at Nawng Hai, about 3 miles from Kun-Hing town, where a man and his 2 children were threshing rice. The villagers were: Lung Ti (m), aged 40, Naang Ser (f), aged 18, and Zaa Lu (m), aged 11. The troops arrested the villagers and then tied them up. They were separated, interrogated, beaten and tortured. Lung Ti and Zaa Lu were beaten to death during interrogation, but Naang Ser was repeatedly raped before eventually also being beaten to death. The nephew of Lung Ti, one of the civilian porters was present during the incident and was beaten when he tried to intervene. He later died of his injuries. (Source: SHRF)

On January 24, 2000, 30 SPDC troops of Co.3 of IB66 led by Capt. Khin Maung Win accused a villager of setting fire to the market place and shot him dead in the military camp at Kho Lam village, Nam-Zarng township. The victim was interrogated and tortured for some time before being shot. The troops searched his house and took away 14,600 kyat of money, 4 Baht weight of gold ornaments, a cow worth 3,600 kyat and 1 tape-recorder worth 5,000 kyat. (Source: SHRF)

On February 12, 2000, one Abdul Kalam (42) son of Abdul Hashim of Kranthama Palaytaung village (Maghbil) under Buthidaung township was arrested and tortured to death by forces of the Western Area Command for resisting the order of the No. 522 battalion commander to demolish his house when the whole villagers have been ordered to vacate their village and lands for the settlement of the new Buddhist settlers. The following day, the dead body was buried by the Western Area Command members themselves without giving information to the family of the deceased. Rather, the forces then forcibly demolished his house on the same day. (Source: ARNO)

On February 25, 2000, about 25 SPDC troops of IB226 from Loi Muay, led by Lt. Hla Win, arrested 3 Kachin villagers and took them to a Shan village, Wan Oi, in Murng Khawn tract. They tortured and interrogated them at the village Buddhist monastery, forcing them to give information about amphetamine dealers and the routes they used. Ma Sai (m), aged 46 was beaten to death. Hla Win ordered a Shan villager from Wan Oi to go and call the Kachin village headman of Waeng Manaw to come immediately. When he arrived, Hla Win said, *"He confessed he was an amphetamine dealer. We had questioned him a little bit too harshly and he became very frightened and died. Our medic said this man had a heart disease. You should collect money among the villagers and conduct a funeral rite for him"*. The other 2 victims were seriously wounded. One got a fractured head and bleeding wounds, and the other had bruises all over and injuries to his waist and could not walk. They had to be carried back by their fellow villagers. (Source: SHRF)

On May 15, 2000, U Kabir, a Muslim man from Laing Daw village, Papun Township, Karen State died, "with blood pouring out of his mouth" due to severe torture by SPDC officers. He had been arrested 2 day prior to his death by a group of SPDC soldiers led by Lt. Aung Soe of LIB 19, accused of contacting opposition groups, and then severely tortured by the troops. (Source: MICB)

On June 4, 2000, Mohammed Ayub, son of Mr. Jafar Meah, age 30, a resident of Bawlibazar (Kyin Chaung), about 15 miles north of Maungdaw town, Arakan State was detained at NaSaKa (Western Area Command) headquarters by Major Min Min Oo under a false and fabricated charge of unlawful association with insurgents. He has been tortured to obtain confession and is feared to have died during interrogations. (Source: ARNO)

In July 2000, soldiers from LIB No. 208 arrested Saw Pae Din in the jungle of Kya Ein Seik Kyi Township, Karen State and interrogated him about the activities of KNU and Karen soldiers. As the villager could not speak Burmese well, the soldiers were dissatisfied with his answers and accused of being a rebel informer. During the interrogation, the soldiers tortured him using various methods and after a one-day interrogation, the soldiers killed him. Soon after, the same soldiers arrested villager Saw Kyaw Myint and accused him of being an informer for Karen soldiers. After severe torturing, he was also killed in a similar fashion to Saw Pae Din. Additionally, three other Karen villagers from the same village, Saw Kalar Pyaung, Saw Aung Myat and Saw Phar Kalort were also arrested and killed by LIB No. 208 soldiers under the same accusation. (Source: HURFOM)

On July 5, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 214 and columns from LIB 55 arrested Saw Kwah, 24 and Saw Tha Kler, 55 in Toun-goo District, Karen State. They burned Saw Kwah's face with a cigar, severely tortured him and then poured gunpowder on his head and burned him to death. The troops forced Saw Tha Kler to sleep in a mud pond and suffocated him to death. (Source: KIC)

On August 6, 2000, SPDC LIB 421 entered Law Jar village in Pruso Township, Kaylya Township, No. (1) district of Karenni State, and arrested the headman (name was not available) and secretary named Ko Reh. Ko Reh was tortured to death in the village while the headman was taking to Pruso police station where he was detained for one day. On August 8 he was released after being questioned. (Source: KNAHR)

Torture

In first week of August, 60 troops from IB 31 entered Win-laung village, and summoned the village chairman, Saw Lat Kae (54 years old). The soldiers then arrested him, tied him up, and accused him of being a rebel supporter and informer. They detained, interrogated and tortured him for six days without giving him anything to eat. The soldiers cut his body with knives and sometimes burnt him to get him to admit that he was a rebel-supporter. After 9 days of interrogation and severe torture, the soldiers killed him. Similarly when a Karen farmer, Saw Phar Tort (40 years old) returned to his village from farm, he was arrested on the way and the same group of soldiers accused him of having contact with Karen rebels. When the man protested that he knew nothing, he was tortured and then shot point blank in the mouth with a full round of bullets, which killed him instantly. (Source: HURFOM)

On September 21, 2000, several NLD youth members were arrested for showing up at Rangoon railway station when Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had attempted to travel to Mandalay. They were taken to Insein Prison, where they were continually taken away from their cells and interrogated three or four nights in a row. During these sessions, intelligence agents saying, "So, you want to travel by rail, do you?" forced the youths to make sounds like trains traveling and whistling, all the while beating them up for either "traveling too fast" or "whistling too loud." (Source: HRDU)

On October 13, 2000, SPDC authorities led by the Kyaik Hto Township USDA general secretary, U Tin Khin and police chief U Myo Naing arrested 2 Muslim men from Kyaik Hto town, Pegu Division, accusing them of contact with the NLD. The 2 men, U E Soof, age 24 and U Hassan, age 26 were brought to the Kyaik Hto police station and were so brutally tortured that both of them died. (Source: MICB)

On October 18, 2000, a patrol of about 80 SPDC troops led by Capt. Tin Aung beat and tortured to death a displaced farmer, Zaai Pan-Zit-Ta, aged 24, 2-1/2 miles south of Ka Li village relocation site in Kun-Hing township. He was captured by the troops while searching for work as a hired day laborer and then interrogated and tortured after the troops accused him of being a Shan rebel. (Source: SHRF)

On December 24, 2000 5 armed soldiers from IB 269 based in Dee-Dain city entered the house of U Toun Zin while they were performing their Christmas Eve prayer. The soldiers then proceeded to torture the house members, who lived in Sa-Kaw-Lan Quarter, Dee-Dain City, Chin State. (Source: PD Burma)

4.7 Personal Accounts

Name:	Kar-Ral
Sex:	Male
Age:	32
Ethnicity:	Karenni
Religion:	Roman Catholic
Address:	Daw-Pa-Pa village and Tee Lone group
Marital Status:	Married with a son and 2 daughters
Siblings:	5
Date of arrival in the refugee camp:	February 20, 2001
Source:	KNAHR

Before I came here I had to hide in the forest with my 5 family members and my sister-in-law. There was 6 of us altogether. We hid in the eastern part of Daw-Pa-Pa village where very few people go and we had to work as day laborers. I had to leave my family in this place and go to find work as a day laborer. There was no stability working as I did on the Shan State and Karreni State border, yet I was able to get a little bit of money and after 3 or four days, I was able to buy some food and go back to my family. I was really sad because sometimes there was only boiled rice soup to eat and my children were asking me for a full rice meal. I was only able to find work if the Burmese military units were stable. I couldn't always find work, because if the Burmese military units had seen me, they would've surely arrested me. I was always running and hiding from them, and they were always trying to arrest me. Finally I met some people from other villages who were planning to come here. Without taking time to think, I decided to come here with them.

Daw Pa Pa was located in the north-eastern part of Loikaw township, and in 1998, the military ordered the village to move to nearby Wan-NGae village. The new village site was named new Daw-Pa-pa. I was happier in old Daw Pa Pa than in new Daw Pa Pa. There were very good fields in our old village, but in the new village there was nothing and everything was not OK for us.

On February 20, 2000, in the afternoon, Burmese military unit 54, officer Aung Kyi and 30 soldiers came to my house in new Daw Pa Pa and tortured me without asking any questions. Then they tied my hands behind my back and took me to Low Lin military camp. In the camp jail, they took away all of my clothes and fed me only a little bad rice two times a day. Officer Aung Kyi put his feet on my stomach and then twisted the heel of his boots into my stomach. He accused me of being a Karenni Soldier and didn't believe me when I said no. He then ordered me to open my mouth and poured hot water from a thermos into my mouth. When I slept at night they didn't give me a blanket and forced me to sleep naked. At midnight they poured water over me and ordered me to sleep in the muddy water. They also put my legs into "Chaount Pont" (stocks) until the morning. They asked me many things but didn't accept it when I said I didn't know anything. They beat me in the stomach, back shoulders and face and I couldn't eat for 3 or 4 days. They didn't allow me to meet any of my relatives or brothers and sisters, and they swore at the chairman. (of his village) At that

Torture

time, in my mind, there was nothing without God. They tortured me for 20 days and after that, on Christmas Eve, I broke out of the stocks and ran away. I couldn't stay in my village, but I went to my house for a few minutes and took some food and clothes before leaving the village again soon after. Then, even though I was staying outside of the village, I was still afraid for my family and so I took all of my family and we went and hid in the forest. We waited to find people with a plan to come here, we stayed in the forest for one year and one month.

A month after I ran away, officer Aung Kyi came into the village again and arrested 30 villagers from Daw Pa Pa. Mi Ral, a 55 year old man who came here with me, was part of that group who was arrested. The 30 villagers had been cooking and eating dog meat and bathing near a stream, when the Burmese military saw them, accused them of supporting the Karenni resistance, and arrested them.

When the Burmese military units come into village, they always arrested people and killed whatever chickens and pigs that they wanted to eat. They continuously demanded rice. The villages had to pay porter fees again and again. Even now, whenever a dog barks, we fear that it is the Burmese military unit coming and feel the urge to run away.

When I was hiding in the forest, I was always worried whether the Burmese military would come or not, and I feared for my family and for our food supplies, our health and the future of the children. Every night I didn't get a good sleep. Even though I had the mind to fight back against the Burmese military, I couldn't do any thing. Now that I have arrived here, I feel like I am free from hell. Here there is no Burmese military to be afraid of, and we don't really have to worry about our health and livelihood. Even if we can't get money, this is better than our life was in hiding. And our minds are more free from worry here than in the forest.

Name:	Mi Ral
Age:	55
Parents:	Qual Ral and Thoe Myar
Ethnicity:	Karenni
Religion:	Roman Catholic
Address:	Daw Pa Pa village, Tee Lone group
Marital Status:	Married with 3 sons and a daughter
Date of arrival in the refugee camp:	February 20 2001

(Source: KNAHR)

In 1998, the Burmese military ordered us to move our village. We had to move to near Wan Ngwe village, we called it new Daw Pa Pa village. I had the only job in my family, which was as a farmer. However, it was difficult for my family to survive and even though we worked all year, we didn't have enough food to eat.

When we were staying in the new Dae Pa Pa village, the Burmese military, which was based at the Loikhaw camp ordered us to do forced labor 3 days a time. The villagers had to leave their jobs to go for the forced labor. They ordered that one person from every family must go, so my eldest son or I had to go to do the forced labor. We had to go without fail, otherwise they would have fined or punished us. The forced labor that they made us do was to clean, dig trenches, cut bamboo, make booby traps (by cutting pieces of bamboo into sharp stakes), fence the army's residential gardens, draw water, cut firewood and work on construction projects. When we went to do the forced labor we had to bring our own food supplies and things. The military only ordered us to work, they had no intention of giving us rice or water. In addition to the forced labor, we were required by the Burmese military to send chicken, pork and vegetables to their military camp three times a week. We had to send a person to their camp every day to act as messengers and informers, in rotation duty. They always beat and tortured the messengers if they were unable to give news or do exactly as they ordered.

Besides a few people who were able to make a living and get a little bit to eat, there were no rich people in our village. As the villagers were poor, the village was very poor. We had no clinic or medic to attend to our health, and even though we had a school we had no teacher. Yet we were a little OK because there were some "RC" religion volunteers who were teachers and medics for us and didn't ask for money. We couldn't go to clinics in the cities because we had no money. Last year teachers asked a school fee of 600 kyat per student for the primary school in our village. There was also a different fee for the books. The teachers taught the children for two weeks after they opened the school and then they went back to their homes and didn't come back. It was their duty to teach in our village. We heard that they are living in Loi-Khaw now.

We are poor people, and our minds were always poor (depressed) because when the Burmese military came into our village, they accused us of communicating with, supporting and feeding Karenni rebels. They arrested us, beat us, punched us and frightened us. In April 1999 when I was a chairman, the LIB No. 250 with 50 soldiers came into our village and arrested me. Soldiers began punching me as soon as I arrived to the LIB 250 jail. The military interrogated me day and night in many torturous ways. They accused me of being a Karenni informer and supporter. They forced me to hit my head against a concrete wall, and if I didn't hit it hard or fast enough, they made me run against the wall again and hit my head with force. My head and my forehead hurt a lot and there was a lot of blood. Even now my eyes are bad. (from that torture) They put me in jail for 3 days without food or water. After 3 days they fed me a little food once a day, and then twice a day. I didn't get chance to meet with my relatives and children. Because they didn't get any answers from me, they didn't interrogate me again. But I had to stay in the LIB 250 jail for 40 days before they released me. Upon my release they warned me not to tell anyone about anything or go anywhere when I got back to my village. They threatened that if they heard anything they would arrest me again, and that the next time (I was arrested) it would be worse. When I returned to my village, I didn't act as chairman again and just tended to my fields.

On January 15, 2000, 7 months after they arrested me, it was Karenni National Day, yes, and about 30 people from our village were roasting and eating a dog at the stream where our village bathes. Military officer Aung Kyi and his 70 soldiers from the Burmese military Unit LIB 54, suddenly came and arrested us with out any questions. Some were sent to LIB 250

jail and some were sent to LIB 261 jail. They sent 6 people to LIB 54 jail, including my son and I. There were two people from Shar-Taw who had been arrested before us, so including them, there were 8 people. 5 days after we arrived they fed us a little rice, with no curry. They told us to eat it with salt. They took us in an army car on the 5th day. When they transported us, they tied our hands behind our backs and covered our heads with black cloth. After 10 minutes, they ordered us to be removed from the car, and we were in a different building. We didn't know where we were. They put all of us in a small cell, and then after a few minutes began interrogating us one by one. They shocked us with an electric wire and beat us with sticks. They order me to hit my head against stone and burnt our shoulders with burning cheroot ends. Then they tied our hands behind our backs again and put us in the dark cell all day. We were all in so much pain, and so hungry and thirsty and couldn't feel anything. We all cried. The next day, they sent us back to LIB 54 jail. Even though they fed us, we couldn't eat it. I think the place where we were interrogated was the MI 27 military unit. We were detained at LIB 54 jail for 30 days and then they sent us to LoiKhaw city police camp again. At that time we had a chance to meet with our families. We were detained for another 20 days at the central city police camp and then we had to enter into agreements. They made us pay 1,500 kyat per person before we were released. The people who had been detained at the LIB 250 and LIB 261 camps were interrogated for about 2 weeks and then released in ones and twos over the following few days. Our group was the last group. (to be released)

The people who were tortured at the LIB 54 jail with me were

- 1) Mi Ral (Daw Pa Pa village)
- 2) Mi Ral's son, Palyal Ral , age 17 (Daw Pa Pa)
- 3) Sue Ral age 58 (Daw Pa Pa)
- 4) U Ral age 30 (Daw Pa Pa)
- 5) Pa-Ra-Ral age 18 (Daw Pa Pa)
- 6) Poe Ral age 35 (Daw Pa Pa)
- 7) Soe Ral age 60 (Shar Taw village)
- 8) Don't know the name, about 40 years old. (Shar Taw village)

Later on, even while staying in our villages, we would be terrified if we heard the voices of the Burmese military. We would drop everything and run, and because of this fear we couldn't do our jobs very well. We were afraid to go to serve as forced laborers even though the military ordered it. We wanted to run far away from the Burmese military, who don't think of us as human, and just use arms against. They arrest us as they like, and torture us as they like. So we had to come here. Now my family is far away from the Burmese military, yet we are always longing for our relatives, our brothers and sisters and the people of our village.

5. Deprivation of Livelihood

5.1 Background

The majority of people living in Burma are faced with economic difficulty and food scarcity and struggle daily to meet minimum survival needs. This impoverishment has been caused and exacerbated largely by policies and actions of the military regime. In July 2000, Burma's population was 50.13 million, with a 2.02 percent annual percentage growth rate, according to Burma's State controlled media. U Saw Tun, Minister of Immigration and Population reacted to this by saying, *"As far as Myanmar is concerned, we welcome the growing population. There is no problem in our country..."* He further explained that with 45 million acres (18.23 million hectares) of cultivable land, of which only 23 million acres was currently under cultivation, food security was not an issue in Myanmar. Yet, in fact the opposite is true. In October 1999 a report was released by the People's Tribunal on Food Scarcity and Militarization in Burma, which found that, *"food scarcity is widespread and serious in Burma today..."* *"Provisionally, we find Burma to be militarized, and that a casual nexus links militarization to food scarcity."* The situation has not changed since the release of the report, indeed it can be said that the conditions which are depriving people in Burma of their livelihood, and cause food scarcity and impoverishment have worsened during the year 2000.

The economy of Burma, which is largely based on agriculture, continued to decline in 2000. According to a study conducted by the Washington-based Cato Institute and Canada's Fraser Institute, Burma was ranked least free economy in the world, being # 123 of the 123 countries studied. The economies in this study were ranked according to seven categories which included size of government, structure of the economy, monetary policy and price stability, freedom to use alternative currencies, security of private ownership, freedom of trade and freedom of capital markets.

The SPDC enacted a pay increase for civil servants on April 1, 2000 which contributed towards an already high inflation rate of around 40% and a constantly falling currency. The kyat was officially fetching 3.3 kyat to the US dollar at the beginning of the year 2000, (and getting 330 kyat to the dollar on the active black market) and by the end of the year it had been devalued to a worth of 6.5 kyat to the dollar (the black market value remaining 100% higher than the official rate, bringing 650 kyat to the dollar.) High inflation, devalued currency, and restrictions on imports of cheap Thai consumer items resulted in a higher cost of goods during the year 2000. While struggling under these economic conditions brought about by military mismanagement, the populace of Burma are further deprived of their livelihood through several other SPDC policies. The following conditions which are systematically depriving the people of Burma of their livelihood are contributing factors to: corruption within the country, mass exodus of migrant workers seeking work elsewhere, illegal trafficking of workers, poverty, food scarcity, malnutrition, and starvation among other problems. The desperate economic situation in Burma is inextricably linked to numerous other social and political problems, and is in denial of Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that ,

"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary

social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, disability, widowhood, old age, or other lack of livelihood, in circumstances beyond his control."

Situation of Farmers in Burma

An estimated 65% of Burma's workforce are employed in the agricultural sector and rice, being the nation's staple food is an integral part of this sector. The SPDC, which has retained central planning and control of food production in the nation, has made various attempts to boost the production of rice and other agricultural products, yet the methods which they have used have had disastrous results for the people who do the farming in Burma.

Right to own Land

Cultivators in Burma have effectively lost the right to own land, as under sections 9-12 of the Agricultural Lands Act 1953 the right to transfer, partition, or lease land must be gained through permission of the authorities. In the 1963 Tenancy Act, the State usurped the right of landowners to lease their land, and the 1963 'Protection of the right to cultivation' Act stipulated that land would be protected from confiscation, except in the case of a) *non-payment of dues owing to the State*, and b) *disputes arising from inheritance cases or actions taken by the State for security reasons*. The State was further granted authority to confiscate land through Notification No. 4/78 which was given on September 18, 1978. This notification states that failure to sow the allotted land with the earmark crop to obtain optimum results or failure to sell the full crop quota to the government at the stipulated price would result in confiscation of land. Presently such drastic powers are entrusted to village and Township administrators and the cultivators are compelled to follow their dictates without voicing protest.

Forced Sale of Crops to the Government

Farmers in Burma are required to sell a percentage of their crops to the government at discount prices. This regulation is, as a rule, enforced for rice crops, yet there are also instances where local officials demand farmers to sell set portions of other harvests such as beans and fruit crops. This paddy procurement system is implemented by the Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trade (MAPT), a state agency which, along with other arms of the bureaucracy, inherited the duty from its socialist predecessor. MAPT's national structure reaches down to the village, where it designates paddy land and collects a fixed quota based on land area. This quota rose steadily from 1988 until 1995, when it was fixed at 12 baskets per acre in high rice-producing areas such as Irrawaddy Division. This crop quota is essentially a crop tax, and is justified by the SPDC as a means of feeding the armed forces, supplying discounted rice to civil servants, and exporting in order to gain foreign currency. Yet in practice, the system has failed to improve economic conditions in Burma and has denied food to the very people who grow it.

An inherent flaw in this system is the government's quota calculation based on arable land area rather than amount of rice actually planted or harvested. Farmers who work poor land, or for weather or other reasons produce an imperfect crop, are not exempt from the quota. They fulfill their obligation by supplying paddy bought on the market. In these cases, the difference between the relatively high market price and the low government purchase rate results in a net loss for farmers.

Households that fail to fill the quota face a variety of consequences. For households unable to sell the earmarked quota to the government, the local authorities, with the help of the armed forces and police, often forcefully confiscate the households entire supply of paddy including that used for consumption and seed paddy. If even after such confiscation the quota is still not achieved, the defaulting cultivators are arrested and their rights to cultivate prohibited. While arrests and beatings have been reported, more common is the confiscation of paddy land, for redistribution to other farmers more likely to produce. Farmers have also been sent to labor camps to work off their debt. Local military authorities are also said to have ordered the rice mills to close, preventing the milling of harvested rice for consumption or trade until entire villages filled their quotas. Lastly, farmers have been threatened, scolded and publicly abused by government rice procurers dissatisfied with their quota. In Mon State of Burma, as well as in other areas of Burma, the SPDC has implemented a new policy wherein farmers are forced to sign contracts agreeing to sell a certain portion of their crops upon harvest. (see below in the section on the situation in Mon State)

This inherently unjust crop quota system has left numerous farmers across Burma impoverished and/or landless. Corrupt officials often pay less then promised, occasionally the farmers receive nothing, and unfair buying procedures often cheat farmers out of more rice then they bargained for.

Dry Season Paddy Crops

The SPDC has launched agricultural development schemes throughout the country, but especially in the Irrawaddy Delta area. The centerpiece is the summer, or dry season, paddy program, in which the traditional single rice crop per year, sown in the rainy season and reaped in the cool season of October-December, is followed by another crop raised and reaped in the hot season. The summer paddy scheme has several elements: development of irrigation systems such as dams and canals, introduction of high yielding hot-season rice strains, and use of new fertilizers, pesticides, and machinery to cope with the technical complications of the new crop.

These tactics have created two new burdens for farmers. The first is the labor needed to build roads, small dams, and irrigation ditches. State-directed, uncompensated labor is common practice in Burma. Farmers who work on these development projects have less time to tend their crops or other subsistence activities. Secondly, the chemical ingredients of the summer rice program are not distributed free to poor farmers, but are sold to them. Farmers who do not buy the necessary materials cannot participate in the program; their unproductive land, officially designated for double cropping, is reassigned to a more able household. Insufficiency of water added to the fact that inclement weather and unsuitability of crops to be cultivated on certain types of land are proving to be real deterrents to the country's agricultural development. In some parts of Irrawaddy Division, farmers who could not meet the required quota had to pay the market price in cash for the shortfall to the authorities. In some places flood prevented cultivation. There were some areas where crops failed all the three times they were cultivated. These cultivators not only wasted their efforts and suffered losses but also because of their ability to fulfill their quota were arrested by the hundreds.

In some localities the cultivators who could not sow the dry season crop had to make payment at the rate of *kyat* 300 per acre to Township and village authorities that lined their pockets with these fines. Those farmers who do not have ready cash had to pawn or sell

their cattle, carts, houses, etc., to pay the fines. The poor cultivators had to face lots of difficulties.

Situation of labor in Burma

Aside from the agricultural sector, the majority of laborers in Burma are struggling for their livelihood under harsh conditions with inadequate pay and no process or system through which their grievances can be aired. Under the market economic system which has been imposed during the period of SPDC governance, workers in foreign investment and joint venture projects and factories have had to suffer the following;

(a) According to job appointment rules, the employer has the right to dismiss any worker from employment without giving a month's advance notice, as outlined in existing labor laws. This grants excessive opportunities to the employer and prevents a stable workforce from forming at work sites.

(b) There is no process or system by which worker's grievances can be aired, no mechanisms for demanding labor rights, no trade unions permitted at workplaces and departments, no clear mechanisms for resolution of cases where a worker was forced to resign (or rather, workers are afraid to complain) and no step by step appeal programs (for negotiations, interventions and plenary discussion) therefore, workers suffer considerably.

(c) Foreign employers and investors establish factories in Burma as well as in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Although the products are of the same quality, Burmese workers receive much less money than other countries' minimum wages, because of the non-application of the minimum wage law. Some employers who are willing to raise salaries have to first consider workers' salaries in nationalized factories, and in circumstances of inequality there can be conflict between private and government enterprises. Thus, they cannot raise wages even if they wish to and so the workers are unable to attain a fair income.

(d) According to Burma's "Leave and Holiday Act", shift workers must work a maximum 48 hour week, and for offices and service industries 42 hours per week. However staff and workers in supermarkets and factories, which have appeared as a result of the developing market economy, have to work about 10 hours a day in defiance of labor protection laws. Working on Saturday and over time duties are also required, but there is no appropriate recompense, the employees are sometimes paid a small amount of money or issued some food. Social welfare laws are also ignored. Although the wage rates set are not equivalent to the current pace of inflation, there have been no changes and improvements. For example, the Labor Compensation Act excludes by definition workers earning over 400 *kyat* per month, so employers can claim that their workers are not covered by the Compensation Act.

Existing labor affairs laws are not suited to the present situation and system. Only government employees and employees of a few traditional industries were covered by minimum wage provisions. The minimum monthly wage for salaried public employees is \$2.00 (600 *kyats*) for what was in effect a 6-hour workday. Various subsidies and allowances supplement this sum. Neither the minimum wage nor the higher wages earned even by senior government officials provides a worker and family with a decent standard of living. Low and falling real wages in the public sector have fostered widespread

corruption. In the private sector, urban laborers earned about \$0.70 per day (200 kyat), while rural agricultural workers earn about half that rate. Some private sector workers earn substantially more; a skilled factory worker earns about \$15 per day (4,500 kyat). Surplus labor conditions, a dismal economy, and lack of protection by the Government continues to dictate substandard conditions for workers. The 1964 Law on Fundamental Workers Rights and the 1951 Factories Act regulate working conditions. There is a legally prescribed 5-day, 35-hour workweek for employees in the public sector and a 6-day and a 44-hour workweek for private and state enterprise employees, with overtime paid for additional work. The law also allows for a 24-hour rest period per week, and workers have 21 paid holidays per year. However, in practice such provisions benefited only a small portion of the country's labor force, since most of the labor force was engaged in rural agriculture. Numerous health and safety regulations exist, but in practice the Government has not made the necessary resources available to enforce the regulations. Although workers may in principle remove themselves from hazardous conditions, in practice many workers cannot expect to retain their jobs if they do so.

Wages are simply not high enough for most of the country's people. Even the pay raise of civil servants in April 2000 was unable to keep them from suffering the effects of inflation. This has led to high levels of corruption and migration to other countries, as civil servants and educators, among others, are concerned with getting outside income and chances to leave their jobs for better pay.

Other factors contributing to the deprivation of livelihood

People in areas across Burma are subjected to numerous demands for their hard earned currency and their hard-pressed time. As the government spends an estimated 50% of the national budget on the building up of the armed forces, there is little money allotted for the needs of the nation. Indeed, even the armed forces are not adequately provided for. In 1998, the SPDC in Rangoon informed its field units that rations would be cut back significantly, and that they would, in essence, have to 'fend for themselves, ' by producing their own food or obtaining it from the villagers. Since that order, thousands of acres have been confiscated from civilians, without compensation, for army food production or factories. The ousted farmers and local villagers are then also frequently made to act as serfs on their former land, planting and harvesting crops for the army battalions who took the land from them.

The SPDC has prided itself in efforts made to improve the nation, such as the building of roads, bridges, and railroads. Yet it has been at the expense of the people of Burma that these national infrastructure projects have come to be. The projects, which often are for military benefit, are usually severely under funded, and the local people are required to pay for or get the supplies themselves, and then build the projects themselves, at their own time and expense, without pay.

At the township and village administrative levels, there also is a lack of government funding. For all these insufficiencies, the people are made to compensate. The people in areas of armed conflict suffer the above economic burdens, as well additional demands which are associated with the significant military presence. Villagers in areas of armed conflict are expected to fully support the army battalions located in their area. They are

required to build the army barracks, supplying the materials themselves, and then send "servants" to work as slaves on these bases on a rotation basis. They are in complete subjection to the whims of the army personnel and must provide them with their own food.

1.) Official and Unofficial Taxes and Levies:

Through several officially sanctioned fees and taxes, as well as arbitrary demands for cash from corrupt officials and army personnel, the people of Burma are expected to pay for everything from road construction supplies to state sport ceremonies. The income of Burma's people is sapped by the large collective sum of all the numerous petty fees. Most households end up being required to pay several thousands of kyat per month in these types of levies. Many villagers are unable to comply. Those who cannot manage are often forced to flee their traditional homes. The most common types of taxes and levies are listed below:

- **Porter and Forced Labor Fees :** A common practice, especially in conflict areas, is for the villagers to pay a mandatory "porter fee" to the local army battalion. The funds collected from this fee are supposed to go towards hiring porters for army operations. Yet in most cases, these fees are kept by the battalion officers, who then proceed to demand that the villagers supply porters for the army, even after the fee has been paid. These fees are usually around 200-500 kyat per household, per month. In addition, villagers who are delinquent in providing their forced labor duty are made to pay fines of varying amounts to local government or army authorities.

- **Administration fees:** In several localities across Burma the local people are made to pay monthly fees for township or village level administration costs. The fees, and whether or not they are actually used for administrative purposes varies from place to place.

- **Festival and Ceremony Fees:** Often the government does not provide enough money for their state-sanctioned festival and ceremonies, including religious and sport festivals, and even anti-NLD rallies. Where the government falls short, the people are expected to contribute. Government officials, including USDA members commonly send letters or go door to door demanding money for such occasions. In some instances, after the people have given their money, the said occasion never occurs at all.

- **Taxes for Development Projects:** As the social, education and health sectors of Burma are seriously neglected by the SPDC, and suffer from an acute shortage of government funding, local people are often required to pay for the construction of educational and health-care structures, as well as for the running of numerous training programs. In addition, although the SPDC has taken credit for the various national infrastructure projects, it is the local people who most often foot the bill for such projects. Government funding for such development projects is often insufficient, or swindled by corrupt officials and the villagers are ordered to provide the money or the supplies necessary for the projects.

- **Taxes and fees for local army units:** Civilians are regularly required to pay for the needs of local army units. In addition to demands for food and supplies, they must meet demands for other various fees which come up, such as the need for army walkie-talkies. Villagers commonly cover the cost for the construction of army related buildings, or supply the necessary materials. In addition, villagers in conflict areas are often forced to pay for lost guns when soldiers desert the army, or pay for the upkeep of surrendered rebels.

- **Arbitrary Fees, Fines, and Taxes:** Army officers posted to remote conflict areas, as well as officials in central Burma all receive opportunities to acquire money from local

villagers, with impunity. There are several army officers who have become rich as a result of the numerous schemes they come up with to acquire money. There therefore are numerous other levies, fines and taxes which officers demand of the people. In some cases the people are not even told what their money is going for, but they are required to hand over the requested amount. Officers and soldiers seeking money have been known to set up temporary roadblocks on highways or bridges to demand money for passing through. Some of these arbitrary levies are associated with discrimination against religious or ethnic minorities, such as in the case of arbitrary taxes which exist only for Muslim Rohingya people in Arakan State. An example of this is the tree and roof taxes which the Rohingya must pay. (See below in the section on the situation in Arakan State)

2) Forced Labor

The well-documented use of civilians as forced laborers has endowed Burma with a mass labor force with which to build up its army and national infrastructure. (See chapter on forced labor) This labor is mandatory and unpaid and requires that villagers spend varying amounts of time away from their own work. In addition to the economic strain that time away from work brings, the people are also required to provide their own food and equipment for the duration of the forced labor duty. The demand of forced labor is often the proverbial last straw on the camel's back for the already over-burdened people of Burma. Most refugees and migrant workers cite forced labor requirements as one of the major reasons for fleeing.

3) Land Confiscation

As mentioned above, the government of Burma has taken the right to deprive citizens of their land whenever they deem it necessary for "security reasons" or for failure to provide necessary crop quotas. In addition to land confiscated to make way for army battalions, the state often takes over land which is intended for development projects. The confiscated land is rarely compensated for. In cases where compensation is given, the amount is usually notably insufficient. The deprivation of land, which is the sole source of livelihood for many of Burma's people, is a major infringement upon their right to livelihood as well as their property rights.

4) Destruction of property

Loss of property is an obvious hindrance to the livelihood of an individual and their family, yet the SPDC continues to engage in activities which result in the uncompensated destruction of property such as homes and fields. In areas of ethnic conflict this practice is carried out under the "*four-cuts*" policy, in which the army seeks to destroy any means by which rebel armies can survive. In part of this policy, known as the "*scorched earth*" policy, SPDC troops relocate villages in known rebel areas, then burn and destroy everything in the area. Burning of villages is common following relocation or in campaigns to "*search and destroy*" rebel activity. Property is also destroyed by the army in other areas of Burma if it stands in the way of planned army, or national infrastructure projects.

5) Looting and Expropriation of food and possessions

The army in Burma, which sees itself as being the "father of the nation", has long expected the support of the country's civilians. The various incarnations of the military regime has attempted to instill a mentality in which aiding the armed forces is seen as a national and

patriotic duty. Yet this "duty" has become close to unbearable for Burma's people. In the years since 1998, when the SPDC cut rations for the armed forces, the villagers have faced an extra burden in providing for the soldiers. The army personnel have always been underpaid, especially the lower level soldiers and privates, and this had led to looting of villager property in the past. Now this looting and expropriation of food and possessions is condoned by the State. Army units on patrol who pass through villages simply take what they wish of the villagers' food and possessions, or else send letters demanding that the villagers bring it to them. Some officers even send "shopping lists" to the local village heads, requesting such things as soap, oil, chicken, rice, and cases of beer. The extorted items are rarely paid for. Villagers are even sometimes forced to provide money, food, and other requirements for army personnel when they wish to make offerings at local Buddhist temples. The HRDU compiled documents of numerous cases of this army endorsed robbery for the year 2000, yet due to the quantity of data referring to all the villagers who lost their chickens, gold rings, rice and ducks, there are only a few example incidents included in this yearbook.

6) Restrictions on trade, travel, and cultivation

The restrictions on trade, travel and cultivation that the SPDC army has introduced, especially in areas of armed conflict have made things even more difficult for individuals attempting to make a living and survive. Many people living in areas under SPDC control are restricted from leaving their villages and must pay for passes from authorities in order to gain permission to leave. These passes are often only good for short periods, sometimes only from dawn to dusk. For villagers attempting to work in locations far away, it is nearly impossible to do what is necessary to make a living and then get back on time.

The SPDC also has enforced special restrictions at times in which people are banned from leaving the villages altogether. In these kind of cases, harvests are often destroyed or lost and work opportunities gone.

Trade restrictions imposed by the authorities also result in economic hardship for the people of Burma. Another factor which restricts bread-winners in the country is the existence of landmines, which limits the areas in which labor-seekers are able to move.

5.2 Situation in Arakan State

Unfair Levies and Taxes

The military SPDC has introduced various tax collections in Arakan State which are very oppressive in nature and notoriously arbitrary. As in other parts of Burma, the SPDC army battalions based in Arakan State tax the local populations in order to raise funds for the battalion, or to line their pockets.

Tax for army base

In 2000, a new NaSaKa (Western Border Command) camp was established in NaSaKa Area No. 3 in Puran Dia, an islet of the Parrot Island (Tutardip), about 15 miles north of Mawdaw town. The Rohingya shrimp culture project owners around the islet have been subjected to supply all necessities of the camp such as, ration, pocket money, family expenditures of the forces. In addition, they have to pay for a 13 horse powered boat, 2

communication sets and 2 deep tube wells or water supply. Over and above, the Rohingya project owners have to contribute for the following monthly expenditures of the forces:- rations (156,000 kyats), family expenditures (300,000 kyats), and boat maintenance. (150,000 kyats) In addition, communication set (one time) kyats 300,000, tube wells (one time) kyats 60,000. (Source: ARNO)

Funds Collected for Air Base Extension

On November 5 2000, Brigadier Khin Maung Nyo, secretary of Tenasserim Division formed a fund raising committee to raise funds for the construction of the Tenasserim Air Base extension. The committee was headed by Capt. Kyaw Ngwe, Chairman of the Kawthaung PDC. The fund raising committee set out to collect 10,000 kyat from each company, merchant, fishing vessel owner, and car owner; 2,000 kyats from each family, and 1,000 kyats from each motorbike driver. The committee ordered that the people give these fees by November 25, 2000. (Source: ALD)

The Muslim Rohingya minority group are particularly singled out and forced to pay the most in taxes. Furthermore, the Rohingya, considered illegal aliens by the government, are in large without proper national ID cards and are therefore often subjected to various forms of extortion in order to travel, attend school, or participate in other government approved functions. (See chapters on minorities, movement and religious discrimination) Following are examples of tax collections taken exclusively from the Muslim Rohingya minority group:

Roof Tax

The SPDC has introduced various tax collections in Arakan State which are very oppressive in nature and unknown to any human society. The Rohingyas have to pay taxes for their agricultural products, livestock, and vegetables, irrespective of whether or not one grows them. On April 26 2000, a new tax was introduced compelling the Rohingya villagers to pay a roof tax as follows:- for each tin roofed house kyats 2,500 to 5,000, for each "Dani" thatch palm roofed house kyats 2,000, for each thatch palm built house kyats 500.(Source: ARNO)

Tree Tax Collection

In the first week of July 2000, the authorities ordered all the Rohingya Muslim villagers in Maungdaw township to pay a new yearly "tree tax "of kyat 2500/- per betel-nut tree and kyat 5000/- per coconut tree. These trees are commonplace in the township, and are located in nearly every house compound. The non-Muslim communities have not, however, been asked to pay this tax. In addition, the Rohingya villagers are required to pay taxes for the construction and repair works of their dwelling houses. The Muslim villagers have been threatened with severe punishment for failure to pay the tax. (Source: ARNO)

Taxes for Pagoda constructions

In May 2000, the commander of the Western Area Command No. 5 ordered the Rohingya villagers near Maungdaw town to 'contribute' for the building of a pagoda land which had been confiscated. He warned that if anybody refused to provide money for the pagoda he would be seriously dealt with. For the purpose of funding, he divided the Rohingya families of the 12 village tracts of the Area into three categories. The families in first category were required to pay kyats 5000, the second kyats 4000 and third exempted from payment. Major

Kyaw Naing started collecting this so-called contribution on May 7, 2000.(Source: RSO)

Beginning on August 12 2000, SPDC authorities set up a collection booth at Kayandan village (Shikdar Para), at the entrance of the Maungdaw town, Arakan State. The booth is for collecting arbitrary taxes from the Rohingya people for funding the construction of Mru-U Shwe Sandaw Pagoda in Maungdaw town. Four police and two Buddhist monks led by Maung Gri have been collecting kyats 250 per vehicle ,kyats 200 per 50 kgs of rice and kyats 300 to 500 according to the volume of goods. The Buddhist community has, notably, been exempted from this tax. (Source: ARNO)

Titles to farms seized

In early June 2000, the authorities ordered all the Rohingya farmers inhabiting NaSaKa area No.1 in the northern par of Maungdaw town to hand over all their old documents and farm deeds. They warned that those who did not comply with the order would be seriously dealt with and barred from using the land. (Source: ARNO)

Forced sale of crops

Farmers in Arakan State are required to sell portions of their crops to the SPDC government authorities at low fixed rates. This is considered a form of "paddy tax." It is also sometimes the case that the farmers are forced to give set amounts of rice to the government without receiving any payment at all, as in the example below:

"Paddy Tax"

In early June 2000, SPDC authorities ordered the Rohingya farmers residing in the Western Area Command Area # 1 to give fifty Tans (about 1750 kgs) of paddy per acre to the government for the year 2000. (Source: ARNO)

Confiscation of land

In 2000 more lands were confiscated from the Rohingya to establish more Buddhist settlements in northern Arakan. (The forced confiscation of land has been occurring regularly in Arakan State.) The District Peace and Development Council Chairman and Tactical Operation Command of the Western Area Command ordered the confiscation of lands for the construction of new Buddhist cluster villages.

In January 2000, 450 houses of Rohingyas belonging to Kyinthama Paletaung village about 1 mile east of Buthidaung township of Arakan state were demolished and 200 acres of housing and farm lands were confiscated by order of the District Peace and Development Council and Army strategic officer. The vacated land was earmarked for establishment of Army regiment No.553. Each household of Nanragone, Pyinshe, Maunggyitaung, Kyithema, Paungdawbyin and Migyaungze villages was ordered to provide 500 poles of bamboo, 400 kyats in cash, one load of thatch and 4 logs measuring 1.5 to 2.5 feet in circumference. The above villages were also ordered to construct a number of sheds measuring 60ft x 24ft over the seized land. All these constructions were carried out by forced labor. (Source: ARNO)

On April 28 2000, the commander of the Western Area Command No. 5, in collaboration with Aung Than Che and Saw Myint Aung, 2 Buddhist Rakhine men, confiscated 73 acres of land belonging to Maulvi Mohammed and Akthar Hussain, both of them from the village of Auk Pruma (Kasarbil), a place about 12 miles north of Maungdaw town. (Source: RSO)

On February 22, 2000 the authorities seized more than 20,000 acres of arable land from the following Rohingya villages in Buthidaung township:

- (1) Maung Gyi Taung village 400 acres
- (2) Mi Gaung Ze village 4000 acres
- (3) Dabain Chaung village 400 acres
- (4) Nan Ra Gon village 400 acres.

These villagers have now become homeless, shelter less and jobless. (Source: ARNO)

In July 2000, Capt. Hla Pu, the chairman of the township PDC of Maungdaw, forcibly confiscated 2 acres of land from the Rohingya Muslims of ward No. (4), or Myu Thit Rwa(village), Maungdaw town, on which 10 houses had long been standing. This land is situated at a close distance to a Buddhist monastery and the monks of that temple wanted to grab the land under the pretext of extending the monastery. And so the monks with the help of Capt. Hla Pu ejected the landowners without any compensation. (Source: ARNO)

In early 2000 in Buthidaung township, for the purpose of "demographic change" and "military security", a total of 1,232 acres of land belonging to local Rohingya villagers was confiscated making the poor Rohingya villagers homeless, land-less and jobless. As a result, during this rainy season, nearly 1,070 of these displaced people headed towards the Bangladesh border. The land confiscated was - from Attwan Ngathay village, 384 acres; from Pale Taung village, 320 acres and from Dabru Chaung village, 528 acres. (Source: RSO)

In mid 2000, a grazing ground measuring about 300 acres which lies between the Mayu river and Mazay Island in Rathedaung township, Arakan State, was seized by MIS # 10. The MIS unit, after taking a huge amount of money, allowed one Abdu Rashid of the Island to use it. This has created great problems and difficulties for the nearly villagers who have traditionally been using it as grazing ground for their cattle. Under the circumstances, as there is no other gazing ground around, the cattle of the said villages have since been starving. (Source: ARNO)

5.3 Situation in Chin State

In Chin State, like the rest of Burma, the people are suffering economically under the rule of the SPDC. Although there was little in the way of reports, SPDC policies such as forced sale of crops to government buying centers at lower-than-market rates are in place across the country, including Chin State.

Unfair Levies and Taxes

Name: "Laipa"

Age: 40

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Chin

Occupation: LPDC chairman and farmer

Marital Status: Married with 4 children

Address: +++ village, Falam Township, Chin State

Date of Interview: 14/01/2001 (Source: CHRO)

"Some months ago, the Township Peace and Development Council chairman in Falam summoned a meeting where he invited all Village PDC chairmen in the township and informed us that the government would no longer allow shifting cultivation in the area with immediate effect. He told us that anyone continuing the shifting cultivation would be arrested and imprisoned and that the shifting cultivation would be replaced by wet cultivation. We all pleaded to him that since most people do not have fields to do the wet cultivation without the current shifting form of cultivation, we would have nothing to eat and would all die. He said that he would allow us to continue the shifting cultivation under one condition-that everyone doing it would pay kyats 60 to the authorities

Therefore, for the year 1999-2000 every household pays kyat 60 each to the authorities in return for their permission. There are 10 villages in the Zahau village tract all of which have to pay the same amount to the authorities. They are Haimual, Thipchang, Hnathial (a), Hnathial (b), Zawngte, Ngailan, Seilawn, Sih Ngai, Tlang Kawi, Leilet village. There are 40 households in our village and we paid Kayts 2,400 altogether regardless of the household is a widow. For the year 2000-2001, we were told that we have to pay another kyats 60 per household. We have already cleared the site for cultivation, but if we do not pay the money then we would not be allowed to proceed. We are also fearful of arrest and imprisonment."

Looting by the army

On October 13, 2000, Burmese soldiers led by Lt. Kyaw Min of LIB 266, which is based in Vuangtu camp, Thantlang township, Chin State, entered Lawngtlang (B) village and demanded that the headman find them a solar plate, as they were running out of battery. The headman, "Lian Rem" (name changed), told the officer that the village didn't have a solar plate, but unfortunately, the officer saw one that was being charged in the sunlight,

and he told the headman to pick it. The headman explained that that was the property of a Church, but the officer threatened him and forced him to hand it over. The next day, the officer demanded two porters to carry the solar plate and a 12-volt battery to his camp. The plate's estimated worth is over Ks. 100000, including the labor charge. The solar plate was donated to the Church by Lawngtlang natives working in Malaysia. (Source: CHRO)

In late 2000, a group led by intelligence officer Soe Thein, under Control of IB 269, based in Dun-Zan Township, extorted timber from nearby villages to construct a new office. The also seized 3 cubic feet of timber from one villager, and similarly seized 6 24-inch logs from a Catholic Church. Log businessmen cannot to business in that area because they find various ways to seize their logs. (Source: ARNO)

5.4 Situation in Irrawaddy Division

Unfair Levies and Taxes

Tax for militia unit

In Nga-thain-kyaung township, Irrawaddy Division, kyats 350/- is collected from every household for the formation of a militia unit. Those who are unable to meet the demand receive constant visitations from the authorities accompanied by a member of the police force. (Source: NLD)

Tax for fire department

In some villages in Danabyu Township, even daily wage earners and widows not excepted from the tax of 650 kyats per household which is allegedly for the fire department. (Source: NLD)

Forced sale of crops

Situation in Nga-thain-kyaung township

In Nga-thain-kyaung township cultivators of land formed by the process of silting are forced to sell their crops of mat-pe (green gram) and pe-de-sein (green beans) and always have to forego payment of 2 baskets. The cultivators feel aggrieved because they have to pay kyats 4500 for a basket of these beans at time of cultivation and are forced to sell to the authorities at kyats 2000/- per acre of produce. (Source: NLD)

Paddy Purchasing Centers in Danubyu Township

At the paddy purchasing centers in Danubyu township, some of the village authorities accompanied by armed police personnel are making the following illegal demands and practices:-

- (a) For each basket of paddy that is discolored because of unfavorable weather conditions, the cultivator can either accept a deduction of kyats 150 per basket or pay kyats 400/-per discolored basket of paddy (the difference between the prescribed selling price of kyats 350 and kyats 750, the prescribed cash payment for failure to supply).
- (b) For the purchase of a common winnowing machine in some villages, cultivators are asked to pay an amount of money at the rate of the price of a basket of paddy while in other villages the price is fixed at the rate of kyats 200 per acre.

- (c) One pyi of paddy per acre is the fixed amount that has to be given free for the township PDC.
- (d) Compulsory purchase of one videotape, cassette tape and calendar by every cultivator who arrives at the Paddy Purchasing Center to sell his prescribed paddy.
- (e) Compulsory purchase of insecticides for which deductions are made from the amounts due to the cultivators.

For the cultivation of mat-pe (green gram) an advance of kyats 2000/- is forced on the cultivator and a sale at the rate of 2 baskets per acre of produce to the Trade and Agriculture Department has to be made. In addition, when advance payment at the rate of kyats 1200/- per acre is forced on them, they are expected to supply the Tatmadaw (Military) at the rate of 4 pyis per acre. (The market price of this commodity is kyats 4000 per basket.) Even those who are not cultivators of mat-pe are expected to supply this grain at the rate of 2 baskets per acre. (Source: NLD)

Situation in Kyone-ma-nge Township, Irrawaddy Division

In Kyone-ma-nge Township, Irrawaddy Division cultivators are required to travel to Waka-ma town to obtain agricultural bank loans from which an average of kyats 400 is deducted for the following:-

- kyats 15 per acre
- kyats 200 for compulsory purchase of calendar
- kyats 100 - additional.

The total sum illegally obtained from these farmers amounts to over kyats 126000/- At the paddy purchase centers where "duty paddy" has to be supplied, willingly or unwillingly, a deduction of 16 baskets for every 100 is made to offset the amount of discolored paddy. Some farmers who cannot supply this "duty paddy" because of losses suffered through insects and pests, were arrested and imprisoned until the full quota was supplied which they had to purchase from the open market at kyats 70,000/- per 100 baskets.

Each household had to pay the authorities kyats 2000/- for the cost of digging a 5000 foot long trench for the summer paddy crop. Then again each household had to dig earth at the rate of kyats 1500/- for "one quota". Written notices containing threats of action for flouting authority were issued to those who did not comply.

Diesel oil for the summer paddy crop planting is issued only to those who can pay the money in advance. The authorities sell the remaining diesel oil in the black market and appropriate the money for themselves. An additional sum of kyats 300/- per bag of fertilizer is charged even though this cost had been included in the costing for paddy sold in advance at the rate of kyats 2700/-. (Source: NLD)

Situation in Moulamyaingyun township, Irrawaddy Division

For the year 2000, in addition to the duty-paddy quota of 15 baskets per acre compulsory sale to the government in 1999, the group of villages in the Da-hnone-su region (Moulamyaingyun township, Irrawaddy Division) had to also supply free of charge to the army one basket per acre.

This year the authorities forced the farmers to sell 3 baskets of mung beans per acre at kyats 2100/- per basket. (The market price is kyats 4200/ per basket) The payment for this

quota was given in advance. However, due to rain and pests, some farmers were unable to meet the quota. They then instead had to pay the army cash at the rate of kyats 4700/ per basket that they had been unable to give.

In addition, Chairman U Thein Myaing twice collected money for army uniforms, the first time demanding kyats 265/- and the second time kyats 560/- from each household. He then absconded with all the money including the collections for paddy and mung beans. The authorities have taken no action against him. (Source: NLD)

Confiscation of Land/ Denial of Land Rights

In May 2000, 13 farmers who had cleared a total of 126 acres of land in Kyone-ta-ne Administration unit, Danubyu Township for cultivation, and legally acquired it as first settlers with the Land Records Department in 1961, filed a written petition to the authorities to reclaim their land rights. In 1991, U Htun Aye, the Danubyu township authority chairman, illegally appropriated the land for himself and carried on cultivation until 1999. The farmers were unable to protest the action due to the position and power the chairman held, until the spring of 2000, when they attempted to prepare their land for cultivation. They were forcefully prevented by the authorities from doing so. Instead, their land was sold by the authorities to others at 1000 kyats an acre. The farmers then filed their petition, and included documented proof of their claim with receipts for taxes paid and details of the allotments and the permits issued to them. However, their appeal was ignored by the authorities, and their land remains in the hands of others. (Source: NLD)

In mid-2000, the authorities sold the rights to large areas of river and river islands of the Irawaddy River in Irawaddy Division to U Aye Myint of Lay-Kyun village. Although the islands had been traditionally cultivated and the rivers fished by rural people in villages along the Irawaddy, these people were then prohibited by the authorities from fishing, and threatened with severe punishment if they did. The villages affected by such action are as follows:-

- 1) Kywe-htone
- 2) Auk-htone
- 3) Kywe-thaung
- 4) Kyun-pya
- 5) Thayettaw
- 6) Kyonekayin
- 7) Zaloke-ngu
- 8) Let-pan-kyun
- 9) Than-ba-ya-chaung
- 10) Daung-gyi
- 11) Kyet-thun-kyun
- 12) Payagyi-kone
- 13) Paik-tan
- 14) Kyun-tha-ya
- 15) Moe-nan-kyun
- 16) Ywa-thit-kone (Source: NLD)

5.5 Situation in Karen State

In Kawkereik Township, after more army battalions have taken control in the area, there have been more tax collection taken by army or the authorities for the military purposes. Each household in a rural village or a town section, at least has to pay about 200-500 kyat porter fee to authorities or nearest military outposts, which have been spent as a main military purposes. Now, not only the porter fee for the military offensives purposes, Township authorities also collected administrative fee for various purposes of administration or to provide some fund for their government servants or for township fund. Each battalion around Kaw-ka-reik owns minimum 300 acres of rice fields and villagers are called to work for plantation works and harvest. As a result, many villagers left for Thailand and then the army confiscated their land and their land. The army also sells the land to drug-lords. In June 2000, the transport of foodstuff was banned by the SPDC army columns in Toungoo District.. They issued an order that anyone found carrying foodstuff would be regarded as an enemy and executed. The Baw-ga-li village headman, Jo-ka, was accused of supporting the resistance and tortured in various ways. (Source: KIC)

Unfair Levies and Taxes

Forced Contribution for "Karen State Day"- In an order dated January 14, 2000, given by the Kawkereik Township authorities to all village headmen and town section leaders, each villager was required to provide 3, 000 – 10, 000 kyat (depending on village size) to the authorities for 'Karen State Day.' (Source: HURFOM)

"Rubber Tax"- In March, 2000, IB No. 32 instructed to all rubber plantation owners in Kya Ein Seik Kyi township to give a rubber tax, in cash, to the battalion. The order set the amount of rubber (in pounds) to be given in tax, then calculated how much cash should be given according to the amount. (Source: HURFOM) (see order below)

Date: March 3, 2000
<p>To</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>_____ Village</p> <p>Subject: To complete the duty of giving rubber tax.</p> <p>As the subject mentioned above, I inform you that soon after you received this letter, you needed to find the IB No. 32 patrol forces and to give 104 pounds of rubber (or) 8,064 Kyat (eight thousand, sixty four Kyat) that your village remained to pay off.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signed –</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Maj. Ko Ko Aung)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">IB No. 32</p>

"Set-up" fees- On February 16, 1999, Camp Commander Captain Tint Naing from SPDC IB 35 gave orders to the head of Mar-lar-daw village, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State to regularly pay "Set-up fees"* at the rate of 20,000 kyat per 3 days, instead of porter fees. (Source: KIC) * "Set-up fees" are a new kind of extortion money, reported for the first

time. The villagers have to pay the fees, on a regular basis, to the SPDC military camps, set up in their areas.

Administrative fees- On April 28, 2000, Kawkereik Township General Secretary, U Aung Lin, ordered all village headmen in the township to provide 500 kyat every month for government servants in the Township administration departments. He stipulated that the money must be received by the 20th of every month. (Source: HURFOM)

Villagers forced to give money for construction of army base- In October 2000, troops from SPDC IB 96 forced villagers from Blay Blaw so, Mae Praw Hta and Htee Pa Doh villages, Shwe Gyin Township, Nyaunglebin District to give 33000 kyats for the construction of their army base at Kyaih Htee Yo Pagoda.(Source: KAWU)

Villagers pay for damaged battalion truck - On March 5, 2000, Khin Maung Hsint, battalion commander of SPDC IB 748 called a meeting in Baw-ga-li village, Toun-goo District, and extorted cash from the villagers at the rate of 1,000 kyat per household for a total of 500,000 kyat, as compensation for a battalion truck that was damaged. (Source: KIC)

Villagers pay for upkeep of surrendered families - Starting in April 2000, SPDC troops active in Toun-goo District, increased abuses and pressure against villagers, with the intention of forcing their relatives in the resistance forces to come back and lay down their arms. For this reason, two Baw-ga-li villagers who had joined the resistance, Lt. Po Htoo and Corporal Saw Pweh, and their families surrendered at Baw-ga-li military camp. To assist the two persons and their families, the SPDC troops collected 100,000 kyat, by force, from Baw-gali villager, Tee Maung Bay. Car owners in Baw-gali and Kaw-thay-doe villages, each had to pay 2,000 kyat. (Source: KIC)

Villagers required to pay for the construction and upkeep of public schools and training centers

In May, SPDC troops announced their intention to open an international standard computer training center in Tharn-daung Town for nearby villages in Leik-tho area and instructed schools in Tharn-daung and Tan-ta-bin townships, Toun-goo District, to each assist with 3,000,000 kyat. As a result of the forced payments, villagers in this area were faced with great difficulty. (Source: KIC)

In May 2000, township officers from Tan-ta-bin township, ordered that every household in its 28 village tracts must pay 200 kyats per household to build a school in Tan-ta-bin Township. (Source: KAWU)

In May 2000, troops from IB 26, based at Tha-byay-nyunt, with some leaders from the Village PDC, forcibly gathered 15,000 kyat from shops in Tha-byay-nyunt, Nyaung-lay-bin District. Moreover, the SPDC battalion forcibly collected 200 kyat per house in village tracts in Tan-ta-bin township to construct buildings for a high school in Tharn-daung. (Source: KIC)

On June 2, 2000, Battalion Commander, Thein Win, of SPDC LIB 370 ordered villagers from Waw-mu village, Pa-pun District, to give one giant bamboo per household, per month, as a salary for the school teachers. (Source: KIC)

On June 6, 2000, Commander Si Thu from Column 2 of SPDC IB 55, ordered the 5 households of Old Ka-thwee-dee village, Taun-goo District to provide 1,000 kyat, per household, per month, which was said to be for computer training. (Source: KIC)

As of June 28, 2000, SPDC troops operating in Baw-ga-li village tract, Toun-goo District, were collecting money, by force, for setting up a high school in Tharn-daung Town. Baw-ga-li village had to pay 599,814 kyat and Gaw-thay-doe had to pay 150,000 kyat. (Source: KIC)

Fee for "village exit" passes –

On May 22, 2000, Company commander Sann Win from SPDC LIB 357, issued an order that any villager in Tha-ton Township, Tha-ton District, going out of their village must get a pass from him. The fee for the pass for one day was 20 kyat. The fee for staying out one night outside of the village was 500 kyat. (Source: KIC)

On August 8, 2000 troops from SPDC LIB 710, under camp commander Kyaw Shey Tet, demanded 50 kyat for a pass to work in other places from villagers at Wan-klu village, Kya-in Township, Doo-pla-ya District. (Source: KIC)

Boat Tax –

On June 2, 2000, Battalion Commander, Thein Win, of SPDC LIB 370 set up a base in Waw-mu village, Papun District and forcibly collected 300 kyat per boat from the boats going up or down the stream. (Source: KIC)

On October 26, 2000, in Tha-ton District, Karen State, troops from SPDC LIB 102, led by company commander Thet Shwe Oo, ordered Noh-aw-ler villagers to cut 250 poles of bamboo, then failed to retrieve it. They also demanded 3,000 kyat from the villagers. In addition, the troops also forcibly collected 200 kyat from an ordinary boat and 300 kyat from a power boat that were traveling along Don-tha-me river. (Source: KIC)

Porter Fees –

On May 25, 2000, the Column 2 commander of SPDC LIB 83, under LIB 88, extorted 50,000 kyat each from Ta-po-kaw, Oo-kyu-khee and Ta-aye-shay villages, in Kya-in Township, Doo-pla-ya District, as porter fees. (Source: KIC)

Beginning in mid-June 2000, Kyaw Zaya, battalion commander, and Hla Myint, battalion second in command, of SPDC IB 118, under the command of LID 44, summoned village elders from villages in Pa-an, Myaing-ga-lay Township, Tha-ton District. The two told the elders that whenever the troops came to a village, it had to provide them with a guide. In addition, the commanders explained that they would no longer demand porters from the villages. Instead, they would collect money monthly from the villages according to the quota they fixed. The villages that had to pay the quotas and the amounts of cash were: (1) Pwa-hgaw, 6000 kyat; (2) Kyu-san, 6000 kyat; (3) Noh-aw-lar, 6000 kyat; (4) Noh-law-plaw, 6000 kyat; (5) Pa-woe, 6000 kyat; (6) Mae-theh-lay, 1,700 kyat; (7) Mae-theh-jee, 2,000; (8) Htee-pa-doh-kee, 2,000; (9) Noh-kah-day, 2,000; (10) Hat-ta-lite, 2,000; (11) Ta-thoo-Kee, 2,000; (12) Htee-kyu, 2,000; and (13) Htee-jaw-meh-ka-na 2,000. In total these 13 villages had to pay 45,700 kyat of cash, as their monthly quota, to the SPDC troops. (Source: KIC)

On August 1, 2000, Battalion Commander Aung Tin Shwe of LIB 549 demanded Tee Po Hsaw village tract, Kawkereik township to give 24,000 kyats per month as porter fees. In the village tract, there are four villages, and each village has to give 6,000 kyats. (Source: FTUB)

On August 6, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 2 and 207 under SPDC LID 44, came to the villages of Lay-kaw-ti and Nah-ko-kee village tracts, Pa-pun District, and demanded porter fees and food. The troops ordered, with threats, the villages of the two village tracts to pay porter fees of 80,000 kyat and a tin of rice, per month, which were to be brought to the SPDC LIB 207 battalion headquarters. (Source: KIC)

In late 2000 Battalion commander Myat Soe from SPDC IB 60 demanded 20,000 kyat monthly as porters' fee from villagers in Ta Kot Pwa and Koe Ni village tracts, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District. For other necessities those troops also as aim demanded 15,000 kyats monthly more from these village tract. These village tracts also had to pay the so called anti insurgent group of SPDC 50,000 kyat monthly. (Source: KAWU)

Money for army rifles –

On August 6, 2000, Mya Khiang from the DKBA demanded 120,000 kyat from Htee-poe-kyaw village tract, Pa-an District, as compensation for a gun, lost in the area. The villagers had to pay the amount by August 7, 2000. (Source: KIC)

On August 9, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 439, led by officer Aung Thein, came to Ma-la-daw, Noe-hgaw, Pa-ta-la, Thu-ka-bee and Ka-moe-hah villages, Nyaung-lay-bin District, and demanded 120,000 kyat from them. The troops bought 2 M-16 rifles from DKBA Law Plah with the money. (Source: KIC)

On September 10, 2000, Battalion commander, Min Thein Zaw, and battalion second in command, Min Thaung, forcibly collected 450 kyat from each house in villages in Kyauk-kyi township, Nyaung-lay-bin District to buy weapons. (Source: KIC)

Tree-growing program - On July 24, 2000, when the Kawkereik Township chairman ordered all the township's village headmen to attend a monthly meeting, he also instructed them to bring 2,000-5,000 kyat in cash to support a tree-growing program conducted by the forestry department. (Source: HURFOM)

Re-roofing army warehouses - In an order dated June 8, 2000, Kawkereik Township chairman, U Aung Kyaw, demanded that the 7 town quarters of Kawkereik town, as well the 14 villages from Kyone-doe, Kaw-bein, and Kaw-Nwe village tracts provide money for the re-roofing of 4 large army supply warehouses. The re-roofing costs of 440,000 kyat was shared between these quarters and villages. (Source: HURFOM)

Police tax fishermen - Police at the Kha-rit police station based on the Gyaing riverbank in Kawkereik Township collect tax from the fishermen in the river who have been working as fishermen for several years. Fisherman who own one boat and net have to pay a 2,000 kyat tax and fisherman who own only the net have to a 500 kyat tax every six months to the police station. The tax is used for a police station fund. (Source: HURFOM)

Shops taxed by the DKBA - On August 16, 2000, twenty DKBA troops led by Moe Gyo, demanded a 66,000 kyat "tax" from a total of 22 shops. They shops affected were 4 in Dada-ko, one in Thet-po-klah, 4 in Tee-klee-sa, 3 in Kler-law-zen and 10 in Ler-wah-say-day-kwee villages, Pa-an District. (Source: KIC)

SPDC troops demand monthly taxes for their battalions

On June 6, 2000, Commander Si Thu from Column 2 of SPDC IB 55, ordered the 5 households of Old Ka-thwee-dee village, Taun-goo District, to provide 5 Viss of meat to the troops every month. (Source: KIC)

From March to October 2000, Battalion commander Myat Soe of SPDC IB 60 extorted 50,000 kyat each from Hsaw-mee-lu and Kho-pu villages, while SPDC IB 73 commander Soe Khaing extorted 1,000 kyat each from these villages. Myat Soe and SPDC IB 73 commander Khun Naung demanded 3 villagers from nearby villages to come and work for them. They also demanded each nearby village to give them 15,000 kyat monthly. More over, the anti-insurgent group in the area also demanded 50,000 kyat monthly for their rations. (Source: KIC)

In September 2000, in Toun-goo District, troops from SPDC guerrilla battalion 930, led by battalion commander Myint Zaw Htun, battalion second commander Thein Myint and company commander Chet Tei, issued an order that each village had to provide them 20,000 kyat and 10 Viss of pork each month. In addition, guerrilla troops from battalion 930, led by Officer Maung Win looted every villager found carrying rations in Ker-wai and Tha-daung areas. (Source: KIC)

On October 22, 2000, Kyaw Zaw a member of the guerrilla unit of SPDC, demanded Ler-gee-kho and Der-kah villages, Toun-goo District, to supply with him 3 viss of pork every week. He ordered that 15 villagers must be constantly on stand by to carry food supplies for his troops. In addition to constantly supplying food for the troops, they also demanded that the villages provide them with 10,000 kyat and 100 nos. of torch light batteries every month. (Source: KIC) **See Appendix #1**

Demands for money and food –

On June 5, 2000, SPDC IB 26 based at Tha-byay-nyunt camp together with leaders of the Village PDC demand 15,000 kyats per week from the trading point at Tha-byay-nyunt, Mone Township. They also collect 5 kyats for one durian and 50 kyats for one pass ticket. The money collected was shared amongst themselves. (Source: KAWU)

On July 2, 2000, troops from DKBA and SPDC LIB 439, demanded 60,000 kyat from Konee village, 60,000 kyat from Noe-nya-la village and 60,000 kyat from Way-sweh village, Tha-ton District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On July 7, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 9, led by battalion commander, Myo Aung Oo, forcibly collected cash from villages in Tha-ton District. The villages having to pay were: Don-wun, 29,000 kyat; Ma-ee-sa 25,000 kyat; Htee-nya-baw 130,000 kyat; Mee-chaung-aing 4,000 kyat; Klaw-ket, 4,000 kyat; Taw-gyi/Taung-ja, 20,000; kyat; Ka-diang-lay, 2,000 kyat; Ka-diang-kyi, 20,000 kyat; Thay-seik-ngah-kyi, 2,000 kyat; Win-pa, 20,000 kyat; Ta-da-u, 2,000 kyat; Moe-kaw, 2,000 kyat; and Ka-lee-Kyu, 2,000 kyat. (Source: KIC)

On July 14, 2000 troops from SPDC LIB 439 and DKBA demanded 20,000 kyats from Ko Ni village, 60,000 kyats from Noh Nya La village and 60,000 from Way Swai village of Nyaung-le-bin District. They also demanded that the villages conduct a census of their villages, and demanded 10 kyats per household in every village. (Source: KAWU)

On July 24, 2000, column commander Aung Kyaw, from SPDC IB (59), column (2), demanded 120,000 kyat from villagers in Play-hsa-lor-Ka-mu-lor area, Toungoo District. (Source: KIC)

On September 22, 2000, combined troops from LIB 1, led by column commander Myint Lwin and DKBA Moe Kyo, Kyaw Min demanded 200,000 kyat and 20 viss of pork from Htaw-klaw-hta village, Tha-ton District. They threatened that if the villagers failed to pay they would burn down the village. (Source: KIC)

On December 3, 2000, a unit of SPDC IB 75, stationed at Klor-mee-doe camp, Toun-goo District, led by battalion commander Than Myint, ordered Klor-mee-doe villagers to send 524 Kg of rice to the camp by December 6, 2000. (Source: KIC)

On December 3, 2000, the SPDC guerilla group led by Bo Bala ordered villagers from Ler-hee-doe, Toun-goo District, to send 35 baskets of paddy to their camp. (Source: KIC)

Saw Mill Tax -

On April 15, 2000, a column from SPDC LIB 83 came to Oo-kyu-khee village, Kya-in Township, Doo-pla-ya District, and extorted a tax of 20,000 kyat from Saw Kyaw Oo and 20,000 kyat from Saw Thet Pu Heh, saw-mill owners. (Source: KIC)

On September 24, 2000, troops from the DKBA, led by Moe Gyo, extorted 47,000 kyat and one pig from villagers in Taw-klaw-hta village, Tha-ton District. Also on that day, the troops demanded 3,000 kyat from Yo-kla villager Saw Soe Win and 15,000 kyat from 15 other Yo-kla villagers. They also went to Htee-pa-doh-khee village and demanded 32,000 kyat from saw mill owner Kyaw Naing Shwe, threatening to confiscate his saw mill if he did not pay. (Source: KIC)

On December 2, 2000, Lieutenant Myint Lwin from LIB 1 of the SPDC LIB 44, demanded 6,000 kyat from saw mill owners in No-ka-neh village, Tha-ton District. As the saw mill owners refused, he confiscated one sawing machine, one ton of planks and 4 tons of logs and sent them to Pa-ya-yaw of Myit-kyo village. (Source: KIC)

Fee for pagoda construction - On September 27, 2000, Bo Maung Htwe from SPDC LIB 93, demanded 4,000 baht each from Nya-pai-khee, Poway-lay and Wa-hka-hta villages, Pa-pun District, to build a Pagoda at Hko-thu-hta village. (Source: KIC)

Villagers pay for construction of roadside resthouse - On September 27, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 104 ordered each household in Mae-hku-tha, Mae-nyu-hta, Toe-mu, Htee-doh-hta and Mae-hku-hkee villages, Pa-pun District, to give 1,000 kyat to buy metal roofing sheets for the construction of a roadside rest house in Mae-nyu-hta village. Each widowed family had to pay 500 kyat. They also demanded 10,000 kyat each from 5 local elephant owners (names omitted for yearbook) (Source: KIC)

Forced sale of crops

In the first week of January 2000, SPDC troops banned the villagers of Noe-ber-baw, Htee-pa-doh-hta village tract, Yo-klah, Kyo-wine, Lay-kay, Kaw-po-pleh, Mae-naw-thet, Nang-kyi, E-su-khee, Pi-ti-khee, and Ta-pi village tract, Tha-ton District, from grinding their sugarcane. The villagers were forced to sell all their sugarcane to the SPDC at Be-lin sugar factory at prices fixed by the SPDC. (Source: KIC)

On January 1, 2000, Kya Inn Seikyi PDC Chairman sent an order to Winyaw-seikyi village tract to sell 2, 000 baskets of paddy to designated paddy-buying centers. In this village tract, there are about 4 villages and the headmen of all villages had to discuss with the villagers how to divide the responsibility for the quota. The deadline to give this tax was January 15, 2000. (Source: HURFOM)

Since August 15, 2000, local authorities have been collecting the obligatory rice quota from the peasants in Pa-an township. The villagers were required, by threat of severe penalty for failure, to sell their rice at the price of 350 kyats per basket to the government, a price much lower than the market price. (Source: Yoma3) **See Appendix #2**

Situation in Kawkareik Township

For the year 2000, the Karen State PDC instructed that 150, 000 baskets of paddy be sold to the government by the Kawkareik township farmers at designated paddy-buying centers. The large required amount is due to the number of army battalions present in the area, which depend on the local population for their food, including rice. In January 2000 the authorities created many paddy-buying centers in each village tract and forced the farmers to sell their paddy as quickly as possible, giving them February 15 as the deadline. Following the deadline, the authorities threatened village headmen by letters, and demanded that the village headmen make detail lists of their villages' farmers and the amounts of paddy each village headmen sold to the paddy-buying centers. In Kawkareik Township, the land soil for growing paddy is not quite as good as land along the Andaman seacoast and the paddy production is not so high. The farmers are unable to produce more than 40-50 baskets of paddy from one acre, yet the authorities require the farmers to sell about 10 baskets of paddy per acre in 2000. After selling paddy at low price to the government, paying for labor costs, and spending money for various other farming expenses, such as fertilizer and other materials, the farmers are left with nothing but debts. (Source: HURFOM)

Confiscation of land

Land Confiscated for tourism project

In early 2000 the SPDC confiscated the land around Than Daung Gyi, Toungoo District to build on. (four miles around the town were confiscated) This land included the tea, coffee and dogfruit plantations of many villagers. (Source: KHRG)

Land Confiscated for Army Rubber Plantations in Kyar-Ein-Seik-Kyi Township

In April 2000, IB 283, 284 and 32 based in Kyar-Ein-Seik-Kyi Township began to do as they liked to the villagers in this area. The authorities began to unfairly occupy land from the public, with a plan to start rubber plantations. The military authorities occupied the land forcefully, and villagers have lost a lot of property. The following villagers from Kyo-Kon village are among those who have lost property to the SPDC:

- 1- U Pee Aye, (m) age 70, lost 48 acres of fields.
- 2- Daw Tin Ngoy, (f) age 72, lost 22 acres of toddy-palm plantation
- 3- U Win Aung, (m), age 67, lost 18 acres of fields

The total value of the above land is about 800,000 kyats, and the SPDC gave no compensation to the landowners. (Source: THRF)

Destruction of Property and livestock

In a new development from the beginning of 2000, SPDC troops began systematically to burn down "kaw" paddy fields before they are ready to burn, and lay landmines in the "kaw". ("Kaw" is the dying period of a slash and burn paddy field. If the paddy field is not burned at the proper time, it will not burn well.) The result is that villagers have been prevented from growing rice in the farm areas where the SPDC troops have been. During 1999 the people were able to grow rice. At harvesting time, however, many paddy farms were destroyed by SPDC troops and there was damage to crops as well because of abnormal weather conditions and insects. Because of early rain, many mountain farms did not burn properly, causing bad growth of rice. Damage by rats has also been a problem.

Villages, houses, and fields burned or destroyed by army

In January 2000, SPDC troops from IB 8, led by captain San Win, came to Yo-po villager, Tha-ton District, and burned down all the houses. (Source: KIC)

On February 21, 2000, SPDC troops burnt down 2 houses belonging to villagers in Nar-kee, Nyaung-lay-bin District. (Source: KIC)

On March 17, 2000 SPDC troops from LIB 14 came to Htee-theh-khee area, Nyaung-lay-bin District, and burned down 16 orchards. (Source: KIC)

Starting on March 2, 2000, and as of August 4, 2000, SPDC troops were constructing Auk-bo-deh to Ta-nay-cha motor road in Pa-an District. The SPDC operation commander, Lin Zaw, supervised the project, while Hla Myo Aung was the engineer. Aung Kaing was responsible for construction and security. The village tracts around the project site were Naw-gay, Htee-po-kyaw, and Noe-ta-baw.

Deprivation of Livelihood

The construction of it destroyed many fields and plantations. Paddy fields and plantations destroyed were:

1. A paddy field of Bo Say Khin
2. A paddy field of Pa Ler Mee
3. A rubber plantation of Bo Heh Hah
4. A paddy field of Ma Myint Lay
5. A paddy field of Maung Maung
6. A paddy field of Pa Ku
7. A plantation of Ah Tu
8. A plantation of Kyaw Peh
9. A plantation of Bo Yu
10. A plantation of Chi Sa
11. A plantation of Naw Oo Loo Pa

The motor road also crosses through and destroyed the plantation and farms of Mya-pa-deh villagers. The fields and plantations destroyed are:

1. A plantation of Maung Chin Ngwe
2. A plantation and a rice field of Pa Aung Chain
3. A paddy field of Naw Bi
4. A plantation of Bo Ta Oo
5. A plantation of Pa Ka Waw.

The owners of plantations which were not destroyed but which were close to the road did not dare to go and work on their fields and plantations. Security officer Aung Khaing told the villagers around that area not to work on the plantations anymore. He threatened to kill any villagers seen working on the plantations and told them to relocate to places near the main motor road. The villagers gathered themselves and went to officer Aung Khaing to petition him and offered 100,000 kyat, but Aung Khaing replied that the villagers had to relocate even if they paid the money. (Source: KIC)

On March 26, 2000, SPDC troops from IB 383 burned and destroyed the paddy fields of Naw Bwe Plu and Naw Win May Paw from Lay Ka Lah village, Nyaung-Le-Bin Township. (Source: KWO)

On April 8, 2000, SPDC troops of LIB 83, Div 88 led by Lt. San Nyunt entered Thit Ko village in Kya Ein Township and burned down Naw Gay Paw's house, worth an estimated 4,946,400 kyats and Naw Pah Lay's house, worth an estimated 32,000 kyats. (Source: KWO)

In early 2000 the construction of a road linking Auk-bo-deh with Thi-wah-pu in Pa-an District destroyed many fields and plantations. The owners of plantations which are not destroyed but which are close to the road did not dare to go and work on their fields and plantations. (Source: KIC)

In April, 2000- SPDC LIB's 360,362,363,365, and 368 made their activities in the hill region of Shwe Gyin Township and burned down 38 paddy barns of villagers in the area containing a total of 1135 baskets of paddy and 578 tins of rice. (Source: KAWU)

On May 30, 2000, Troops from SPDC army LIB 360 of Strategic Command 10, came to Mae-ka area at Ler-klaw village, Nyaung-lay-bin District and destroyed the villagers' hill paddy fields, huts and some rice. (Source: KIC)

On June 3, 2000, SPDC troops from Column-2 of IB 232 came to Klay-soe-kee village, Taun-goo District, and cut down dog-fruit trees worth 500,000 kyat on a plantation owned by Saw Tu Nu. (Source: KIC)

On June 13, 2000, in Pa-pun District, Karen State, SPDC troops burned hill farms in Pa-pun District, belonging to 15 farmers who had planted around 100 baskets of paddy seed in total. (Source:KIC)

On June 18, 2000, SPDC IB 84, Column # 1, led by Maj Tin Maung Oo, entered Ta Kaw Doe village, Kyaukkyi Township, and burned down 2 paddy barns which contained 150 basket of paddy owned by Saw Bi Htoo and 170 basket of paddy owned by Saw Eh Moo Lah. (Source: KAWU)

As of June 2000, SPDC troops at the front-line in Toun-goo District, in compliance with instructions from the SPDC Divisional Command, were destroying villages and paddy fields. In areas where they were operating they were planting landmines and shooting to death anyone seen in the paddy fields. For these reasons, it was impossible for the villagers to start sowing paddy even though the time for sowing had arrived. (Source: KIC)

On June 20, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 361 came to the Ta-la-kwa-daw area and destroyed all the hill paddy fields and burned down all the huts they found. In addition, the troops looted (1) 23,000 kyat, a half kyat of gold, clothing and household items from Saw Than Lwin, (2) clothing from Saw Myint Thein, (3) household items from Naw Nu and (4) 2,000 kyat and household items from Po Ka Lah. (Source: KIC)

On June 21, 2000, troops from LIB 360 entered Ler Klaw village, in Mae Ka area of Shwe Gyin Township, and destroyed all the villager's paddy fields and huts. These troops still remain active in the area. (Source: KAWU)

From June 21 to July 30,2000 SPDC troops pulled out and destroyed paddy plants from 4 paddy fields owned by villagers, Saw Pah La Tin, Saw Pwe Di, Saw Taw Pya and Saw Kyee Keh of Shwe Gyin Township, Karen State. (Source: KAWU)

On July 8, 2000, a group of SPDC troops came to Htee-blah area, Nyaung-lay-bin District, and destroyed the hill paddy fields of: Par La Heh, growing 5 baskets of paddy seeds, Saw Bweh Day, growing 4 baskets of paddy seeds, and Maung Htu Pya, growing 5 baskets of seeds (Source: KIC)

On July 12, 2000, troops from Columns 1 and 2 of SPDC LIB 368 destroyed a paddy barn with 80 baskets of paddy and a paddy barn with 30 baskets of paddy belonging to Saw Par Day and Saw TDee Ku, residents of Tee-klo-kee, Nyaung-lay-bin District. (Source: KIC)

From July 20-31, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 366, led by acting battalion commander, Maung Maung Oo, cut down 50 coconut trees, estimated to be worth 150,000 kyat, in Wor-mu (Win-maung) village, Pa-pun District, for widening the village road. (Source: KIC)

On July 26, 2000, in Nyaung-lay-bin District, troops from Columns 1 and 2 of SPDC LIB 364 destroyed the paddy fields of the villagers in Tee-ba-lat area. Troops from Columns 1 and 2 of SPDC LIB 364 destroyed almost all of the paddy fields of Paw-kee villagers. (Source: KIC)

On August 4, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 369, led by acting battalion commander, Aung Myint, went to Plaw-kee village, Pa-pun District and burnt down houses. There were 9 victims, who lost their homes. The household items that they lost in the fire were estimated at over 550,000 kyats in total. (Source: KIC)

On September 15, 2000, in Pu-pun District, troops from LIB 365, led by Intelligence officer Shwe Naing, fired mortar shells at the paddy field huts of Saw Kyaw Moe, Saw Than Nyo, Saw Ree Ray Kyeh, Saw Ree Beh, Saw Maung Ngwe Nyo, Saw Tin Win, Saw Pa Ku, Saw Pah Mya, Pah Dah Hai and Saw Maung Day Bwai. The total value of the material lost was 49,820 kyats. (Source: KIC)

On September 19, 2000, at 3 a.m., combined troops from the DKBA, led by Moe Gyo, SPDC LIB 1, led by Bo Kyaw Mint Lwin, and SPDC LIB 118, led by Bo Kyaw Zeya went La-kyo-kho village, Tha-ton District, and burned down huts and looted from the following villagers:

1. a hut owned by Pah Aye Saa Moe, containing 20 baskets of paddy and other materials and looted 15,000 kyat from her
2. a hut owned by Saw Kyaw Takay and looted, 5,000 kyat from him
3. a hut owned by Pah Nya, looted 10,000 kyat and beat up him severely. (Source: KIC)

On October 10, 2000, troops from SPDC IB - 73 stopped allowing villagers to cultivate kaing plantation in the east of Bone-ma-tee, the east of Shwe-kyang-gon and Nat-ta-lin areas and drove all the villagers back who were cultivating and burned down their huts. (Source: KIC)

On October 20, 2000, a house was burned in Naung Ka Toat village, Thaton District to make way for the planned road construction between Shwe Bo Taung and Naung Ka Toat villages. The road construction is under the responsibility of Commander Myo Aung of LIB 9. (Source: Yoma3)

On October 28, 2000, LIB 467 chief commander Chit Naing ordered the destruction of 13 cultivated fields at Dar Thaw Khee village in Mae Thu village group, Dwalo township, Papun District, Karen State. These fields had been ready to harvest and would have produced about 150 tin. (Source: Yoma3)

On October 29, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB (9) came into upper Naung-ka-dok village, Tha-ton District, Karen State and burned down a house belonging to Naw Hkee Lar. (Source: KIC, KWO)

On November 19, 2000, at about 10:30 a.m., SPDC troops, led by Lieutenant Colonel Shwe Nyo and Captain Aung Naing, burnt down Per-kee-doe and Yo-poe-klah villages, Nyaung-lay-bin District. (Source: KIC)

Looting and destruction of property by army

On January 3, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 103 led by Comm. Aye Jway stole money and possessions from villagers in Dooplaya District. They stole 1 million kyat from Naw Kyaw Nya, 15,000 kyats from Naw Say Wah of Pah Klo Kee village, and 150 baht and gold worth 2 tickles from Naw Bay. (Source: KWO)

On January 8, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 383 burned and destroyed a paddy storage bin containing 15 tin of paddy of villager Naw Lah Too from Baw Ko Day, Nyaung-Le-Bin Township. (Source: KWO)

On February 6, 2000 SPDC troops burned down Naw Lah Paw's paddy storage bin in Tho Daw Kee village, Thaton District. (Source: KWO)

On February 9, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 355 and LIB 357, led by Company Commander, Tin Maung Nyein, and Battalion 2nd in Command, Hla Moe Tun, came to Ganee-bu Hill, Tha-ton District, on a search patrol. They found the rice barn of Saw Hsa Be and about 20 baskets of paddy and burned it down. (Source: KIC)

In February 2000, the police chief of Kha-rit police station ordered the village headmen in Kha-rit village tract, Kawkereik Township to provide the police and their families with 300 baskets of paddy. In his instruction to headmen, he asked for 60 baskets of paddy from Kha-rit village, 60 baskets from Kaw-ka-taw village, 60 baskets from Mon-hlaing village, 40 baskets from Kyauk-ye-twin village, 50 baskets from Ngar-chun-gone village and 40 baskets from Kyauk-ka-pin village. (Source: HURFOM)

In the second week of February 2000, in Tha-ton District, Karen State, DKBA troops led by Shwe Tha Li ordered Kyaw-heh village tract to send 2,299 baskets of paddy, Htee-hsee-baw village tract 7,792 baskets of paddy, Htee-par-doh village tract 9,544 baskets of paddy and Ka-mar-lu-taw village tract 4,912 baskets of paddy, a total of 24,547 baskets of paddy, to Myaing-gyi-ngu, the central headquarters of the DKBA. (Source: KIC)

On March 16, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 5 came to Tha-say-doe area, Nyaung-lay-bin District, and burned down a barn with 40 baskets of paddy belonging to Maung Po Rain, a barn with 20 baskets of paddy belonging to U Kyaw, a barn with 20 baskets of paddy belonging to Saw Maung Khin and a barn with 25 baskets of paddy belonging to Saw Ba Lwin. The troops also looted 55 tins of rice from Saw Win Kay. (Source: KIC)

On April 23, 2000, troops from SPDC Tactical Command 1 of LID 66, entered the hiding place of some villagers in Pa-na-wah-kwi, Nyaung-lay-bin District, and fired shots. The villagers fled and the troops looted or destroyed all livestock and belongings left behind. The villagers who suffered losses were: (1) Neh Say Pa, (2) Saw Arsha, (3) Saw Aung Tin, (4) Saw Sheh La Mu and (5) Saw Eh Say. (Source: KIC)

On April 29, 2000, Company commander Sann Win, of SPDC LIB 357, at a place close to Saw Kyan Tha Ga's plantation near Ta-maw-daw village, Tha-ton District, and extorted a pig worth 70,000 kyat, from Saw Kyan Tha Ga. (Source: KIC)

Deprivation of Livelihood

On May 9, 2000, in Sah-bah-lo village, Toun-goo District, SPDC troops led by Zaw Htun Oo looted 50 Viss of coffee seeds from Saw Aye Lia and burned down a house. They looted and ate the chickens and pigs and destroyed villagers' belongings, worth more than 300,000 kyat. (Source: KIC)

On May 11, 2000, troops from Column1 of SPDC LIB 549, led by Bo Htin Maung, came to Ta-hoo-lor village, Pa-pun district, and burned down 3 paddy barns with 510 baskets of paddy, owned by the villagers. (Source: KIC)

On June 9, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 59, column 2, shot into a shopping place in Wah-kee village, Nyaung-lay-bin District, and looted all merchandise from the shops. (Source: KIC)

On June 9, 2000, SPDC Tactical 1 Commander, Mu That Oo, ordered LIB 4 to patrol Win Yin Township, Dooplaya District. Soldiers raided and confiscated rice harvests from the following villages: Ah Na Gyi village (20 baskets), Kyauw Pa Loo village (16 baskets), Ko Ka village (6 baskets) and Tha Pu Ya (20 baskets). (Source: DIR)

On June 12, 2000, about 100 troops, led by Major Win Naing from Column 1 of the SPDC LIB 201 under LID 22, came to Ta-re-po-kwee village, Pa-an District, and looted 10 ½ baskets and 2 Pyi of rice, 44 chickens, a bottle of cooking oil and a shirt from the villagers. (Source: KIC)

On June 15, 2000, Battalion commander, Han Thu, and battalion second in command, Aung Kyaw Than, came to Baw-tho-hta village, Pa-pun District, and demanded 2 bottles of cooking oil and 1 basket of rice. They also ordered the villagers to destroy their paddy field huts. (Source: KIC)

On June 18, 2000, 60 soldiers from LIB 703, led by (Company 2) Commander Mo Kyaw, visited Po Kong village, Win Yin Township, Dooplaya District. And looted over 100 chicken and many household items from the villagers. (Source: DIR)

On June 19, 2000, villagers from Khay-wee village, Kyar-Ein-Seik-Gyi Township, fearing arrest by soldiers, hid in the forests near the village. Soon after, SPDC soldiers arrived into the village and seeing no villagers, looted all the villagers' rice, which was about 700-800 baskets of polished rice. The soldiers also took some chickens, pigs and ducks from villages and looted goldwares and money. (Source: HURFOM)

On June 25, 2000, Saw Par Mu Nor from the DKBA extorted 5,000 kyat from the following 9 villagers: Par Kaw Heh, Maung Than Aye, Maung Nai Po, Maung Aung Toe, Saw Lay Khee, Par Saw Lah, Naw Mu Dweh, Par Bi Heh and Par Di. All were from Naung-gaing village, Pa-an District. (Source: KIC)

On July 1, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 414 came to Mu-kee village, Pa-pun District, and looted from a village woman, Naw Kway Too, 4 tins of rice, 7 Viss of salt and all the chickens, pigs, cooking pots and dishes in her possession. (Source: KIC)

On July 3, 2000, troops from LIBs 708 and 709 entered Thin Ko Village, Kya Aye Township, Dooplaya District, and looted several tins of rice, chickens, ducks, and numerous household items from 8 villagers. (Source: DIR)

On July 7, 2000, SPDC troops went to Si-thu-hta, Nyaung-lay-bin District, and shot at the villagers. After that, they burned down a barn with 50 baskets of paddy belonging to Saw Say Moo, a tin of rice, 20 Viss of beetle nuts, and clothing, estimated to be worth 5,000 kyat belonging to Naw Eh Ta, and a house, estimated to be worth 65, 000 kyat, belonging to Saw Po Thin Tin. (Source: KIC)

On July 13, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 104, led by Aung Tun and a second battalion commander, came to Maw-lo-klo village, Pa-pun District, Karen State and ate the villagers' food and animals. They also destroyed or burnt down all rice barns, rice and household items. (Names of the 20 villagers and itemized list of losses omitted for yearbook) (Source: KIC)

On July 15, 2000, SPDC troops came to Htee-blah village, Nyaung-lay-bin District, and destroyed Saw Pah Day's rice barn, with 70 baskets of paddy, and Saw Pah Htee Ku's rice barn, with 40 baskets of paddy (Source: KIC) On July 16, 2000, troops from LIB 705, led by Battalion Commander Aung Hin and (Battalion) Deputy Commander Kyaw Mo Nai, took control of Then Bu Chaung Village, Kyan Aye Township, Dooplaya District, and looted rice and chickens from the villagers. (Source: DIR)

On July 27 2000, troops from LIBs 708 and 709 surrounded Mi Phanya Village, Mae Phanya Township, Dooplaya District and looted rice, chickens and ducks from 11 villagers. (Source: DIR)

On July 28, 2000, troops from LIB 705, led by second battalion commander Aung Moe Zaw, came to Wah-mae-kee village of Kya-in Township, Doo-pla-ya District, and looted a packet of cigarettes, 10 packets of coffee, 5 chickens, 50 kyat worth of beetle leaves and nuts from a shop. They then forced the village head to pay for them. (Source: KIC)

On September 5, 2000, in Nyaung-lay-bin District, Bo Win Ko Ko and troops from SPDC IB 60 arrested and confiscated 200,000 kyat worth of merchandise from 16 villagers of Myaung-oo and Paw-pi-doe villages and Mona town. The villagers were on their way to sell their merchandise in Kwee-doe-kaw. In addition, they accused Myaung-oo villagers of having connections with rebel groups and demanded 800 kyat per household from that village. (Source: KIC)

On October 10, 2000 combined troops of SPDC IB 60, LIB 35 and DKBA came to Hsaw Mee Lu, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District and shoot at villages at Sheh Day and destroyed paddy plants in villagers' paddy fields. (Source: KAWU)

On October 15, 2000, Commander Win Ko Ko from SPDC IB 60 arrested 16 villagers from Maung Oo, Paw Pi Doe villages and Mon Town while they were selling their merchandise at Kwee Du Kor and also confiscated all their merchandise worth 200,000 baht. The troops accused Maung Oo villagers that they had connections with the rebel group and as a result demanded 300 kyats per house hold from Maung Oo villagers. (Source: KIC)

On October 20, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 368 extorted paddy from villagers of Pra Khee, Shwe Gyin Township, Nyaunglebin District. (1) 60 baskets of paddy from Saw Toe Shwe. (2) 40 baskets from Saw Hee Thaw. (3) 15 baskets from Saw Pwe Toe and (4) 40 baskets from Saw Thi Htoo, making the total of 155 baskets. (Source: KAWU)

On October 25, 2000, troops from SPDC IB- 366 confiscated 120 cattle worth 9,000,000 kyat from cattle trader Saw Let Let of Waw-khee village at Baw-paw-klaw, Tha-ton District, and also stole 280,000 kyat from him. (Source: KIC)

On November 15, 2000, SPDC troops led by Saw Mya Thaung from IB 124 destroyed 25 baskets of paddy, 3 baskets of sticky rice and all utensils found in a rice barn on the farm of Saw Kyaw Win, the pastor of Kaw-lor-kar village, Toun-goo District. (Source: KIC)

Destruction of livestock due to landmines

On June 23, 2000, a buffalo owned by Oo Keh Khee of Kyaukkyi Township, was killed by stepping on a land mine planted by SPDC troops. (Source: KAWU)

On June 25, 2000, two land mines planted by the SPDC army exploded at Mu Theh area, Kyaukkyi Township, and killed two buffalo owned by villagers. (Source: KAWU)

5.6 Situation in Karenni State

In 2000 the SPDC were still operating in Karenni although the rainy season has begun, KNPP troops have reported. In the past the major operations of the troops has been restricted to the dry season. Fighting is continuing in most parts of Karenni. The result of this is that people are still being used as porters to carry army supplies and ammunitions and have to pay porter fees. In the areas where the army operates villages are burned, villagers are tortured and properties are looted.

Situation in Mawchi, Karenni State

Villages near Mawchi, Karenni State are required to report to the nearest SPDC outposts at least once a week. The villagers are not allowed to stay over nights in their farms but they are allowed to go to their farms as long as they return to their villages at the end of the day.

Villagers are not allowed to carry military uniforms or traditional guns, used for hunting. If someone is found with the prohibited items, he or she would be held responsible. Villagers are allowed to trade freely, but they are not allowed to trade in medicine or batteries.

Purchasing and selling rice is restricted. Villagers are allowed to travel from village to village only twice a week- Tuesday and Thursday. Villagers are checked when they travel. They are asked to show their ID cards, village name and the name of the headman of the village. SPDC soldiers with civilian uniforms follow and take pictures of villagers' movements when they are in Mawchi. SPDC soldiers forcibly take sandals, shoes and snacks from villagers without any payment. Villagers are supposed to give a gate fee whenever they pass through a checkpoint. The gate fee is 20 kyats. SPDC also has set up its own mobile medical teams. The teams are used as a view of gathering support/approval from the people. But members of the teams treat the villagers selectively and in a careless

manner. Ten percent of the Mawchi's population can get by under these circumstances. Ninety percent of the population is facing difficulty of getting daily necessities. Civilians are facing a great deal of difficulty as prices of all items are going up.

The villagers need a recommendation letter from the local SPDC authority when they go to their farms. Ration for more than one week is not allowed to be brought to the farms. One recommendation letter costs 20 kyats. Planting rice is under restriction. The villagers are not allowed to grow as much rice as they want. In the city, electricity and water are only provided to civil services. The ordinary people have to buy drinking and non-potable water. One tin of water is 25 kyats. Those who cannot afford to buy water, have to travel a long distance to fetch water.

Salaries of civil services have been increased. The minimum is 4000 kyats and the maximum is 5000 kyata. Some villagers are making a livelihood by selling orchids. Villagers have to take big risks, climbing up high trees, to get orchids. A miner's income is 700 kyats per day. Most of the miners are suffering from TB. The average income of an ordinary person in Karenni per day is 100 kyats. In the past there were clinic for the people. Nowadays, although there are some clinics, there is no medicine in the clinic. Sick people have to buy medicines with their own money and go to the clinic with the medicines. There is also a kind of dispensary in SDPC's battalion, but without military medicine prioritize the treatment of soldiers. (Source: KNAHR)

Unfair Levies and Taxes

On January 18, 2000, Daw Tacha villager, Maw Ei, 31, left from Loikaw to transported 46 sacks of rice by truck to sell in Daw Tamadu, Deemaw Soe Township. However, Daw Tamadu based IB 72, led by Maj. Maung Maung Soe, seized all his rice when he was arrived there on January 18. He was ordered to go back and get a recommendation letter from his village head. Afterwards, he came back to the military base with his village head's recommendation on January 25. Yet Maj. Maung Maung Soe refused to return his rice and told him to pay 18,000 kyat in cash or 6 sacks of rice or to bring two big pigs if he wanted the rice returned. (Source: KNAHR)

Labour Situation in Karenni State

Exploitation of Miners

Mawchi mine was the biggest wolfram and tin mine until the Second World War. It is situated in District 2 of Karenni. The mine was nationalized during the BSPP rule. People continue to work in the mine in hazardous conditions. The equipment used today is the same as that of 50 years ago when the British managed the mine. People are often forced to stop work due to ill health. The miners are paid by the amount of mineral they mine. The Tungsten Mine owners in Mawchi have been forbidden to sell their output products to outside dealers by the SPDC troops stationed there. They are being forced to sell to the military instead. The troops only pay them 40 kyat per 1.65 kg, although they could make 200 kyat per 1.65 kg at an outside market. The people have been encouraged to work by being promised the official rate. They can barely manage to live on the price they receive, one kilo of poor quality rice costs 90 kyats. (Source: KNAHR)

Destruction of Property and livestock

Villages, houses, and fields burned or destroyed by army

On January 5, 2000 a column of troops from LIB 516 arrived in Gay Loe village, Lopwako District and set fire to the village. Forty houses were burned to the ground. Many properties and 13 pigs belonging to the villagers were appropriated by the Burmese troops for themselves. (Source: KNAHR)

On January 21, 2000, troops from LIB 516 entered Kawkar Dawko village and immediately set fire to the village. The school and church were burned to the ground. All villagers narrowly escaped before the troops got into the village. The troops then continued to Gaylo village on the same day and set fire to the village. (Source: KNAHR)

During the months of March and April 2000, Ninety-six villages in Lopwako province were burnt during Burmese military operations. All villagers went into hiding in the jungle and are struggling for daily survival. Among the 96 villages are the following 3:

- On March 20 a unit of SPDC troops from LIB 428, penetrated to Bukoe village, Lopwako Province and burned three hideout houses owned by Maw Dithu, Karmah and Vicpwah.
- On April 8 a combined column of LIB 428, 516 and 518, entered Ywapho village, Lopwako Province and burned the village without warning. About 195 houses were completely burnt to the ground. Over 535 villagers narrowly escaped and ran into the jungle.
- On April 10, the same combined column marched to Kathokee village and burned another 121 houses. Over 516 innocent villagers became homeless and scattered into the forests. The Burmese troops then fortified the village and looted the villagers' possessions. The villagers moved to the forest to avoid the Burmese troops. (Source: KNAHR, SHRF)

Looting and destruction of property by army

On January 13, 2000, about 50 well-armed troops from IB 72 led by Maj. Maung Maung Soe entered Daw Kauk village of Deemaw Soe Township at noon. They forced all villagers to vacate their homes, rounded them up, and then proceeded to loot silver coins, cooking pots, clothes and other valuable things that they found in the houses. None of the villagers dared to plead with the troops to return their belongings. (Source: KNAHR)

On April 5, 2000, a villager of Galo, named Naw Mu Htoo, age 45, encountered SPDC troops on her way to Yawtakar village for her younger brother's marriage engagement. The troops searched her and took one gold ring, one gold bracelet and 20,000 kyat from her. All these goods were dowries to be offered to her brother's fiancé. (Source: KNAHR)

On April 17, 2000, a column of troops from LIB 516 and 248 led by Maj. Soe Maung Oo approached Gagawpeh village, Lopwako province, and confiscated 24 buckets of salt, 46 baskets of rice, 77 chickens, 6 pigs and medicine worth 35,000 kyat from the village. (Source: KNAHR)

Restrictions on access to supplies and on cultivation

Throughout Karenni State in the year 2000, people were tightly restricted by military authorities in the transport of consumer commodities such as rice, cooking oil, salt and dry cell batteries from one city to another. (Source: KNAHR)

5.7 Situation in Magwe Division**Situation in Natmauk, Magwe Division**

As of August 2000, in conjunction with private businessmen, the Natmauk authorities were exploiting peanut cultivators. The Myawaddy Bank was supposed to be giving agricultural loans at 1.2% interest to the cultivators in Natmauk through the township authorities. However, the loans were not given in cash. Through an arrangement made by the township authorities and private businessmen, even though the season is not appropriate, the stipulation made is that farmers must buy 6 baskets of seed per acre of land on which groundnut is to be cultivated at kyats 1200 per basket, cash down. The quality of the seed is inferior and unfit for cultivation and fetches a price of only kyats 700. Thus the cultivator loses kyats 500 on every basket. There are one thousand seven hundred and sixty one acres of groundnut cultivation so loss to these cultivators totals approximately kyats 5,283,000. The loans and interest have to be repaid in cash. (Source: NLD)

5.8 Situation in Mon State***Unfair Levies and Taxes*****Taxes for dry season crops in Mudon and Kyaikmayaw Townships**

Although local authorities have not asked the farmers in Mudon and Kyaikmayaw Townships who grow the dry season paddy crop to sell their paddy at low price, the farmers have had to pay various types of tax to the authorities in order to get permission for growing crops, for accessing available water sources, and to get petrol oil and other necessities. These tax payments, which must be paid in cash to the authorities, are in fact equal to the paddy tax given after the production of rainy or wet season crop.

In the southern parts of these townships, the government has also encouraged farmers and their own soldiers to cultivate both dry and wet season crops for more paddy production in Burma. For traditional farmers, who grow only a rainy season crop, it is quite difficult to add another dry season growing project with their limited time. In addition, these farmers are unable to get available water sources and facilities such as water pumps and generators with which to irrigate and fertilize. Therefore, many traditional farmers have not participated in the growing of a dry season crop. Only a number of farmers, less than 10% of the total, in Mudon and Kyaikmayaw township areas, whose farms are near government water distribution canals or near the river and streams have grown dry seasonal crops by bringing water from those possible water sources. In order to get water or to get permission to grow the crops, the farmers have to pay various type of tax to the authorities.

When a farmer asks for permission to grow dry season paddy crops, they are required to pay the local village authorities a tax of 200 kyat per acre and another 200 kyat per acre to the Township authorities. Then the farmers have to pay 200 kyat per acre to the local military battalion and 150 kyat to the paddy-buying committee. Additionally, when the farmers ask permission to obtain water from government water distribution canals, they also have to pay 200-1000 kyat per acre. Therefore, a farmer has to pay 1,000-1500 kyat per acre to government authorities in order to complete all the processes of farming for the dry season crop. Although the government has declared that they support farmers who grow dry season crops with petrol oil and fertilizers, they farmers do not receive these facilities from the government, but instead must buy them from farmers. In actuality the government departments send these essential supplies to the Township authorities and the authorities then proceed to sell them to farmers in private markets, and the farmers resell at a similar price. Thus, a farmer who owns about 5 acres of land loses approximately 20,000-30,000 kyat every year in buying fertilizers and petrol at high resell price.

In some areas, if the government isn't happy with the crops being grown, such as sesame, peanut, corn and others, they order these crops to be uprooted, and replaced with a dry season paddy crop. At the beginning of 1999, such problems also occurred in Kyaikmayaw Township farms and the farmers were forced to change their crops to dry season paddy crop and abandon their traditional agricultural methods. (Source: Mon Unity League)

In Mudon and Kyaikmayaw Townships the government has been encouraging farmers to grow dry season paddy crops. Only about 10% of the farmers in these areas are able to get access to the required irrigation for a dry season paddy crop. Local authorities have not set a quota of these dry season crops to be sold at low prices to them, but the farmers have to pay various types of tax es. For permission to grow the dry season paddy crop, farmers have to pay local village authorities a tax of 200 kyats per acre and another 200 kyats per acre to Township authorities. Then the farmers have to pay 200 kyat per acre to the local military battalion and 150 kyat to the paddy-buying committee. In addition, when farmers ask permission to get water from government water distribution canals, they also must pay 200-1000 kyat per acre. Therefore, a farmer has to pay 1,000 – 1,500 kyats per acre to government authorities in permission taxes before the costs of the crop. The SPDC has declared they would support farmers who grow dry season crops with petrol oil and fertilizers, yet the farmers are required to buy these things from other farmers. (The government departments do, in fact, send these items to Township authorities, but these authorities sell them to farmers in private markets.) Thus, farmers who own around 5 acres of land also lose about 20, 000- 30, 000 kyats every year in buying fertilizers and petrol at high prices. (Source: HURFOM)

Taxes along the ThanbyuZayat to Three Pagoda Pass Road

Passengers traveling along the ThanbyuZayat to Three Pagoda Pass Road are required to pay various types of taxes to the many SPDC military outposts located along the road, usually at least 1,000 kyats in total per passenger. Yet even after paying these taxes, the passengers are still at risk of being taken as porters or having their luggage looted by the soldiers. Therefore, many passengers are afraid to travel the length of this road. (Source: HURFOM)

Fund Collection for Road which was built with forced labor

In January 2000 an officer from the SPDC's border area development program (BADP), Lt. Col. Myint Aye went to southern Mon State and in a meeting with villagers explained them that the government had plans to build a more proper road to connect Hangan and Khawza villages and that all villages which were on the motor road would be required to help the government. (see chapter on forced labor. p.)The Ye Township authorities and LIB No. 299 took responsibility to build the motor road. Then, in order to raise funds for the road, the authorities collected 2, 400 kyat fund from every household from over 2,000 households in 7 Mon villages. From the collection, the authorities received nearly 5 million kyat but they only gave back about 2.5 million kyat to the village headmen for the road construction. Then, after the road was being built with the forced labor of the villagers from the 7 villages, the budget was found to be insufficient, and the villagers were told by the army commanders to again raise funds. The village headmen had no choice but to collect funds again from their own villages, at a rate of 100-500 kyat per household. (Source: HURFOM)

On November 3, 2000, Let. Colonel Ohn Lwin from LIB 61 asked Major Soe Aung to collect a road renovation fund from the whole Ye township. LIB 61 collected 8.9 million in total from the following villages:

Village name Amount

- (1) Ka-Paw 700000 kyat
 - (2) Lai-Thon 700000 kyat
 - (3) Pa Lit 300000 kyat
 - (4) Ka Sai 500000 kyat
 - (5) Ka Swal 250000 kyat
 - (6) Pop Htaw 700000 kyat
 - (7) Kyun Taw 300000 kyat
 - (8) Thal Chaung 700000 kyat
 - (9) Kyan Toe 650000 kyat
 - (10) Pain-Nel-Taw 550000 kyat
 - (11) Wael-Htaw-Chan 250000 kyat
 - (12) Soan-Pa-Rite 000000 kyat
 - (13) Kyain Taw 300000 kyat
 - (14) Wae Baw 400000 kyat
 - (15) Kaw-Ka-Laing 150000 kyat
 - (16) Than-Ma-Gae 700000 kyat
 - (17) Too Myaung 600000 kyat
 - (18) Dike-Ka-Tai 150000 kyat
- (Source: Yoma3)

Fund Collections for Education Facilities and Student Sports in Mon State

Since the SPDC has such a small budget to support the promotion of education in the whole country, it has adopted a "self-help" policy in which their subordinate administrative bodies are responsible for creating funds for their own projects. Since 1998, Township authorities in Mon State have been collected funds for school facilities without any support from the government. At the beginning of June 2000, the Mon State PDC authorities instructed Paung Township to collect 12 million kyats in funds from the civilians to spend in buying computer systems and other facilities for the schools in the township. The PDC authorities planned to install 5-10 computer systems in each school, at the cost of 500,000 kyat per computer. Township officials and village headmen were instructed to collect the funds according to each family's financial situation. Small goods shops were made to pay from 500 kyat to 1, 500 kyats, bigger shops and stores had to pay 2, 000 to 4, 000 kyat for one shop. Gold shops, car and motorcycles repair services and other service businesses had to pay about 5, 000 to 10, 000 kyat. Even the trishaw owners and day-labourers were required to give 500 – 1, 000 kyat. In rural villages the authorities collected 500 kyat from every household, and 1,000 -2,000 kyats from small rural shops. The village headmen also collected 5, 000 to 10, 000 kyat from paddy-husking mills. In second week of June, some paddy-husking mills were late in giving the money for this fund, and the authorities responded by ordering the mills to be shut down until the requested amount had been paid by the owners. Within two months, June and July, Mon State PDC authorities were able to collect the required 12 million. They spent 11 million kyat for buying computer systems and other facilities, and 1 million kyat was given to the Mon State Sport Committee, to celebrate Students' Sports in Moulmein in December 2000. (Source: HURFOM)

Tax collection from rubber plantation owners

No. 4 Central Military Training School which is based near Thanbyuzayat town collects a monthly tax from local farmers at the rate of 250 kyat per acre. These farmers are the owners of about 500 acres of rubber plantations near the school, and are therefore required to pay a tax of 3, 000 kyat per acre every year. IB 32, based in in Thanbyuzayat town, also collects a similar tax from the 2, 000 acres of rubber plantations in the western part of the township. IB 32 also buys rubber sheets from the farmers at low prices and then re-sells the rubber at the market price. (Source: HURFOM)

Merchants forced to buy magazine from Immigration Department

In January 2000, the Burmese immigration department in Thanphyuzayatt township, Mon state, under control of the SPDC, forced every merchant in the township to buy their magazine. If the merchants, for whatever reason, did not purchase the magazine, they were punished by the immigration department. The department punished merchants by withholding their ID cards and withholding permission to journey. (Source: THRF)

Villagers forced to pay for Buddhist Ceremony

In October 2000 local SPDC authorities held a celebration for the completion of the construction of a 'sein phu', a bud like ornament on the vane of a pagoda. It was reported that SPDC Secretary 1, Lt Gen. Khin Nyunt would attend the ceremony. For the ceremony, 42 villages in Mudon township, Mon State were forced to pay from 50 kyats to 200 kyats per household. Each village was required to pay a total of 105,000 kyats. In addition, every village was ordered to send 10 men as USDA strong men and was required to buy uniforms for the ten men. At 550 kyats per uniform, the 42 villages spent approximately 231,000 kyats. (Source: Yoma3)

Villagers pay for Closing Ceremony of Literacy Training

On October 8, 2000, the Paung Township PDC collected over 150 kyats per household from the 670 households in Paung town for the closing ceremony of a 2 month literacy training. The training was given by the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) of Moe-nine, Paung township, and had been completed by only 30 participants. Although the villagers had paid for the closing ceremony, they weren't invited. (Source: HURFOM)

Villagers forced to pay for Women's Welfare Association training

On September 2, 2000, Women's Welfare Association opened a training that including sewing, decoration, and baking cakes. For the training costs, the Township PDC demanded 30, 000 kyat from each block in Paung town, and the trainees also had to pay 1000 kyats per person for entrance. Moreover, township PDC extorted money 50 kyats per family respectively. (Source: HURFOM)

Villagers Pay for army walkie-talkies

On September 26, 2000, LIB No. 299 based in the southern part of Ye Township, ordered each Mon village in the area to collect between 10,000-30,000 kyat in order to buy walkie-talkies for each village. They gave this order to nearly 10 villages in which they had firm control and said the walkie-talkies would be used to maintain the security of the villages by having regular radio contact with the nearest military battalion and reporting the conditions of the villages to SPDC authorities and the army. The amount collected depended on the size of the village, the larger villages paying more and the smaller villages paying less. Every household in all the villages had to pay 200-500 kyat to the headmen. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced to contribute money for road construction in Paung Township

In July 2000, when Paung Township authorities were building a rough motor road, which is one mile long and connects Htan-pin-chaung and Ywa-ma-gyi villages, Paung Township authorities required about 5.5 million kyat to lay tar along the route. In order to raise this amount of money, the Township authorities collected 1, 500 kyat from each house in the village, and 400 kyat per acre from each farmer in the township. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced donation for bridge building in Paung Township

On May 15, 2000, Paung township PDC authorities instructed the Yin-Ngein village headman to collect 5 million kyat for the construction of a bridge across the Yin-Ngein river near Kyone-hor village. Farmers in Yin-ngein village area were then forced to contribute 250 kyat per acre of land that they farmed. (Source: HURFOM)

Monthly taxes for "administrative funds" in Paung township

In Paung Township, 100 kyats per household is collected monthly from the township authorities for an "administrative fund." In general, the 3 million kyat that is collected monthly from the township people is used to cover administrative costs, yet the authorities are known for their corruption, and as they are able to collect funds without giving proper reasons, some Town section headmen in Paung Town also collect money from people as they like. For example, the authorities of Moe-naing section, Paung Township collect 150 kyat per household (of 670 households) monthly for their own expenses.(Source: HURFOM)

In August 2000, Pan-gone village headmen of Paung township collected 300-500 kyat per household from the 800 houses in the village. The 260, 000 kyat which they received was pocketed by the authorities. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced to contribute for development projects in Chaung-zon Township

In May 2000, Mon State PDC ordered Chaung-zon Township authorities to implement self-improvement development projects such as the building of roads. On May 5, about 11 AM, the Township authorities called a meeting with all village headmen in the whole administrative area and explained that they would be responsible to collect all funds necessary for the required "self-improvement" projects in their areas. He further explained that if a road was to be built between 2 villages, that both of the concerned villages would be responsible for all costs. On May 15, the village headmen of Bo-net and That-kaw villages were ordered to build a new road to connect the two villages, which would cost about 7.5 million kyat. There are approximately 1, 500 households in these villages, and each of them were ordered to give 5, 000 kyat. Yet nearly 80% of the villagers could not afford to pay the 5, 000 kyat within one month. In general, the villagers in the remote areas of Chaung-zon Township are quite poor and most of them are farmers. When the village headmen were unable to get the set amount of money from the villagers, they were threatened with dismissal by the Township authorities. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced Collection for construction of field hospital in Ye township

On February 17, 2000, for the construction of a field hospital under the name of the border development program, (MPBANDRA) which continued in Kyaung-ywa village, Ye township, IB61 demanded that the villagers provide another 235,000 kyats. (The construction had begun in 1999, and 500 kyats had already been collected per village.) Kyaung-ywa village was ordered to provide 80,000 kyats and the remainder was ordered to be provided by the 17 villages in the surrounding 4 village tracts, with the larger villages contributing 13,500 kyat and the smaller villages 5,500 kyats. The village headmen in all villages were ordered to take responsibility to collect these funds and send them to IB No. 61 military outpost in Kyaung-ywa by February 28. (Source: HURFOM)

"Porter fee" collection in Ye Township

Local villagers in Ye Township are required to pay monthly porter fees to IB No. 61, LIB No. 343 and LIB No. 299, which are based in and around Ye town. For the cold and dry season offensives from October to May, the request of porter fees increases and these are called "offensives porter fees". Generally, the villagers in Ye Township have to pay about 200-500 kyat per household per month in porter fees to the concerned military battalions, but in the special situation when the battalions asked for offensives porter fees, each household has to pay 500 – 1, 000 kyat. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced contribution for military training school construction

On May 4, 2000, under the name of a border development project, the Thannbyuzayat authorities and army collect a huge amount of fund from the populace for the planned construction of a military middle school by the No. 4 Military Training School. The authorities ordered town section leaders and village headmen to collect funding for the construction from civilians and shops in town and villages. Every household and shop was required to contribute 1, 000 – 1, 500 kyat, depending on the size of shops. Additionally, the authorities collected 1, 000 kyat from every household in the two villages, Wae-kalee

and Wae-rat, which are close to the place where the new school would be built. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced Contribution for school computer systems

In May and June 2000, the Education Ministry instructed Thanbyuzayat Township authorities to equip some village high school under the administration of Township with computer systems and other facilities. In one case, on June 21, according to instruction from Township PDC authorities, Karoat-pi village chairman, Nai Aung Shein, called a meeting with the whole village and told the 500 villagers about the government's order to equip the schools with computer systems, and that in order to equip local high schools with 10 computers, about 3.5 million kyat needed to be raised. After the meeting, the village chairman and committee members collected 2000- 4000 kyat per household, depending on the economic conditions of each household. Even poor families were required to contribute 2000 kyat. A June 30 deadline was set for the villagers for the paying of the mandatory contribution. As Karoat-pi village has about 1,000 households, village authorities received 3.6 million kyat in June. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced Contribution towards construction of Dharma Center in Moulemein

In July 2000, in order to raise 20 million kyat for the construction of a Buddhist Dhama Centre in Moulmein, the capital of Mon State, under the supervision of Mon State Police Department, the police in every township in Mon State collected funds from civilians. All police department in Mudon Township collected 500 – 1500 kyat from every truck or car owner in the township area, and 500 – 2000 kyats from every shop in the township, depending on shop size. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced Contribution towards 'Mon State Day'

Prior to the "Mon State Day" ceremony, which was held by the Mudon Township PDC authorities in Mudon town on March 29 2000, the authorities had collected funds in all town and villages in the township area. The authorities collected 200 kyat from the over 25,000 households in the township area and received over 5 million kyat. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced contribution for USDA training

In March 2000, when Mudon Township SPDC authorities planned to provide a "Management and Administrative Training" to USDA members in Mudon Township, the authorities collected 3,500 kyat from each village in the township. As there are about 42 villages in the township, the authorities received nearly 150,000 kyat in total. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced Contribution for high school extension in Mudon township

In March 2000, when Mudon Township authorities planned to build an extension to the high school in Kalort-tort village, village headmen were ordered to collect about 2 million kyat from the 4 local villagers in Kalort-tort village tract. The authorities and village headmen collected 400- 800 kyats per family, depending on each household's economic conditions. However the funding was still not enough for the school building project, and authorities then demanded money from Kamawet village tract. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced Contribution for football match in Chaungzon Township

In July 2000, SPDC's Chaungzon township authorities collected about 2 million kyat for a Township football match, which was to be celebrated after rainy season. Township authorities ordered the respective village headmen of the 60 villages in the township to collect 100 kyat from each household in their own villages. There are an estimated 20,000 households in the township. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced to buy boxing tickets, calendars from police force

In September 2000, a combined force of People's Police and Motor Vehicle Police extorted money from passing traffic in Mudon and Thanphyuzayat townships, Mon State. Vehicles traveling to and from Moulmein and Thanphyuzayat were required to purchase the Police Forces' boxing tickets, at 500 kyats per ticket, to be allowed to pass police check points. Those who failed to buy the ticket were stopped and temporarily detained at the check points until they bought the tickets. Village headmen, business and shop owners, vendors, and other merchants were also required to buy the tickets at 500 to 800 kyats per ticket. Then on September 20, 2000, the Police forces from Mon state forced people to buy their calendars at 200 kyats per calendar. (Source: Yoma3)

Money for school

In June 2000, Ngan, Kaw Done, Kaw Panaw, and other villages in Kyaikmayaw township, Mon State were asked to pay 600 kyats per household for the renovation of Kaw Thihe middle school. LIB 209 which is stationed in township, took charge in collecting the money. The battalion explained that it planned to use the money for the renovation of the school. However, the villagers complained that they didn't see any renovation activities for the school and doubted that the army would use it as it said. (Source: Yoma3)

On October 15, 2000, Zin-kyaik village PDC, in Paung township, collected 100 kyats per family from the villagers, gaining over 500, 000 kyats. The villagers were not told what they were being required to pay for. (Source: HURFOM)

Monthly Tax for SPDC authorities in Paung Township

SPDC local authorities collect 100 kyats per family every month from the villagers of Thabyuchaung village, and Paung town. The Moe-nine village PDC led by chairman U Kyaw Aye, and his partners U Ngwe Hlaing and U Chit Ngwe also receive over 65, 000 kyats every month in taxes from the village people. The 1,500 households of Kada section in Paung town are also required to pay 250 kyats per household per month. These local SPDC authorities do not spent the raised funds on social welfare, but distribute the money among themselves every month. (Source: HURFOM)

Villagers made to pay for football match that never happened

On September 20, 2000, Paung township PDC demanded 100 kyats from every household in Paung town to hold a football match between the Moe-Nine section football team and the Ottadar village soccer club. Yet as of December 30, 2000 there had been no such competition. In addition, Paung Township PDC Chairman U Kyaw Aye told the players they had to spend their own money for the uniforms and the game if they wanted to hold the match. The money given by the villagers went only into the personal pockets of the township PDC. (Source: HURFOM)

Money for Village Clinic in Paung Township

On October 26, 2000, SPDC local authorities demanded 1,000 kyats per household and 2,000 kyats from rice-mill owners from the people of Pan-koung village, Paung township. From the 82 households they obtained over 1, 000, 000 kyats. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced sale of crops

In Mon State, there are 10 Townships. 3 of these townships; Mudon, Chaung-zon and Paung, were instructed by Mon State PDC authorities to sell 15-16 baskets of paddy (*about 750 pounds in estimation*) per acre to the nearest or designated paddy-buying centers, and the remaining township were ordered to sell 10-12 baskets of paddy per acre. As preparation to get full set amounts of paddy from the local farmers, the authorities have instructed the concerned paddy-buying teams in every township and village tract to provide advance payment to farmers. By giving advance payment to farmers, the authorities forced farmers to sign a contract and give promise that they agreed to sell the set amount of paddy to center after they harvested their crops. (See below) The advance payment given to the farmers was 300-350 kyat per basket of paddy while the price in the market was 800-1000 kyat per basket. However, after harvest season, the paddy price in Burma including Mon State dropped to 700 kyat per basket and the authorities re-instructed that they would pay only 250 kyat per basket. Then, the authorities ordered again that the farmers must make up the difference by either selling more paddy to the authorities, or else by paying the authorities 600-700 kyats per basket according to the market price. In Paung Township, the price for paddy dropped to 600 kyats per basket in December 2000, putting the farmers in serious trouble. Farmers in Mon State are generally only able to produce 25-50 baskets of paddy per acre, and they need to spend about 2,000 to 3,000 kyats per acre for labor hiring costs, fertilizer, and other. After the forced sale to the authorities, they have very little paddy left for the survival of their families. On December 12, a Mon farmer family with 9 members from Zin-kyaik village, Paung Township, abandoned their lands and the head of the family, Nai Kyaw Win (47 Years old), explained his situation to HURFOM:

"I lived in Zin-kyaik village, a big Mon village in the northern part of Paung township, situated on Mottama – Rangoon motor road. Like last year, the Paung Township authorities told us farmers that we needed to sell about 15-16 baskets of paddy per acre to designated paddy buying centers.....As the authorities thought my village could produce a good amount of paddy, I and the other farmers in my village were instructed to sell 16 baskets. But because of flooding and insects, my crop production was reduced, and I reaped only 30 baskets of paddy (per acre) in average from my farm. Then, because I had to sell 16 baskets of paddy to government, I was left with nothing."

"After I paid for labor and fertilizer costs, I failed to sell the set amount of paddy to the paddy-buying center according to the request of the authorities. So the authorities threatened me with arrest, and I had to sell my farm. As many farmers have become disillusioned with paddy farming, land prices are quite low. Anyhow, since I had to sell the set amount of paddy or be arrested I sold my farm, at 40,000 kyat per acre. With this money I paid all my debt and then paid the authorities. Then I left my village."

Farmers forced to sign government contracts

In June and July 2000, SPDC Township authorities in Mon State enforced a plan to force the local farmers in every township to sell the set amount of paddy to respective government paddy-buying centers. This plan had been started in November and December of 1999, when these farmers had been forced to sign contracts agreeing to sell their crops at low price, and the government authorities had given some advance payment. The villagers were then forced to renew these contracts for the year 2000, even though the plan had met with many difficulties in the 1999-2000 year. Many farmers had been unable to sell the agreed amount of paddy to the authorities due to weather conditions or other and so had been arrested by the authorities. On June 2 2000, an official from Ye Township's Paddy-buying Management Committee, U Htay Naing and his 10 policemen went to Duya village, about 20 kilometers northwest of Ye Town and summoned all farmers to meet them. The officials explained the government policy on purchasing paddy from farmers. They then gave advance payment to the farmers and forced the farmers to sign contracts agreeing to sell their paddy at low prices to authorities' designated paddy-buying centers after their crops were harvested in November and December 2000. This process of forcible purchasing of paddy took place in the village for three days until the authorities moved on to An-din village on June 5. Here they forced the local farmers to accept the same advance payment and sign the same contracts. Other townships such as Chaung-zone, Mudon, Paung and Thanbyuzayat also enforced this plan in July. Depending on land quality and the maximum estimated paddy crop production in each township, the authorities also defined the set amount of paddy to be sold for one acre of land. This was set at 10 baskets per acre in Ye township (one basket is about 30 kilograms weight) and 15 basket per acre in Mudon, Paung and Chaung-zone townships. In the contracts signed by the farmers, the farmers agreed to sell their paddy to the government paddy buying centers at the rate of only 350 kyat per basket, while one basket of paddy in the market sells for about 1, 000 to 1, 200 kyat per basket. The price paid by government's paddy-buying center is three times less than the market price. Therefore, when a farmer is ordered to sell 10 baskets of paddy per acre he can only get 3, 500 kyat in total for one acre. The farmers are given 1, 000 – 1, 500 kyat in advance payment which is nearly half the cash amount they will get after selling the paddy to the officials. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced sale of rubber to army from rubber plantation owners

In June 2000, SPDC IB 62 and the No. 5 Weapon Repair and Engineering Battalion based in Thanbyuzayat and Mudon Townships, Mon State ordered every rubber plantation owner to sell about 70 pounds of rubber from each acre of land at a price of 50 kyat per pound, while the market price is about 80-100 kyat per pound. The authorities also gave the farmers the option of paying cash instead of selling their rubber - at a rate of 3,000 kyat per acre if the farmers didn't want to sell their rubber at the low price. In these townships, about five villages in the eastern part grow many hundreds of acres of rubber along the Mudon – Chaungtit-kwa road and about 10 villages in the southern part of the township grow over 3, 000 acres of rubber along the road between Mudon and Thanbyuzayat towns. (Source: HURFOM)

Forced to sell paddy quota in Chaung Sone Township

The farmers from Chaung Sone township were required to sell 15 baskets of rice to the government at the fixed price, which is always much lower than the usual market price. The government pays only 340 kyats for a basket. Because of the flood in the rainy season,

the farmers' production was very low. Therefore, the farmers faced much difficulty to sell the obligatory amount to the government. Ignoring the flood result, the government's agriculture department insisted that the farmers meet their obligation and warned that those who failed would be given severe penalties. (Source: Yoma3)

From April 20 to May 10, 2000, Chuang-zone Township authorities of Mon State, demanded that farmers from Bo-net, Thet-kaw, Ka-nyor and Mudun villages who had failed to sell their set amount of paddy complete their duty, and deadlines were set. After the deadline, some of the farmers who still could not manage to sell their entire quota to the authorities were arrested and detained in the Chaung-zone police station. Their families were then forced to pay 1, 500 kyat in ransom to the authorities to bring their husbands back to home and promise to sell all the paddy from the quota. In most cases, the farmers really had no extra paddy at their houses and were forced sell their belongings or parts of their land in order to buy substitute paddy from markets at high price and sell it to the government paddy-buying centers at low price. As a result of these unfair demands, many farmers have been forced to abandon their lands and seek work in areas which they have no skill, or send some of their family members to Thailand to seek jobs and send money to the remaining families for survival. (Source: HURFOM)

Situation for Farmers in Ye Township

In January 2000, paddy- purchasing committee members and commanders from LB# 61, 106, 343 bought the summer paddy in the Ye Township, Mon State. They bought from both bad and good fields. They forced farmers to sell 12 baskets per acre from good fields, and 8 baskets per acre from bad fields. They (military) paid 400 kyat per basket, while the price in the markets was about 800 kyat per basket. Some farmers with low paddy production due to weather, faced many problems as farmers who can't sell the paddy requirement in full to the military are normally subjected to arrest, torture and detention. They are not released unless they are to able fullfil their paddy quota to the authorities. The authorities also issued warning orders to the farmers to make sure they had sold their quota of paddy to the centers, and threatened the use of force if the quota was not met. In many cases they seized fields from farmers who had not met the quota. 150 acres was seized from 18 farmers in Zayya Quarter, including the following 3 elderly farmers:

- (1) 32 acres were seized from U Htun Yin, age 65
- (2) 34 acres were seized from U Aung Min, age 70
- (3) 26 acres were seized from U Ba Itt, age 70 (Source: THRF)

Confiscation of land

In February 2000 SPDC's LIB No. 343 confiscated about 100 acres of land from 13 betel-nut and rubber plantations owned by Mon farmers of Aru-taung and Kundo villages, Ye township. The new confiscated lands were owned by (1) Nai Kun Ba, (2) Nai Myo Lwin, (3) Nai Nyan Thein, (4) Nai Na, (5) Nai Dar, (6) Nai Thar, (7); Nai Aung Shein, (8) Nai Taung Aye, (9) Mi Kin, (10) Nai Tee, (11) Nai Pan Tin, (12) Nai Khin Aung and (13) Nai Yeah. According to the farmers' estimation, the total worth of these plantations is about 9.75 million kyats. No compensation was given to the farmers. In September 1999, the battalion had confiscated over 800 acres of plantations in the area without compensation, and then had sold some of the fruit for military profit and forced the local villagers to clear some of

the confiscated land for the building of military barracks and training grounds. As the order for the land confiscation had come from the Southeast Military Command based in Moulmein, 97 farmers, who had lost the land, wrote a letter to the Southeast Military Command and requested compensation. They requested 1) compensation costs for their land, or 2) if the army did not agree to give compensation costs, to give them equal space of land to create new plantations, or 3) if the army could not allow the above two requests, to allow them to harvest from the plantations for three years. In response to the letter, a strategic commander, Col. Cho Tun Aung called a meeting with the farmers on January 31, 2000. In the meeting, the commander explained that due to urgent requirement by the army, they had no choice but to confiscate these lands and that the army would allow the farmers to harvest their fruits for three years if their plantations weren't cleared. Yet the commander also imposed severe restrictions on the farmers returning to their land, and threatened that if the farmers failed to meet with these restrictions, such as the requirement to purchase permission letters, that the plantation owners would be arrested and sentenced according to law. Then Maj. Lin Oo of LIB 343 further instructed that if the farmers were given permission to harvest for 3 years, that they would be required to give the battalion ¼ of their harvest, in cash. Due to these restrictions, most farmers decided to not re-enter their plantation. Those who tried have faced various restrictions and delays by the army and authorities. As result, the villagers have totally abandoned their land. (Source: HURFOM)

At the beginning of 2000, LIB 299 confiscated about 15 acres of paddy cultivated farms from Koe-mile village, Ye Township. The villagers were then later forced to plant and harvest their former land. (Source: HURFOM)

Property Confiscated for pipeline project

On December 12, 2000, the Myaing-Galay natural gas refinery project of Pa-an, Karen State, which is a part of Kan-Pauk gas production project in Tenassarim division, confiscated the properties of villagers located along its operation areas. The project had not offered any compensation to the people as of February 2001. The project's pipeline is being laid through Mon and Karen states and all land and property located near the pipeline has been confiscated without any compensation. The houses, lands, paddy fields, and other properties of the following villagers from Thanbyuzayet Township, Mon State have been confiscated by the natural gas refinery project.

- (1) Daw Litt,
- (2) U Sone,
- (3) U Naing, and
- (4) U Naing Kyaw Ayes.

They are not given any compensation for their properties. (Source: Yoma3)

Plantations confiscated for new military camp in Ye Township

On November 6, 2000 Lt. Colonel Maung Maung, the commander of LIB 343, issued an order to seize 252 acres of plantation lands for the establishment of a security buffer zone for a new military camp which the battalion set up near Ar-ru-taung village, Ye- township, . The rubber and betel nut plantations that were seized were estimated to be worth in total over a hundred million kyats, yet no compensation was given.

Villager's name	Kind of plantation	Acres confiscated
(1) Nai Ha-dae- Mi Shin	Beetle nut & rubber	15 acres
(2) Nai Balasein- Mi Nyein	"	17 acres
(3) Nai Tar Mi Htwe Khin	"	19 acres
(4) Nai Hnin Shwe	"	10 acres
(5) Nai Pan Tin-Mi Chaw	"	10 acres
(6) Nai Khon Sein- Mi Kon Sed	"	9 acres
(7) Nai Ha lae_ Mi Htwe	Rubber	22 acres
(8) Nai Maung- Mi Yee	"	13 acres
(9) Mi Konta Dan	"	12 acres
(10) Nai Aung San- Mi Moe Nein	Beetle-nut	25 acres
(11) Nai Kyaw Aye-Mi Tong	"	8 acres
(12) Nai Kyawe-Mi Shan	"	8 acres
(13) Nai Chan- Mi Chaw Tin	"	8 acres
(14) Nai Kyi-Mi Tint	"	8 acres
(15) Mi Mu	"	8 acres
(16) Nai Se-Mi Chaw	Rubber	12 acres
(17) Nai Lee	Beetle-nut	15 acres
(18) Nai Toe-Mi Nhin Shwe	Rubber	8 acres
<i>Total acres confiscated from the eighteen owners</i>		<i>252 acres</i>
(Source: Yoma3)		

On November 12, 2000, 204 acres of rubber plantation were confiscated and then occupied by the No. (4) military training school under the command of Let. Colonel Tin Maung Myint. The military training school is located near Wae Galee village in Thanbyazayat township of Mon state. The commander said that the land would be used as a buffer zone for the heavy artillery training area. The plantation is approximately 91 million kyats. (Source: Yoma3)

Destruction of Property and livestock

Villages, houses, and fields burned or destroyed by army

In 2000, the Winphanon Dam Project was completed in Mudon Township, Mon State. As part of the project, canals were built through paddy fields belonging to villagers of Setthwal village. As a result, some farmers lost their paddy fields, but they did not receive any compensation from the government. Moreover, the house of U Chit Thein and Daw Toke was destroyed as a result of the project, without compensation. As a result of the project, 79 acres of paddy fields, belonging to 40 villagers were ruined including 14 acres of cultivated fields. The list of those paddy fields are as follows:

Name	Lost acres
1. Nai Ngwe	1
2. Nai Lyei	3
3. Mi Gaw	3
4. Nai Maung	2
5. Nai Shwe Khin	2
6. Nai Than	1

Deprivation of Livelihood

7. Nai Hewel	1
8. Nai One	3
9. Nai Rain	1
10. Nai Phink	1.5
11. Mi Ei Hla	1.5
12. Nai Nose	3
13. Daw Pone	1
14. Nai Poe Eim	3
15. Nai Pu	1
16. Mi Kyi	2
17. Nai Big	1
18. Nai Kyaw	1
19. Nai Byot	1
20. Nai Tall	1
21. Nai Shh	2
22. Nai Nyein	1
23. Nai Ba Took	2
24. Nai Shwe Thai	1
25. Nai Rhy	2
26. Mi Khah	1
27. Nai Kalar	1
28. Nai Thaung Shwe	1
29. Nai Ar Lu	1
30. Nai Yein	1
31. Nai Kin Khong	1
32. Nai Gate	1
33. Mi Yee	1.5
34. Nai Soke	1.5
35. Nai Htain	0.5
36. Nai Pho	3
37. Nai Soe	3
38. Hai Sook	2.5
39. Nai Thar Tat	3
40. Nai Rub	2

(Source: Yoma3)

Restrictions on cultivation

In April 2000 villagers in Yebyu Township, Mon State were prohibited from leaving their villages, even to work on their farms. This restriction came in retaliation to a Mon National Day celebration which had been held in Paun-Pin-Gwin village, Yebyu Township on February 20, 2000 and which had been attended by a Mon opposition group. Troops from LIB 410 , 273, and IB 25 were ordered to co-operate with each other to clear the area of rebels. The soldiers on patrol in these areas then took the liberty of looting the harvest from the villagers' farms and plantations, and selling them for their own profit. A Natkyisin villager explained, *"During April, we (the villagers) were ordered to not go to our rice-farms and fruit plantations. I owned a betel-nut plantation about 1 km. outside of the village, and I was unable to harvest my fruit. When the soldiers from LIB 273 came near*

our village they took our fruit, collected it all in one place and then brought it to Ye Town to sell. I lost about 20, 000 betel-nuts over 3 weeks which was equal to about 40, 000 kyat. This betel-nut plantation is the main income for my family and the Burmese soldiers looted nearly half of my fruit harvest. Before the end of April, I went to my plantation secretly and I saw that about 10 betel-nut trees had been cut to the ground. When the soldiers could not harvest the fruit, they cut the trees." The income of the villagers was seriously affected by this SPDC action. For some other farmers, fruit such as durian, limes and oranges became over-ripe and the farmers also lost money in this way. Some farmers attempted to go to their farms and plantations in secret in order to harvest, and many of them were captured and tortured, some even killed. (Source: HURFOM)

At the end of October 2000, LIB No.299, based in southern part of Ye Township, ordered all villages in the area to build fences around their villages by the first week of November. About 10 villages, small and large, such as Khaw-za, Kha-pya, Yin-ye, Yin-dein, Hangan, Kalort and Kaw-hlaing, were affected by this order. The order was given to prevent Mon armed groups from entering the villages at the end of the rainy season and asking for taxes and food. The villagers complained that building the fences would take time away from their farms during harvest season and that the fences would destroy some of the paddy fields outside the villages. They asked permission to build the fences after the harvest, but their request was denied. Some villagers that didn't have time to find building materials had to give money to the headmen or buy bamboo and wooden poles for the fences. In addition to fencing the villages, the army made some restrictions against the villagers. They prohibited all villagers from staying at their farms at night and from keeping extra foods in their farms. They also commanded that the villagers would be required to take permission letters from their village headman whenever they went to their farms or fruit plantations. They were threatened that if they did not have the required letters of permission that they could be accused of being rebel-supporters. Due to the various restrictions, the villagers have not been able to work as they like at their farms or they have less time to work there. (Source: HURFOM)

5.9 Situation in Pegu Division

The year 2000 saw an increase of poverty in Pegu city and the villages in the Pegu township area due to the many various illegal tax collections and food-shortage problems. Pegu is the capital city of Pegu Division and has a population of over 20, 000. In Pegu township, unemployment has risen in 2000. Many people who have been seeking to earn a living as day laborers have only been able to raise an income of about 150 – 200 kyat per day. This income is not enough to support them to buy rice, other supplement foods and clothes for their families. In addition, all the prices of rice and daily commodities have risen and are quite expensive. Because of the government's continuous tax collection and mismanagement in administration, the people in the entirety of Pegu township have faced increased difficulty in finding a regular income and enough foods for their daily meals. (Source: HURFOM)

Situation in Oke-Pho Township

Oke-pho township is comprised of 53 village tracts, and 6 wards in the town itself. The population is approximately 120,000. Due to the deteriorating conditions in every sector (social, health, wealth and education) people's morale and spirits are very low. The cultivator has to sell a compulsory quota of paddy at the rate of 12 baskets per acre to the authorities at one-third the market price; then the sum of kyats 7/- to 10/- per basket is deducted allegedly for comprehensive development. A paper the size of one's palm is passed off as "The cultivator's book" for kyats 50/-. As rations for the Tatmadaw, every cultivator has to give 2 pyis (unit of grain measure equivalent to one sixteenth of a basket) of mung beans. This totals to 1500 baskets of mung beans and in terms of cash equates to forty five hundred thousand kyats. For religious causes collections of ten to thirty kyats are continuously collected. Off and on forced labor has to be supplied. When one is not able to supply labor as demanded, the penalty is kyats 200/- to 500/- per person. Those living in the wards of the town itself too have had to pay money in a variety of ways. The town development council has changed the system of six-monthly taxes to four-monthly payments and the tax has been increased three times. kyats 200/- per meter box is charged as inspection cost and another kyats 200/- per box is charged to pay for cost of fuel to run the engine. For every complaint regarding break in electricity power a charge of kyats 50 - 200 has to be paid. In January 2000, State High Schools were closed for a month due to the extensive paint work and cleaning up for the visit of a VIP. Songs and dances had to be rehearsed and each student had to pay up to kyats one thousand to defray the cost of costumes for the actors. Because the wives of the VIPs would grace the occasion, roads had to be repaired, bushes and grass had to be cleared. Students and the community were forced to do all this at the expense of neglecting their own private businesses. (Source: NLD)

Unfair Levies and Taxes

New 'Free Tax' market

In July/August 2000, according to SPDC policy, the Pegu Township authorities created a "free tax market" in a place far from the city center and public buyers. After creation of this market, the authorities forced all small vendors to move to the new market. They had to abandon their former market places and move to new places where less buyers come and buy their groceries. (Source: HURFOM)

Monthly and Yearly Township taxes

As a monthly tax, the Township police department collects about 500 to 1, 000 kyat per household depending on the economic situation of each household. The police requests this tax from the civilian to cover all of their activities and departmental costs. Then in a yearly tax, the Township authorities collect 1, 000 – 5, 000 kyat from all shops or service providers. This tax is to cover all township expenses, and the funds are distributed to all departments. In addition, some departments collect their own taxes, separate from the tax collected by the township. For example, the forestry department collects a tax from wood traders and lumber sawing mills, of 5, 000 to 10, 000 kyats, depending on the size and earning capabilities of the traders and mills. (Source: HURFOM)

Taxes for Township Ceremonies

Additionally, the Township PDC also requires the people to pay for various types of ceremonies that are not related to the community's religious and other affairs. The ceremonies include welcoming of SPDC executive military leaders; meeting, seminars and conferences against NLD and other democratic oppositions; opening of new self-help roads and other activities. In each ceremony, the Township PDC requires a budget of some hundreds of thousands of kyat to cover all expenses. Whenever the PDC plans these kind of activities, they collect funds from every household. The villagers are even required to provide 50 to 100 kyat for each 'Anti-NLD' rally, and either attend these ceremonies or pay another 100 to 500 kyats. The people have no choice, they try to attend all such ceremonies to avoid payment. (Source: HURFOM)

Taxes for roads, security and fire prevention

In the building of "self-help" roads, the township people civilians have to provide their unpaid labor, take their own food and build the roads as ordered by the Township authorities. Families who fail to go and work on the roads have to pay 300 kyat per day. There is also a tax of 30 kyats per household which the authorities take, supposedly to hire security personnel for the railroad and to prevent fires. (Source: HURFOM)

Fund-raising for development projects

Whenever a development project is conducted in Pegu township, the government never allocates a complete budget and orders the Township to collect the remaining necessary funds from the township people. In July 2000, when SPDC ordered a public hospital to be built in Pegu city, each family had to provide about 50 - 500 kyat, depending on the family's economic conditions. (Source: HURFOM)

Tax for road construction

Village authorities are demanding from the cultivators in the village tracts of Sin-gaung, Kyun-gone, and Thin-man-gone (these are villages that are situated along the cart track between the townships of Oke-pho and Gyo-bin-gauk) money allegedly for the construction of a road to join the railway line at Thin-ban-gone village and the Rangoon to Prome road. Money demanded is:

5000 kyats for those owning agricultural land of five acres and above;

3000 kyats from those owning 3 to 5 acres;

2000 kyats from those owning 3 acres.

2500 to 3000 kyats from every household in the town.

Also we hear that there are plans to force the villages that lie to the east of the town from Chauk-tin-kwin to Gyo-ko-bin to pay for the improvement of the land at the rate of 500 kyats per acre and laborers to be forced to pay 500 to 1000 kyats per household. These villages are in the village tracts of Daung-sa-ba-kwin, Auk-kaing, and Gyo-ko-bin. (Source: NLD)

Wood Tax

There is a camp site at Hle-lan-koo village in Tharrawaddy township where people who go into the jungles to chop wood and bamboo have to pay levy per cartload. They are forced to pay 100 kyats to the Forest department; 15 kyats to the USDA, and 30 kyats to the education department. For teak and pyinkado logs and planks the compulsory levy is kyats 600 to 1000 to the Forest department. (Source: NLD)

Funds collected for nurses training

On January 28, 2000, township authorities in Pye township summoned the proprietors of private hospitals and surgeries to appear without fail and collected 50,000 kyats because they were short of funds for the nurses training school in the town. (Source: NLD)

Forced Sale of Crops

In Tharrawaddy and Oke-pho townships, "mung" bean cultivators are being forced to sign contracts by the purchasing authorities for compulsory sale of their crop at kyats 2000 per basket. Depending on the condition of the soil, two to three baskets of the crop is the expected quota for compulsory sale. In the open market the farmers can expect about kyats 3200 per basket so this forced sale will be a considerable loss for them. In Oke-pho township there are over 50,000 acres under mung bean cultivation. (Source: NLD)

5.10 Situation in Rangoon Division

Unfair levies and taxes

Farmers taxed for school that was never repaired

U Tin Myint, chairman of Kan-ma-la village in Kun-gyan-gon township, Rangoon Division, forced farmers to contribute kyats 100/- per acre of land alleging that the money would go towards the repair of the primary school building. The total number of acres is 2,909. The villagers were then forced to transport paddy husks for baking bricks, and then to knead the clay for the bricks. Yet U Tin Myint proceeded to pocket the money, repaired his own house and sold the bricks to others while the school went unprepared. As of August 2000, the children still attended school without proper shelter from the rain. (Source: NLD)

Bribes for agricultural loans in Kun-gyan-gon and Kauk-hmu townships

As of August 2000, the Agricultural Bank in Kun-gyan-gon township was not complying with regulations. Loans were being issued only to close associates, those who gave bribes and those useful to them. Farmers who defaulted in the previous year had to pay compound interest. At point of sale, a special collection was taken at the rate of kyats 5 per basket. This was under orders of the chairman of the township authority. There was also a demand of kyats 100/- for a farmer's book.

For the year 2000, agricultural loans at the rate of kyats 1000/- per acre were obtainable in Kauk-hmu township, Rangoon division. The limit is kyats 10,000/- for 10 acres. However those who have the right connections can get kyats 15,000/- (special production loan).

People who are unable to collect the loan because they are busy working in the fields can appoint another person in writing to withdraw their money. The penalty imposed by the agricultural bank for this is kyats 200/- per individual. Those who cannot produce a household card are not eligible for such loans unless they give a bribe of kyats 200/-. Those at the most disadvantage are those who continue to work the land that their parents had claimed as original settlers and bachelors and others who return to civilian life from monkhood even though they are genuine farmers but are not entitled to agricultural loans. (Source: NLD)

Confiscation of Land

Grazing land converted to agricultural land in Htan-ta-bin Township

According to statements made by ward and village authorities of Ye-pyu village tract (Bawle Island), Htan-ta-bin township, Rangoon Division, about a thousand acres of grazing land in Ba-le-gone-taw was given to two members of the Police force by orders from the chief Htan-ta-bin township police officer at the rate of a return of 7 baskets of paddy per acre. These two in turn have sub-let the lands at the rate of 11 baskets per acre and over 300 acres are under cultivation to this day.

The villagers of Aing-gyi, Aing-le, Taw-nyo, Kaw-hmu, Ta-khun-taing, Ye-phyu-kyaung-su, Ye-dwing-gone-oke-su from Ye-pyu village tract and the villagers of Ye dwin-gone, Paya-kyun and those from the Nyun-baung village tract graze their cows and buffaloes in this Bal-le-gone-taw. The authorities are aware that this has been demarcated as grazing ground, yet they have converted it into agricultural land, which is a loss to the owners of the livestock. If cattle and cows are found grazing on the crops the penalty to be imposed on the owners is 3 years imprisonment and a fine of kyats 3500. (Source: NLD)

Forced Sale of Crops

Situation in Paddy Purchasing Centers

The Rangoon Division Department of Trade in Agricultural Products has purchasing centers where cultivators have to bring compulsory quotas of 12 baskets per acre. In these centers, platform scales (katta) are used. Though the prescribed equivalent is 2 baskets to 92 lbs., the authorities vary it to 95 - 99 lbs. The scales are also not accurate and there are many deceitful methods to defraud the cultivators. Though there is no discoloration the paddy supplied is appraised as discolored and a reduction of 10 baskets for every 100 is made. Again another deduction of kyat 2.50 to 4 per basket is made even though the paddy supplied is free from dust, sand and stones. Even though the cultivators make representations to the higher authorities about these unfair practices no action is taken. These are experiences that they have to suffer every year. (Source: NLD)

Forced sale of "mung" beans

In Than-lyin, Kha-yan, Thone-gwa townships mung bean is cultivated as a second crop for the benefit of the farmer and his family after paddy has been harvested. This is not one of the items included in the government's projects so no assistance is given. However, this year the authorities have threatened the cultivators and are forcing them to sell to them at the rate of 2 baskets per acre at the price of kyats 2200 whereas in the open market the crop fetches kyats 2800. Many cultivator suffer in silence because of fear of illegal action against them. (Source: NLD)

SPDC authorities cheat the villagers out of their paid paddy quota

In mid 2000, U Thein Ngwe, chairman of Kya-kha-kon-lay SPDC village authority in Kun-ghan-gon township claimed that he would comply with the Agri-Trade requirements regarding "duty paddy". He proceeded to buy more than 1000 baskets of paddy from 17 farmers at the rate of 70,000 kyats per 100 baskets, saying this would go towards their paddy quota. Yet, after he took the paddy for his own profit, the villagers were told that they had not met "duty paddy" quota and would face prosecution under Section 406. Similarly the chairman of Hmawbi SPDC village authority in Kun-ghan-gon township misrepresented himself and took more than 1000 baskets of paddy from eleven farmers, including Ko Tin

Win and Ko Sein Win. He claimed he did this to meet the "duty paddy" quota for them with the Agri-trade department at the rate of kyats 70,000/- per 100 baskets. The township authorities charged the eleven farmers under Section 406 because they could not supply the quota. (Source: NLD)

Forced paddy sale in Kauk-hmu Township

In Kauk-hmu Township, there are no exceptions when it comes to the collection of duty paddy. Every farmer is included in the list and is compelled to sell his quota to the authorities under the terms and conditions fixed by them. Up to 13 baskets of paddy per acre cultivated is apportioned as duty paddy which must be sold to the authorities at a fixed price by which is much lower than the market price which causes heavy losses to the farmers. The Government pays the farmer at the rate of kyats 30,000 per 100 baskets. In the open market the nga-sein type of paddy fetches kyats 50,000/-. The farmers have to commit themselves in writing to sell at that rate of kyats 30,000/-. Those farmers who cannot fulfill the duty paddy quota are prosecuted under Section 406 of the Penal Code, and they suffer persecution. The worst predicament is for defaulters of the previous year. Even though the rate is fixed at kyats 30,000/-, the repayment rate applied is kyats 65000/- which is more than double the debt. (Source: NLD)

Situation of Labor

Situation of farmers in Kauk-hmu Township

No assistance is given for procurement of such necessities as machine oil and fertilizers. Fertilizers held by the Agricultural Department are released to the black market and the farmer has to pay kyats 2200/- for a bag of Pa-le fertilizer and kyats 3500/- for one bag of Te-su-ba fertilizer. (Source: NLD)

Maltreatment of workers at the GOOD WEAR clothing factory, Thingangyun Township, Rangoon Division

Workers at the Taiwan owned Good Wear Clothing factory, situated at 37/38 (a) Rope Factory Road, East Ward, Thingangyun township, have been denied their international rights as laborers. Working hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and workers are compelled to work overtime at the rate of kyats 15/- per hour every day. Overtime hours could stretch to 9:00 p.m. or to midnight or till dawn and the workers have no choice as to the period or the number of hours. The employer fixes the time and period. No exemptions are allowed for personal, health, private business, sickness, religious or any reason whatsoever. Even if one has been working the whole of one day, his duties for the next day have to be performed without a break.

Wages are paid monthly on the fifth day after the month. Payment for overtime is made at nights after the end of the period. Late comers face a fine of kyats 50/- for every five minutes from their monthly wages. Penalty for inability to work overtime is kyats 100/- for each day and every day after that. No rest period is given for Sundays or observance of any religious occasion. Penalty for absence of one workday is kyats 1000/- and no reason (big or small) is countenanced.

The factory foreman, the manager, department heads, the director, clerks and other staff are all treated like servants of the owner of the factory. They have no right to make any representation on behalf of the workers. They cannot make any representation about their grievances to any other authority also. Many have been dismissed without any opportunity to explain or justify their actions. Though they are treated like slaves, the workers have to suffer in silence because they fear dismissal, which would affect their families and their survival. A female worker (resident of Thuwunna) made a report about the situation to the Yankin Labour Office, which resulted in a few visits to the factory by the Labor Officers. Eventually, the complainant was dismissed and nothing changed in the factory. (Source: NLD)

The situation of workers in the Hlaing-tha-ya industrial zone, Rangoon Division

Workers at the *Myanmar Yes* garment factory, *Apolo Garment* (Taw-Win factory) and the *Jong Lih* back-pack manufacturing factory in the Hlaing-tha-ya industrial zone (Rangoon division) have suffered exploitation, denial of workers rights and unjust treatment.

The *Myanmar Yes* factory is Korean owned and employs a total of about 1400 workers. Average wages are kyats 10/- per hour. Though the working hours are stipulated as 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. workers are compelled to do overtime work from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. When demand is great they have to work into the morning hours of the next day. Default or failure to work overtime results in dismissal. In addition to the absence of any form of medical assistance there are severe restrictions on toilet services in *Myanmar Yes*. There are 10 lines at this factory with over 100 workers in each line. Only one toilet card is given for each line. (Without the toilet card entry is denied). Cost of transportation provided by the employer is deducted from the wages.

On May 16, 2000, one Ma Moe Moe Htay (a worker on Line 6) took seriously ill while working. Permission to rest was refused so she cried and begged the supervisor who saw her condition. She was then asked to hide behind the stacks of garments so that the employer would not see her. She was absent from work the next day. On May 18, 2000, clothed in her *Myanmar Yes* uniform, her dead body was found in the gutter running along the front right side of one NaWaDe's house. The employer did nothing for her despite the circumstances of her death and the police did no investigation. This has made the other workers very disgruntled.

The Taiwanese owned Taw-win garment factory is owned by *Apolo Garment* and is situated in the No 1 Hlaing-tha-ya industrial zone. About 700 workers are employed and basic pay is kyats 1500 a month. Working hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and overtime to 10:00 p.m. is compulsory every alternate day. If the day's production is over 100, an increase of one or two kyats is paid at the discretion of the owner but this is not fixed.

In addition to the basic pay, a sum of kyats 1600/- is paid for regular work but this is separated into two parts. kyats 800/- is for the first fifteen days of the month and kyats 800/- for the next fifteen days. This entitlement is lost for one day of absence or failure to do overtime. No conversation, flowers, Thanaka or make-up is allowed.

The factory is closed only two days a month. Officially declared public and religious holidays are not observed. On July 19, 2000 the employer refused to allow the workers the day off for the fifty-third anniversary of martyrs day. The workers were upset about this because martyrs day is observed by the whole country as a day of mourning. So they

requested the day off to their employer who insisted that they attend work or have their "regular work allowance" cut. When the workers said they were prepared to have the allowance cut, he granted them the day off.

The Taiwanese owned *Jong Lih* back-pack manufacturing factory is situated in No 4 industrial zone in Hlaing-tha-ya. It employs about 750 workers at a basic salary of kyats 7000/- a month. There are three shifts and no overtime work. The first shift is from 7:20 to 11:00 a.m., the second shift is from 12:50 to 5:00 p.m. and the third shift is from 5:20 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Workers can be dismissed for absence due sickness or a wife giving birth to a child. Very rigid restrictions prevail at the workplace; for example, only 6 minutes are permitted for bowel movement. One extra minute draws a fine of K.30/-.

The factory is closed for only 2 days a month which are not fixed but declared at the discretion of the owner. No other leave is granted. Workers were required to work on Waso full moon day and the 53rd anniversary of Martyrs Day. Workers eat and sleep at the factory. When the factory is not declared closed, workers have to remain on the premises and are not allowed to receive visitors. (Source: NLD)

On September 6, 2000, factory workers were beaten by Daw Phyu Phyu, owner and manager of Taw Win Garment factory, in Hlaingthaya, #1 Industrial Zone. The previous day, September 5, 2000, the male workers in the cutting and finishing departments of the factory had asked for a raise in pay. The next day they and some female workers repeated their request and Daw Phyu Phyu and another manager, Aye Aye Soe, beat them and told them not to complain. That afternoon police officers and the local worker's association came to the factory and Lt. Colonel San Ma Tu met with the workers one by one and offered to negotiate a compromise. The workers demands were:

- 1.) To have specified working hours
- 2.) A pay raise
- 3.) A raise in overtime pay
- 4.) Specified fees for piecework in the cutting and finishing departments

At the time the workers were getting 1,200 kyat per month (\$3), the overtime rate was 12 kyat per hour, and the price paid for piecework varied. Lt. Colonel San Ma Tu negotiated a work schedule that was only in place for a week when the owners reverted to the old ways. When some quality control workers complained about late overtime they were fired. (Source: AAPP)

5.11 Situation in Sagaing Division

Unfair Levies and Taxes

Brick Tax for Pagoda in Wuntho Township

In January 2000, a pagoda measuring 408 feet in height was to be built under the supervision of the District PDC on the hill near Taw-Shaw village, Wuntho township, Sagaing Division. The townships of Katha, Htechain, Pin-le-bu, Wuntho, Indaw, Banmauk and Kawlin in the district of Katha were ordered to make and sell 500,000 bricks each at 2 kyats per brick. (The market price is 6 kyats per brick) Each township suffers a loss of kyats 2,000,000 and the loss for the whole district (7 townships) is kyats 14,000,000.

In the township of Kawlin there are 2 large, 6 medium and 6 small brick-baking kilns. These kilns were forced to hire U Tin Nyein to act on behalf of all the owners of the brick baking kilns and to pay him:

2 Large kilns - kyats 200,000 (kyats 100,000 per kiln)

6 medium kilns- kyats 180,000 (kyats 30,000 per kiln)

6 small kilns - kyats 90,000 (kyats 15,000 per kiln)

(Source: NLD) **See Appendix #3, #4**

Registration fees for registered farmers in De-pe-yin Township

As of June 2000, under instructions from the township authorities of Sagaing Division, the village authorities in De-pe-yin township demanded registration fees of 200 kyats per acre from the farmers in the entire township. These farmers are already registered as tenant-farmers having inherited the right from their ancestors who were "first-come" farmers and farming is a family business. Of the 200 kyats collected, 100 kyats was for the Divisional authorities, 50 kyats for the township authorities, and the balance 50 kyats was for the Township Land Records Department. Some village authorities demanded 250 kyats to 500 kyats per acre from the farmers. In the De-pe-yin township there are five buying centers for agricultural products. Each center has an average of 50 thousand acres within its jurisdiction. The money for the entire township amounted to about five hundred lakhs calculated at one hundred lakhs per buying center. Other townships in the division made similar demands. (Source: NLD)

SPDC Taxes in Naga Hill land area

In 2000, SPDC forcibly collected various tax in Na Ga hill land, Sagaing Division. They taxed 5000 kyats per buffalo and cow, 2000 kyats per pig, 200 kyats per dog, 200 kyats for radio and cassette, 100 kyats for rice mill and 300 kyats for one acre land. In addition any villager from villages in the Na Ga hill land area must get a pass from SPDC troops of IB 50 before they can leave their village. The fee for the pass for one person is 1000 kyats. (Source: Inside Burma) **See Appendix #5**

Forced sale of crops

Forced Sale of Paddy in Pin-le-bu Township

In Pin-le-bu township, Sagaing Division, each cultivator has to sell 10 baskets of paddy per acre at the paddy buying centers where two condensed milk tin containers full of paddy is

collected free from each of the sellers for the village administrative authorities in accordance with written instructions from U Aye Swe, chairman of the township authority. This adds up to about two and a half "pyi" per acre for which the cultivator is not paid.

At the No. 9 Paddy Purchasing Centre in Htan-taw-gyi administrative unit in Pin-le-bu township, the farmers were required to sell 12 to 13 baskets per acre as instructed, to donate 4 pyis per acre for the Divisional PDC, and to "donate" kyats per acre for the (alleged) construction of a road to connect the purchasing center to the town. In addition, deductions for dampness were 4 per 100 baskets. (Opposed to the usual 2 baskets per 100 baskets) The paddy canter officials consistently judged the grain as inferior and further reductions were made for dust and stones. Nga Sein farmers group lost 1 and ½ baskets per 100 in this way and Eimahta group lost 3 per 100. Only after the required full amount was supplied and the above reductions and deductions made was the stamp of approval affixed. Due to heavy rains at the time of harvest this year, the cultivators were very stressed out in fulfilling the required products for sale. They did not receive full payment for the produce they were forced to sell and had to accept lying down all the exploitations by the authorities. (Source: NLD)

Forced sale of sugar cane and paddy to the army in Bahmo District

The authorities ordered farmers and cultivators of sugarcane in the townships of Bahmo, Shwegu, Moemauk, and Mansi in the Bahmo district, Sagaing division, to supply two million viss of boiled sugar cane juice to the sugar factory owned and installed by the north military command in the town of Bahmo. Sugar manufactured at this mill is for the annual consumption of the army. Orders were issued by the military commander through the township authorities that every cultivator of sugarcane must (without fail) supply 4 barrels (holding 100 viss each) of this cooked sugar cane juice. In Shwegu township, the authorities issued orders that if the full quota of six hundred thousand viss was not fulfilled severe action would be taken by way of example to others. The threat was that unauthorized disposal of boiled sugarcane juice would result in confiscation of the transporting vehicles and the juice. The current price of this product was kyats 102 per viss but the cultivators received much less according to the arbitrary decision of the military authorities and the losses they suffered were great. For every acre of paddy cultivated land in the year 2000, the cultivator was required to sell 12 baskets to the Agriculture Trade Department, 1 basket to the PDC and 3 baskets to the army. A total of 16 baskets for every acre cultivated is defined as "service paddy". The authorities threatened severe penalties for failure to fulfil this service. The total acres under cultivation in the township is approximately 40 thousand. Payment for "service paddy" was only kyats 350/- while the open market price was kyats 800/-. The cultivator therefore lost kyats 450/- per basket. In Shwegu township, the "service paddy" totaled 40000 x 16 which resulted in a total loss of about kyats 288 lakhs. (Source: NLD)

Confiscation of land

Roads built across fields without compensation, Katha Township

The "Htoo Trading Company" purchased and constructed a timber terminal jetty on buffalo grazing grounds on the eastern bank of the Irrawaddy river in the Kon-baung village tract (Sagaing Division, Katha township). For the transportation of timber to that

terminal by motor vehicles, roads were built across plantations causing great loss of produce to the cultivators. There was no consideration or consultation with, or compensation for the owners of those plantations. The transporting vehicles further transgressed on adjoining plantations when passing or overtaking each other thus causing even more destruction to the crops. (Source: NLD)

5.12 Situation in Shan State

Unfair Levies and Taxes

Peanut Tax

On February 11, 2000, Maj. Jyaw Zeya of IB 292 gathered villagers in Nong Long tract, Hopong Township, Shan State and instructed the villagers. He ordered the villagers to build fences around each of their villages, and that 1/4 of the paddy produced by each family and half a basket of peanuts must be sent to the battalion as taxes. (Source: SSANews)

Villagers pay for army Welcoming Ceremony

On February 20, 2000, the Chairman of the Ta-Khi-Laek Township PDC, Capt. Aung Win, issued an order requiring every house in the township to provide 600 (Thai) baht (approximately 6,000 kyats). The money was to be used to prepare a welcoming ceremony on February 22, 2000 for 17 Lahu insurgents, led by Aa Song, who would surrender to the SPDC troops. It was said that the Tactical Command Commander, Col. Thet Naing Win, had instructed Capt. Aung Win to collect money from the people in the township for the expenses. Since the order said that who ever failed to pay the designated amount would be faced with a twofold fine, those who did not have enough money had to sell their rice paddy, pigs or other possessions to pay the authorities. (Source: SHRF)

Tea tax

On March 15, 2000, 12 SPDC troops from IB 244 forcibly conscripted a civilian truck in Yaang Kung village. They drove to Wan Sen village, Ta Ping tract, Kaeng-Tung Township where they then attempted to extort money from the villagers, who they had ordered to gather in the village temple, in the form of a 'tax' on their opium farms. When the villagers convinced them that they didn't grow opium, only tea, the troops demanded that the villagers pay the 'tax' in tea in the form of 1 viss of tea per household. (Source: SHRF)

Returning migrant workers fined

On April 8, 2000, 2 women, Naang Phawng, aged 33, and Naang Tip, aged 21, from Yaang Kham village Wan Lom tract, Murng-Phyak Township, were summoned to the township Police Station in Murng-Phyak town and forced to pay a fine of 15,000 kyat each. They were accused of having gone to work in Thailand without permission. (Source: SHRF)

Villagers pay for upkeep of surrendered rebels

On June 3, 2000, SPDC authorities in Ta-Khi-Laek Township issued an order requiring village and tract leaders in the township to extort money from the people to support former rebels who had surrendered to the SPDC. Each household was required to provide 3,000 Thai baht (approximately 30,000 kyats) to support the 13 former members of the MTA (Mong Tai Army), led by Zaai Tan, who had surrendered to Ta-Khi-Laek-based LIB 331. (Source: SHRF)

Tax for river crossing

On August 19, 2000, a group of 3 SPDC policemen from Ta Lur police station, led by Corporal Soe Naing, stopped Zaai Taan, aged 38, a ferryman from Wan Kaeng village, Kaeng Laab tract, Ta-Khi-Laek township and demanded a 10,000 Thai baht tax from him (approximately 100,000 kyats) in order to for him to continue along the river. The ferryman explained he only made 3,000 baht (30,000 kyats) and offered to pay 500 kyat in tax, but the police threatened him with severe action if he did not comply and in the end he was forced to give them 7,000 baht (70,000 kyats) in tax to let him cross the river. (Source: SHRF)

"Corn tax" for army

In August 2000, Commander Aung Kyaw Nyunt of SPDC's LIB 326 called a meeting of community leaders and all the village and village tract headmen in Tarng-Yarng township and issued an order forcing the villagers to grow 20 acres of corn for the military. The yield was designated at 15 basket per acre, altogether 300 baskets. However, the military would not accept the corn, only money; 1,000 kyat per basket of corn. Therefore, the villagers were required to give the military 300,000 kyat instead of corn. (Source: SHRF)

Army tax on civilian TV and Videos in Murng-ton and Murng-sart Townships

In April 2000, people who owned TV and Video sets in Murng-Ton and Murng-Sart townships were required to pay taxes to the military authorities. On March 27, the Deputy Commander of Military Tactical Command in Murng-Sart issued an order to village and community leaders in the township to provide lists of people who either owned TV or Video sets or both. Then on April 1, the Commander issued another order requiring the civilian leaders to collect taxes on TV and Video sets from the owners and bring them to the base of IB 49 in Murng-Sart no later than April 15, 2000. Any headmen or leaders who failed to provide the tax money before the specified date would face severe punishment. In Murng-Ton, similar orders were issued virtually at the same time by the military authorities in the township. The taxes were fixed at 2,000 kyat per TV set per year. The same amount was set for Video sets, but those who used their Video sets for "Karaoke" entertainment were required to pay an additional 2,000 kyat per set. Owners who failed to pay the taxes on time would be fined and their machines confiscated. (Source: SHRF)

Forced Donation for Sports Tournament in Mong Ton Township

On February 25 2000, the Mong Tong Township PDC ordered each village tract in Mong Tong Township to donate 5,000 - 10,000 kyats for a sports tournament. (Source: PYNG)

High Toll fees being levied on Mandalay-Muse Highway

High toll fees being levied by the SPDC and opium trader Lo Hsing Han's 'Asian World Company' on the Mandalay to Muse Highway are forcing some drivers out of business. A small bus has to pay a total of 35,600 kyats to the 4 main gates and 16 small gates between Mu-se in northern Shan State and Mandalay, including 2,800 kyats to Asia World. Trucks over 5 tons have to pay 200,000 kyats in toll fees. (Source: PYNG)

Forced sale of crops

From January 6-13, 2000, SPDC authorities forced farmers in several townships in southern Shan State to sell their rice quotas at a rate much lower than the current market price. The following shows the quota of each township, according a source in southern Shan State.

Township	Quota	Acquired Amount	Amount to be filled
Murng-Pan	35,129 baskets	12,586 baskets	22,541 baskets
Larng-Khur	20,903 baskets	16,847 baskets	3,056 baskets
Mawk-Mai	50,788 baskets	30,140 baskets	20,648 baskets
Lai-Kha (only known quotas for some villages)			
- Wan Phai village	1,224 baskets		
- Paang Tai village	1,467 baskets		
- Wan Long village	43,093 baskets		
- Wan yurng village	9,808 baskets		
- Phaa Tang village	1,226 baskets		
- Hai Seng village	1,221 baskets		
- Naa Pan village	8,999 baskets		
- Nawng Kaw village	1,601 baskets		
- Taad Mawk village	4,350 baskets		
- Wan Saang village	1,590 baskets		
- Wan Seng village	3,244 baskets		
- Wan Thi village	1,751 baskets		
Murng-Nai (only known villages)			
- Maw Sawn village	1,664 baskets		
- Naa Kan village	10,227 baskets		
- Wan He village	1,280 baskets		
- Phai Heng village	6,651 baskets		
- Nawng Murng village	3,173 baskets		
Murng-Yawng	80,000 baskets		
Murng-Phyak	65,000 baskets		
Ta-Khi-Laek	157,000 baskets		

In order to fill their quotas, many farmers who did not have or could not produce enough rice had to borrow or buy from others to avoid punishment. (Source: SHRF)

On January 28, 2000, SPDC soldiers of IB 515 led by Maj. Soe Myint Oo forced the villagers in Wan Yeung tract, Laikha Township, Shan State to sell them paddy at cut rates. Their quota demands were as follows: 1,300 baskets: Wan Kart, Wan Parn Karng, Wan Kuat, Wan Kyong, Wan Kong Kharm, Wan Nong, and Wan Nam Kaat villages

700 baskets: Wan Koong Kart, Wan Soi, Wan Kaku, Wan Koong Has, Wan Na Loi, and Wan Phra Lernsi villages.

600 baskets: Wan Mark Tee village

500 baskets: Wan Ho Na, Wan Hsa Lam, Wan Pa Naw, Wan Yarn, Nam Mein Mai, Wan Huay Hom, Parng mai Tai, Wan Mai Loi Wieng, Wan Parng Khoom, Wan Parng Kwai, Wan Pa Poo, and Wan Nar Hee villages.

At the same time, SPDC militiamen led by Kanna of Mong Yawng also forced the people of Wan Yeung tract to sell paddy at knocked down prices, with quotas of 250-800 baskets per village. (Source: SSANews)

In the month of February 2000, SPDC troops from Keng Tong camp forced local villagers to sell them paddy at knocked down prices. A *larng* of dried paddy (about 4 baskets) was

bought for only 400 kyats, much lower than the local price. The sold paddy had to be sent to Kun Hing town by bullock cart, and those who had no carts had to hire one for 10,000 kyats per trip. (Source: SSANews)

On February 8, 2000, SPDC's 508th LIB and 292nd IB forced the people of Hopong Township to sell paddy to them at a knockdown price. Their required quota was 200 baskets from Pa Khi tract, 2,000 from Mong Pieng tract and 800 baskets from Nam Khok tract. The buying team leader was Police officer Zaw Oo Myint. (Source: SSANews)

On February 20, 2000, township level SPDC authorities in Ta-Khi-Laek township called a meeting of all the village tract headmen from the rural areas at Hawng Lerk village and told them that farmers who had not yet provided their rice quotas must do it within 7 days. Those who failed to provide the quota of 12 baskets per acre of land, in exchange for 90 Thai baht (approximately 900 kyats) per basket, would not be allowed to farm the land in the future. The villagers begged the authorities to reduce the quota to 5 baskets per acre, explaining that this year many rice fields had been destroyed by floods and many farmers did not have enough rice to fill their quotas. The authorities, however, stuck firmly to the set quota. In fear of losing their land or being banned from farming, many farmers had to give rice used for their own consumption and those who did not have enough had to buy or borrow from others. In the area, the market price for 1 basket of rice was 160-170 baht (1,600 to 1,700 kyats). (Source: SHRF)

On July 25, 2000, SPDC township authorities in Tarng-Yarn came to Nawng Kham village in Nawng Kham tract and forced the village tract and community leaders to sign a contract promising to sell 800 baskets of rice to the SPDC authorities in the year 2000, at the price of 360 kyat per basket. (Source: SHRF)

On November 11, 2000, SPDC troops from the 64th IB led by Major Chit Khaing together with township SPDC authorities forced the villagers in the area of Wan Lur Tract, Lai Kha township, to sell 1500 baskets of grain to SPDC authorities, and 3500 baskets to SPDC troops. Overall 5000 baskets of grain have been forced to be sold and they paid 300 kyats for one basket but the price of grain in the market is 1,500 kyats per basket. The villagers have lost 6,000,000 kyats in total. (Source: Freedom News)

On December 23, 2000, SPDC troops from IB 64 forced the villagers in the area of Wan Hti tract, Lai Kha township, to sell 300 buckets of grain to them at the limited price of 1,800 kyat per bucket of grain. The local people lost at least 2,500,000 kyat. At the same time, the SPDC troops ordered the villagers to cut 150 poles of bamboo and send them to their base in Lai Kha town. (Source: Freedom News)

Forced to sell paddy to army in Larng-Khur

During the year 2000, SPDC military authorities in Larng-Khur forced the farmers in Larng-Khur township to sell rice to the military at the rate of 12 baskets per acre, 300 kyat per basket, while the market price was 800 kyat per basket. The acreages of the rice fields in the 3 main village tracts in Larng-Khur township were as follows:

1. Wan Zid village	tract	150 acres
2. Haai Kuay village	tract	80 "
3. Nawng Long village	tract	175 "
Total		405 acres

Farmers who could not produce enough rice to sell to the military were required to buy from somewhere else to fill up their quotas. This meant the farmers could not pay 300 kyat for each missing basket of rice in their quotas, which was the price offered by the military, but had to buy from the market at the price 800 kyat per basket. (Source: SHRF)

Forced to sell paddy to army in Yawng-Hwe

During December 2000, SPDC military authorities in Yawng-Hwe forced the farmers in Yawng-Hwe township to sell rice to the military at the rate of 12 baskets per acre, 250 kyat per basket, while the market price in the area was 1,200 kyat per basket. During the rice growing season in 2000, farmers in Thapye Kong and Kyauk Taing village tracts and villages near the mountains could not grow rice due to the drought in the area and had to buy rice from other areas for their consumption. However, these farmers were not free from their imposed duty to sell their rice quotas to the military. Since their rice fields were threatened to be confiscated if they failed to provide the needed amount of rice, the farmers had to buy from other areas at the market price to fill up their quotas. (Source: SHRF)

Forced to sell paddy to army in Murng-Sart

Though the SPDC military authorities had issued a statement that they would not procure rice from the people on the eastern side of the Salween river, in 2000 the military authorities in Murng-Sart forced the farmers in Murng Tum, Murng Kaan and Tha Larng village tracts, Murng-Sart township, to sell their rice at the rate of 12 baskets per acre, 300 kyat per basket, while the market price in the area was 1,000-1,200 kyat per basket. (Source: SHRF)

Villagers forced to buy meat from their own cows after the cattle were stolen from them by the army.

On March 4, 2000, SPDC troops from Company No.3 of IB225, led by Capt. Zaw Myint, temporarily stationed at Naa Pa Kaao village in Mae Ken tract, Murng-Ton township, began rounding up cattle and forcing the owners to reclaim them at a rate of 1,000 kyat a head. The unclaimed cattle were killed and cut up to make dried meat. The dried meat was sold back to the villagers at a price of 500 kyat per viss, and many villagers were forced to buy it whether they wanted it or not. As of March 2000, 46 head of cattle had been claimed by their owners and 17 had been killed at Naa Pa Kaao village. (Source: SHRF)

Confiscation of land

In early 2000, 700 acres in the Paliao Kenglarb area of Shan State were confiscated by the local authorities. This land was then reportedly handed over to Pan Maung, an aide of drug lord Khun Sa's chief of staff. Pan Maung was allowed by Rangoon to acquire the land, with intent of organizing a new militia unit in the area. As a result, many farmers lost their lands. (Source: SHAN)

In early January 2000, SPDC military authorities of Murng-Ton-based IB 65 confiscated 67 acres of paddy fields belonging to 10 farmers in Murng Haang tract, Murng-Ton township. In early 1998, the commander of the Military Tactical Command from Murng-Sart had encouraged farmers who had no land for farming in Murng Haang tract of Murng-Ton township to clear some parts of the jungle and make them into paddy fields and submit an application with their signatures to the authorities asking for a dam on Nam Haang stream for the irrigation of the land. (Source: SHRF)

In March 2000, the Commander of SPDC Murng-Ton-based IB65, Lt.Col. Swe Myint, confiscated 50 acres of cultivated land from the people of Murng Harn in Murng-Ton Township and sold them to the new 'Wa' settlers at the rate of 15,000 kyat per acre. The land, consisting of 17 acres of rice fields and 43 acres of gardens and orchards, was located in the northeast of Murng Harn village and had been cultivated by the villagers for a long time. The owners of the land cried and begged the SPDC Commander to have mercy and give back their land. However, Commander Swe Myint, only told the 'Wa' buyers to pay the owners 200 kyat for each acre of the land as compensation. The farmers, however, having been deprived of their farming land and without enough money to acquire new land, had already left their village. As of May 2000 they were headed for Thailand. (Source: SHRF)

On April 3, 2000, 37 SPDC troops from LIB 292, led by Captain Nyunt Oo, confiscated property from villagers at Wan Nar Kun village, Murng Larng tract, Ho Pong Township. The villagers who lost their property were Sarng Aw and Loong Zarm. (Source: SSANews)

On April 22, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 206 of Murng Nong, led by Major Aung Naing, confiscated property from villagers of Wan Khum Law village, Lai Kha Township. The names of the victims are Loong Ing Na, Pa Moong, Pa Sai, Pa Oo and Pa Leng. (Source: SSANews)

On May 7, 2000, SPDC troops from IB 286 confiscated property at the house of Loong Zarn Kanna in Wan Khit Lar village, Murng Nang tract, Ho Pong Township. The victim lost belongings worth not less than 20,000 kyat. (Source: SSANews)

On June 12, 2000, SPDC soldiers from IB 286 seized the property of Loong Nan Ta of Wan Nar Terng village, Murng Paeng Township. (Source: SSA)

On June 26, 2000, a column of SPDC troops confiscated property from villagers of Wan Khok Lao village, Phong Seng tract, Lai Kha Township. The people who lost their property were Sai Su Wing Na, Pi Zan Ta, Loong Su, Pi Karling, Loong Wi, Pa Soi, Loong Pan Ta, Sai Nanda, Sai Ping Nyar, Sai Htark, Loong Mea Hta, Sai Mar Lar, Pa Kyi, Pi Zan Ta, Ae Khong, Loong Zing, Pi Nan Ti and Loong Wan. (Source: SSANews)

On July 4, 2000, SPDC military authorities of Murng-Pan-based LIB332 confiscated 15 acres of already planted rice fields belonging to the people in Murng-Pan Township, on a written order issued by Capt. Thein Htun. (Source: SHRF)

On July 8, 2000, the SPDC troops from LIB 286 confiscated property from the villagers at Wan Hai Khai village, Par Kee tract, Murng Paeng Township. The villagers who lost their belongings were Loong Pee, Loong Ti Ya, Pa Khar, Loong Kham, Loong La Mawng, Loong Phong, Loong War Ling, Loong Kung Mar, Pa Htuay, Sai Htin and Pa Zing. (Source: SSANews)

On July 14, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 286 confiscated property from the villagers of Wan Hai Khai village, Par Kee tract, Murng Paeng Township. The villagers who were robbed were Loong La Awng, Pa Nu, Loong War Ling, Loong Nan Ta, Pa Koi, Nan Ta, Loong Nyo, Aw War and Loong Htun Awng. (Source: SSANews)

Since August 2000, all land on both sides of the Kengtung-Mongkhark road, comprising 800 acres in all, were declared official possession. Villagers in at least 5 tracts, namely, Wanmao, Yanglong, Yanghok, Kardtao and Lamong, who had their fields and gardens alongside the road lost them all without compensation, said a villager from Kardtao on October 4, 2000.

"The only compensation was that we were told to work in these fields, once that used to be ours," said the villager. "Since mid September we have been growing soybean, gram-peas and potatoes for them."

It was a demanding job, according to him. Because it was harvest time for their own rice fields. *"But it would be worse if we reused to work for them,"* he said. The confiscated land was divided among the army, police, local administration and other government departments, he told S.H.A.N. *"50 acres of them went to Forestry Department,"* he said. *"And Kardtao (600 households) people have become its serfs since last month."* (Source: S.H.A.N.)

Since August 2000, IB 296 and No.3 Training Corps and other concerned SPDC military authorities in Kae-See township have been expanding their military base areas and in the process, have confiscated land, relocated villages, extorted building materials and money, and used the unpaid forced labour of the local people. In late 2000, wide areas of land in the east and north of the present IB 296 military base were confiscated, bulldozed and cleared. The nearby rice farms and fields were to be confiscated later and the owners were told to stop cultivating after the present crop. Villages in Kaang Paang and Long Nga tracts were to be relocated at a later time to make space for the military base. The farms and gardens of the military, which were cultivated using forced labour, were deliberately left unfenced, and any cattle that entered them were confiscated and made into military property. Three saw mills in the area were each ordered to provide 10 tons of free lumber for the construction of military facilities. (Source: SHRF)

On September 14, 2000, 27 SPDC troops of LIB 520, led by Capt. Than Oo, confiscated 10 acres of rice fields and destroyed the rice crops cultivated by a villager in Murng-Pan township. The troops conscripted 3 mini-tractors from people in the area and ordered them to bulldoze all the rice plants in the fields near their military base, declaring that they had confiscated the land to make a place for building an office for the Peasant Association of the township. The land was owned and cultivated by Lung Wa Ling, a Shan farmer of Ho Phai Long village who had lived there for generations and cultivated a rice field near Murng-Pan town long before there was any military camp in the area. As soon as he heard the news, Lung Wa Ling went to consult the village and tract headmen who then tried to plead with the SPDC troops not to confiscate the field, at least until after the current rice crop had been harvested, which was the only means of subsistence for Lung Wa Ling and his family that would last them until the next year's harvest. The troops, however, refused to listen to the pleas of the villagers and carried on with their task at hand, destroying the rice plants that would be ready for harvesting in a few weeks time. (Source: SHRF)

In October 2000, SPDC military authorities from the Golden Triangle Special Regional Command, based in Kaeng-Tung, confiscated 3,000 acres of rice fields long cultivated by local farmers in La Murng tract, Kaeng-Tung township, in order to use them for growing crops for the military. (Source: SHRF) In December 2000, the SPDC troops ordered the villagers of La Murng tract to grow rice, onions and garlic for the military on the confiscated land. The villagers of Wan Kawm, Wan Phaai and Paeng Tao villages not only lost their land, but were also forced to work on them for the military with no compensation. The villagers not only had to till the ground and plant the crops, but also had to look after them and water them on a daily basis. (Source: SHRF)

Destruction of Property and livestock

Villages, houses, and fields burned or destroyed by army

On February 3, 2000, Capt. Htun Aung from LIB 520 of the SPDC, together with 20 carpenters, 20 workers and 4 conscripted civilian trucks from Murng-Pan, entered Long Kaeng village, Kung Keng tract, Murng-Pan Township and dismantled a valuable teak-wood house which belonged to Zan-Ti-Ma, a cattle trader who was away earning money. (Source: SHRF)

On April 11, 2000, a patrol of about 100 SPDC troops, with 20 forced civilian porters, from IB 246, led by Capt. Htun Myint, looted and burned the camps and granaries of displaced farmers hiding in some small remote islands in Nam Paang river, Kun-Hing Township. Eight families in total were affected and lost in total over 200 baskets of rice, and all their livestock. (Source: SHRF)

Looting and destruction of property by army

On February 2, 2000, SPDC troops from Radar Unit No.73, stationed at Loi Muay, shot dead 2 buffalo and pushed a cart into a roadside ditch, belonging to Zai Sai (m), aged 32, of Wan Zawn village, Murng Laab tract, Kaeng-Tung Township. (Source: SHRF)

On February 12, 2000, a patrol of 12 SPDC troops from LIB334 came to Ho Poi Tai, an Akha village, in Pa Hok tract, Murng-Yawng township, and shot a villager's pig and forced the villagers to cook the pork for them. The troops paid 150 kyat of money to the pig owner and left. According to the pig owner, Aa Hur, aged 49, his pig was worth at least 6,700 kyat in the market. (Source: SHRF)

On February 20, 2000, SPDC troops of IB 66 robbed the people of Wan Phark Koom, Pang Hoong tract, Laikha Township. Those who lost their property were:

1. Sarng Htoon lost 35,000 kyats in cash.
2. Pa Song lost unhusked paddy worth 15,000 kyat.
3. Sarng Moan lost a wrist watch worth 8,000 kyat, 35,000 in cash and other belongings worth 26,500 kyat.
4. Nang Pee lost 5 chickens worth 3,500 kyat.
5. Sar Ling lost 5 baskets of polished rice worth 7,500 kyat. (Source: SSANews)

On March 21, 2000, a cow, owned by Lung Lee, 49, was shot by a patrol of 7 SPDC troops from IB 227 for its meat in Nam Moi village, Tong Pha Kao Tract, Murng-Khark Township. The cow was worth 76,000 kyat. The next day Lung Lee and the village tract committee chairman lodged a complaint with the SPDC township office in Murng-Khark town. No action was taken however and the authorities said, *"You are just trying to get yourselves into trouble. Why did you ever come to make such a complaint, you know they are soldiers, don't you? All you could do is beg them for mercy, and if they don't listen, let them be"*. (Source: SHRF)

On March 23, 2000, at about 2 PM, 7 SPDC troops from IB 227 led by Lt. Aung Than gathered all the Akha villagers of Nawng Saam Khaa village in Ho Pong tract, Murng-Khark Township. The villagers were then kept in the village center while the troops went house to house, and robbed the villagers of their money and valuables. (Source: SHRF)

On July 19, 2000, SPDC police and members of the USDA seized a truckload of consumer goods worth about 45,000 Thai baht (approximately 450,000 kyat) from a trader, Zaai In Pan, aged 40 and his wife, Naang Zan Tip, aged 38 at a Customs checkpoint in Murng-Yawng Township. The troops stated that the reason for the confiscation was that their goods, such as salt and chilies, were illegal. The couple had been transporting the goods from Ta-Khi-Laek to be sold at their shop in Lawng Haang village, Wan Po tract, Murng-Yawng township, Shan State. (Source: SHRF)

On July 29, 2000, SPDC troops from IB 227 stopped Zaai Kan-Na, aged 41 and his wife, Naang Phu, aged 36, traders from Wan Kaang village in Murng Nung tract, Murng-Khark Township. The troops searched their truck and then took away all the goods which the couple had been transporting from Murng-Yarng to sell in their homefront store. The couple had been for over a year making a living by selling candies, cookies and toys for children at a little stall in front of their house. Their goods were worth 17,000 kyat. (Source: SHRF)

On September 4, 2000, SPDC police in Murng-Pan seized a civilian truck, confiscated all the consumer goods it was carrying and forced the owner to pay 500,000 kyat to get his car back. The car, a Toyota mini-truck, belonged to Zaai Tin, aged 43, who lived in Murng-Pan and made a living as a small trader of consumer goods. He was planning to take a truckload of merchandise to sell in Taungyi when he was stopped by police as he was leaving Murng-Pan town. (Source: SHRF)

On September 21, 2000, SPDC township authorities extorted several kinds of bamboo from the following villages in Ho Mang tract:

Ho Mang village, 207 pieces of bamboo

Long Mu village, 130 pieces of bamboo

Pa Sa Zaan village, 50 pieces of bamboo

Naa Paeng Zaan village, 65 pieces of bamboo

(Source: SHRF)

On October 10, 2000, a group of 15 SPDC troops from LIB518 led by Capt. Than Htay, wearing camouflage and civilian clothes and armed with Carbines and M16 assault rifles, held up several civilian cars on the main road between Murng-Nai and Nam-Zarng. The troops waited on the Murng-Nai - Nam-Zarng main road and stopped all passing cars and forced the passengers get out their cars. They then robbed them of their money and unloaded all the cargo before they allowed the cars to continue.

1. A 6-wheeler cargo truck, fully loaded with clothes and consumer goods, owned by Maung Aye of Taunggi.
2. A 6-wheeler cargo truck, fully loaded with consumer goods, owned by Lung Mo Sae of Pang Long.
3. A 4-wheeler truck, fully loaded with consumer goods, owned by Zaai Tin La of Kun-Hing.
4. A passenger van; its passengers were robbed of their money, said to be 1,560,000 kyat in all. (Source: SHRF)

On September 20, 2000, about 60 SPDC troops from the 99th Brigade pillaged a farm hut which belonged to a villager named War Ling near Wan Za Lai Loi, Parng Sarng tract, Lai Kha township. He lost 4 buckets of rice, 3 tubs of grain and other household property worth about 26,900 kyat. (Source: Freedom News)

On September 20, 2000, SPDC troops from the 99th Brigade arrived at the farms of ethnic Palaung people west of Loi Nong Kham - Koong Huay Lur. These ethnic Palaung people were from Wan Nong Leng, Parng Sarng tract, Lai Kha township and were staying at their temporary farm houses for their cultivating. The SPDC soldiers surrounded the farm houses and seized more than a hundred chickens which were in cages. After that they went into the huts and confiscated more property. Later, the huts were set on fire by SPDC when they left that area. The entire amount of property lost was worth about 40,000 kyat. (Source: Freedom News)

On November 13 2000, SPDC troops from the 99th Brigade shot a cow belonging to the villagers of Koong Yao, Nar Poi tract, Lai Kha township for their rations without any payment. The cow worth was estimated to be at least 70,000 kyat. (Source: Freedom News)

On December 6, 2000, SPDC troops from the 99th Brigade shot a cow to serve as their military rations at the village of Wan Par Mai, Nar Poi tract, Lai Kha township. It shot without any payment. (Source: Freedom News)

Cutting of Supplies and Restrictions on cultivation

Cutting of supplies

On April 1, 2000, the SPDC military authorities issued an order prohibiting all the trucks and cars that ran between Tawng-Gi (Taunggyi), the Capital of Shan State, and Murng-Ton, a township adjacent to Thailand's Chiangmai province, from bringing in any cooking oil and gas from Nawng Ook, a border town in Thailand. (Source: SHRF)

On April 8, 2000, a truck carrying sesame cooking oil, that was produced in Shan State, was stopped and seized at a military checkpoint manned by SPDC troops from IB9 in Loi-Lem township, on a charge that it was carrying illegal foreign cooking oil. The SPDC troops threatened to put the driver and owner, Zaai Aw, in jail even though the cooking oil was not from Nawng Ook. Zaai Aw had 100 tins of cooking oil, worth 450,000 kyat, confiscated and he was required to pay a fine of 250,000 kyat to get back his truck and avoid a jail sentence. (Source: SHRF)

SPDC gives trouble to farmers who grow rice instead of Opium in Nam Zarng
In early 2000, Capt. Zaw Won, commander of Co. No.3 of IB 66, stationed in Loi La tract, Nam-Zarng township, had asked the people in the area to grow opium and accordingly most people did grow opium. But there were still many families who for some reasons did not grow opium and continued to grow rice. The SPDC troops gave a lot of trouble to those who grew rice. They would stealthily make holes in the fences of the rice farms and let animals in to destroy the rice crop, and would shoot from a distance at those who stayed overnight to look after their farms. (Source: SHRF)

5.13 Situation in Tenasserim Division

Unfair Levies and Taxes

Villagers forced to buy donated health care

In the beginning of May 2000, SPDC LIB's 406, 407, 408, 409, and 410 forced local villagers in Yebyu Township, Tavoy District, Tenasserim Division to buy health care cards for mothers and children at 100 kyat per card. Every family was required to buy the cards, without fail.

On March 24, 2000, Associate Press (AP) reported that Japan had donated 5.5 million dollars for a UNICEF program to improve health care services for mothers and children in Myanmar. According to AP, UNICEF deputy director for the East Asia and the Pacific, Carroll Long said that with the new grant, 319 townships in Myanmar would receive essential drugs and basic medical equipment, to be distributed to township hospitals and rural clinics with the help of the Myanmar government. Last year, Japan gave dollars 2.7 million for the same project. However, SPDC Operation Command HQ No. 8, based in Kanbauk village, Yebyu township ordered the battalions under its control (LIB 406, 407, 408, 409, and 410) to sell the health care cards for mothers and children to the local villagers in order to raise money for their military fund. (Source: TIR)

Villagers forced to pay salaries of mandatory village militia

Starting from June 2000, with the order from SPDC Coastal Military command all the Karen villages within Yebone Township, Tenasserim Division have had to organize village militia units. Yebone, as a Karen village, also had to organize a 10 men village militia, according to orders of village PDC chairman, Oo Thein Aung, who is leading the 10 men unit for the village. Oo Thein Aung then proceeded to order the villagers to provide a salary for the village militia. He demanded that every household pay 700 kyat every month. (about US\$ 1.75 - Note: 1 US\$ = 400-420 kyat at cross border trade rate. Minimum wag for a day = 200-500 kyat. Minimum wage for civil servant for one month = 1500 kyat.) (Source: TIR)

Unfair levies from villages in the Yadana natural gas pipeline area

Talineya village tract is in Yebyu Township, Tavoy district in Tenasserim Division. This village tract consists of five villages namely Dauklauk village (50 households approx:), Pedaukgon village (approx: 60 households), Myaukpugon village (approx: 40 households), Talineya village (approx: 50 households) and Kalonehta village (approx: 200 households) respectively.

Paddy and Beetle-Nut Tax

In January 2000, Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Htun Way of LIB 407 demanded four baskets of paddy rice from every household within Talineya village tract, Yebyu Township without paying government set price. As villagers in Talineya village tract live on shifting plantation and some gardens, some people did not have sufficient rice for the year. People who do not have enough rice have to buy rice from other village tract with local price (750-800 kyat/basket) and sent to LIB 407 headquarters without failure and were threatened with severe action by the battalion commander if they failed. That commander also demanded 500 pieces of beetle-nut from every household in that tract for his battalion fund in the same January. The price for an individual beetle-nut is 4-5 kyat locally. Those who didn't own gardens or beetle-nut plantations had to buy from those who had beetle-nut plantations to send to the battalion headquarters. No money was paid for the received beetle-nut. According to the field information LIB 407 commander did the same to other nearby village tracts under his responsible area, demanding paddy rice and beetle-nut without paying anything. (Source: TIR)

Porter Fees

People living in the Yebyu Township area are required to pay 1000 kyat per month in military porter fees. Those unable to pay are forced to serve as frontline porters. Porters hired by the SPDC with the villagers' money are paid only 10,000 kyat, despite the promise of 25,000 kyat.(Source: TIR)

In late 2000 the village PDC of Kyai Ye Twin Village, Laung Lone Township, led by the chairman U Maung Sein and the secretary U Ba Thein collected 100 kyat from each of the 600 households in the village in porter fees. Not even the poorest widows were spared this fee, which was not used to hire porters, but shared between the village PDC members. In addition, the secretary U Ba Thein charged 500 kyat each to animal owners in the village alleging that their animals had caused damages in his paddy fields. (Source: Yoma3)

Villagers pay for road construction materials in Kanbauk

In the middle of February 2000, Yebyu Township SPDC office ordered Kanbauk administration to implement paved road within Kanbauk village. Kanbauk administration ordered all the residents within Kanbauk to provide road construction material (boulders & chippings) 100 cubic feet for every 3 households before the fixed date of February 29. Some families had no time to collect and send the materials. Such people had to pay 3500 kyat jointly with other 2 similar families to fulfill their quota. Kanbauk administration requested TOTAL Company to supply the road construction with "Tar or bitumen". The Yebyu township administration provided only the order to Kanbauk to implement the paved road but no funding or materials were provided for the construction, which would require labor and machinery once the necessary materials had been collected for the road construction,. Therefore, the people in Kanbauk were worried that they may have to serve as road construction laborers and contribute the machinery.

"Security and Development" Fund in Kanbauk

People in Kanbauk have to pay a security and development fund every month. Every night in each town quarter 3 persons are required to stand in turns as sentries for fire protection. Those who fail have to pay 300 kyat for substitution. The town people also must pay 150 kyat per family per month for a development fund. In addition, despite the sentries who are forced to serve in every quarter, the people are not protected against military patrols from IB 273 who take security duty for Yadana natural gas pipeline. The troops, using their duty as reason, often enter into the town quarters and steal domestic animals, clothes on drying lines and households utensils. (Source: TIR)

Tax for village militia

On August 3, 2000, SPDC's village militia from Lethit village, Mergui District, Tenasserim Division grouped themselves and approached villager Saw Bee Hpo of the same village and extorted 50,000 kyat. They told Saw Bee Hpo that they needed the money to feed the patrolling government troops when they would arrive to the village. (Source: TIR)

Destruction of Property and livestock

Villages, houses, and fields burned or destroyed by army

During the construction of the The-chaung to Kin-taung Road along the Yadana natural gas pipeline, which was built with forced labor ordered by LIB 273, which is under contract of TOTAL oil company, several paddy farms owned by Thingun-taw villagers were destroyed. (The road was completed in February 2000)The army did not give any compensation. (Source: HURFOM)

On July 22, 2000, LIB 263 arrived in Ta Hpo Hki village, Eastern Mergui Township, Tenasserim Division. They saw villager Saw Ka Ree running away from them and shot at him, but missed. The troops then proceeded to burn down four houses along with all the belongings in the houses.(Source: TIR)

On September 14, 2000, a group of Pyithusit (Burma army backup militiaman) from Le Thit and Pawat village led by Ye Min Hin entered Thayagon village in Pawat village tract, Tenasserim Division and burnt down a villager's house. The house belonged to Naw Se Li, and its estimated value was at least 100000 kyat. (Source: TIR)

On September 19 2000, a troop of 150 armed soldiers from the SPDC's 559th and 560th Light Infantry Battalion, and Militiamen from Taung Nge village burned down Pawat Village, a Karen village situated at Kyo Ko, Tenasserim Township. The SPDC troops arrived September 19, led by Commanding Officers Than Hlaing (LIB 559) and Win Tin (LIB 560) and the following SPDC officers: Maj. Nay Lin Soe, Lt. Kyaw Thu Lin, Lt. Aung Kyaw Htun, Lt. Aaka and Lt. Kyaw Thi Ha. According to reports, the soldiers stayed overnight before receiving orders to burn down all of the village's 19 households. The troops spared the village's church and school and, instead, ordered villagers to dismantle it themselves.

Deprivation of Livelihood

The following are the names of house owners with damage estimates:

1. Saw Per Ler (100000 kyat)
2. Naw Hsa Khin (350000 kyat)
3. Saw Tin Myint (600000 kyat)
4. Naw Khi Win (200000 kyat)
5. Saw Kyin Soe (100000 kyat)
6. Saw Shwe Din (400000 kyat)
7. Thera Wiilly (400000 kyat)
8. Saw Creamer (200000 kyat)
9. Saw Than Bu (50000 kyat)
10. Saw Tha Meh (400000 kyat)
11. Saw Than Win (400000 kyat)
12. Saw Ka Hton (150000 kyat)
13. Naw Ha May (5,000.0 kyat)
14. Saw Kye Ray (300000 kyat)
15. Saw San Lin (50000 kyat)
16. Saw Tee Tu Baw (100000 kyat)
17. Saw Tee (700000 kyat)
18. Saw Aung Win (500000 kyat) and Naw Hsa Aye (50000 kyat).

(Source: TIR)

On September 20 a joint column of SPDC LIB 559, 560 and Taung Nge village militiaman burned down a Karen village, Kyo Ko in Pawat village tract, Tenasserim Township. The column was jointly led by LIB 560 Commander Win Tin and LIB 559 Commander Than Hlaing, along with officers Maj. Nay Lin Soe, Lt. Kyaw Thu Lin, Lt: Aung Kyaw Htun, Lt: Aaka and Lt: Kyaw Thi Ha. All of the 19 houses in the village were burnt down except a church and a school. That troops ordered the villagers to dismantle these or the army would burn down the church and the school. The villagers refused to and told the army they could burn it if they wished to do so. As of October 2000 the church and school had not been burnt. These 19 houses were worth in total approximately 7 million kyat. (names of house owners and individual house values omitted for yearbook) (Source: TIR)

On September 23, 2000 a troop of LIB 557, led by Battalion commander Tin Maung Win entered to a Karen village Pawat Hte, in Tenasserim township, Tenasserim Division,. The troops burnt down Naw Naw Ler's house and a Christian church in the village. The house value was estimated at at least 150000 kyat. (Source: TIR)

On November 12, 2000, troops from SPDC tactical command (3), under strategic command No. 8, led by Major Myint Htun, and LIB 409, led by battalion commander Soe Naing Htun, went to Paw-klo-khee, Mergue-Tavoy District and destroyed villagers' paddy fields. The troops demanded 5 engine-powered boats and porters to carry food supplies to Myint-mo-let-khat. (Source: KIC)

In December 2000, battalion commander Thurain Thant Zin and 2nd in command, Than Zaw, of SPDC LIB 401, cut down 60 beetle-nut trees and 100 hill toddy trees from plantations owned by Tee Butaw, Tee Po Yet, Tee Maung Hla and Muhgar Ahbay of Seik-ku, Hsar-mu-toe, Mee-tar and Taung-thone-lon villages, for the repair of Mee-tar bridge, Mer-gui-Tavoy District, Karen State. In addition, they commandeered an elephant owned by Saw Paw May of Ka-taw-nee village and 5 elephants from Ka-moe-thway village to carry the logs. They also forced 2 Ler-mu villagers per month to serve as porters for the project. In case of failure to provide forced labour, the village had to pay a fine of 14,000 kyat per person. (Source: KIC)

Looting and destruction of property by army

On February 27, 2000, Oo Aung Khin, a cattle trader from Pyatha village in Nabulel village tract, Yebyu township, Tavoy District, Tenasserim Division, unfortunately met a military column led by Major Aung Naing from LIB 406 between Sintha and Dauklauk villages near the Ye-Tavoy railway. He had been heading for trading post on Thai-Burma border with 55 cattle. Major Aung Naing told the cattle trader that he had authority to capture or release him anytime, but if Oo Aung Khin offered 20 cows and 10 bullocks for the LIB 406 animal husbandry project, he would let him go with the rest of his animals. Therefore, in order to be released with the rest of his cattle Oo Aung Khin had to offer 30 cattle to the military officer. According to the market price 20 cows cost 450,000 kyat and 10 oxen cost 600,000 kyat respectively. Therefore, after he had sold the rest of his 25 cattle he lost about one million kyat. LIB 406 battalion headquarters located 25 miles in the north of Tavoy and has set up an animal husbandry ranch for a battalion fund-raising business. Since they started this business, the troops have wandered in their responsible area and confiscated cattle from the villagers in wicked ways. In this way, the number of animals in their ranch has risen rapidly, up to 300, and still increasing amazingly. (Source: TIR)

On July 15, 2000, troops from LIB 561 led by battalion commander Lt. Col. Min Din and the Nyaungbingwin village militia led by Ja-Pan arrived to a cattle trading route and waited covertly for the traders at Yanmachaung in Kyeinchaung area, Tenasserim Division. That day they managed to loot 75 cattle and some cash from the traders and went back to their battalion headquarters. (Source: TIR)

Confiscation of Land

Since November 19, 2000, in order to build an additional cement factory in Myaing-kalay, Pa-an township, Karen state and provide the energy required for it, the SPDC are constructing a gas-pipeline to bring natural gas from Yadana gas field via the Kanbauk area of Tenasserim Division to Pa-an township. As a result, hundreds of civilians in Tenasserim Division, Mon State and Karen State have lost their lands, trees and houses without being given any compensation. SPDC's Nationality Race and Border Area Development Ministry, Construction Ministry and Southeast Region Military Command have coordinated with each other to form a gas pipeline construction corporation. The corporation has planned to construct the pipeline along Yebyu-Ye motor road which runs through Tenasserim and Mon State.

The following villages had property confiscated:

- When corporation officials cleared the route along Yebyu-Ye motor road, they confiscated land and fruit plantations in Yapu village tract. When the route passed through villages, the officials ordered villagers to cut down the trees in front of their houses. Forced labor was used to clear the bushes and trees along the motor road.
- When the route passed between Ye – Moulmein motor and railway roads, some paddy farmlands in these areas were confiscated. Twenty houses and their gardens were confiscated in Wae-rat, near Thanbyuzayat town on November 27. The villager were ordered to vacate their homes, destroy them and cut down their trees within 3 days.
- On November 29, 2000, land and about 10 houses were confiscated when the route passed through Wae-thun-chaung village, near Thanbyuzat town. The villagers were ordered to destroy their houses, cut their trees and leave their houses within three days. The confiscated property was owned by (1) Nai Mun Tin; (2) Nai Nai Nyan Sein; (3) Nai Ai; (4) Nai Pyin; (5) Nai Kyaw Aye; (6) Nai Ohn; and (7) Nai Sein. No compensation was given, either in the form of money or new property. According to villagers, the confiscated lands were worth between 0.5 and 2 million kyat per plot, depending on the size of the plot and the number of trees it contained. The villagers had been living on the land for more than 100 years.
- Fifty feet of land containing fruit trees and paddy farmland owned by the villagers of Kyaikmayaw township were confiscated when the route passes into Kyaikmayaw township along the motor road. It is estimated that in total 200 acres of land were confiscated and no compensation was given. When any villagers complained about their loss of property, the SPDC only said that all land belonged to the State. (Source: HURFOM)

Cutting of supplies and restrictions on cultivation

Food Supply Routes Cut, villagers restricted on buying rice in Tavoy District

On July 3, 2000 SPDC Operation Commanding HQ No.8 Commander Brigadier General Maung Oo ordered his troops to cut the food supplies of the villagers in Pawklo (Banchaung) and Kamoethay (Ka Maung Thwer) river area, Tenasserim Division in the south east of Tavoy. Villagers who live under SPDC controlled areas in Pawklo and Kamoethway river area have not been allowed to buy any rice or food without the permission of the military authorities. The military cut the local villagers' transportation route from Taungthonlon to Pawklo and Kamoethway area. Because of the transportation problem, the local villagers have to face the difficulty of the doubled price of goods and rice. The military allows the villagers to buy only enough rice for one day each. The villagers have to travel from their village to Taungthonlon village to buy food for a day. Some villagers have to travel for two days to this village. The military has threatened the villagers that for anyone found buying food for more than one day, serious action will be taken. In addition, if anyone does not obey the order, they will be killed. This action is a part of Burma army's "Four Cuts" strategy. (Source: TIR)

Paddy harvest banned

On December 6, 2000, SPDC troops banned the gathering of late paddy by villagers in the eastern part of Ka-moe-thway village, Mer-gui-Tavoy District, and the harvest was ruined. (Source: KIC)

Appendix #1 (Thaton)

To: **Stamp:**

Chairperson / Village Head

#xxx Light Infantry Battalion

xxxx village

Date: 25-5-2000

From the village head's village, [send] 5 betelnut seedlings 3 feet high and 5 coconut seedlings 3 feet high on May 26th 2000 at 1000 hours, send them to the Column (urgently), you are informed.

[Sd.]

(for) Column Commander

LIB xxx

Column

(Source:KHRG)



Deprivation of Livelihood

Appendix #2 (Dooplaya)

Stamp: Economic and Commercial Ministry Department
Kya In Seik Gyi township office Myanmar Farm Products Sale and Export
Myanmar Farm Products Sale and Export Kya In Seik Gyi Town
"Assigning Duties for Selling Paddy"

To: Chairperson
Peace and Development Council
xxxx village / section
yyyy village tract

The farmers who are planting paddy in the Elder's village must sell (xxx) baskets of the rainy season paddy crop to the Kya In Seik Gyi midtown paddy buying centre for the year 2000-2001, by February 2001 at the latest. Assigning [you] this duty.

[Sd.]	[Sd.]	[Sd.]
Signature	Signature	Signature
Name - U aaaa	Name - U bbbb	Name - U cccc
Secretary	Member	Chairperson
Midtown Paddy Buying	Midtown Paddy Buying	Midtown Paddy
		Buying
Centre, Supervisory Group	Centre, Supervisory Group	Centre, Supervisory
		Group

Date: 31-10-2000 Date: 31-10-2000 Date: 31-10-2000

[This is a form sent out to all villages, with only the signatures and items shown in italics written in afterwards; several copies to different villages were obtained by KHRG, each specifying a different quota of baskets of paddy. The price paid for the crop which the farmers are forced to hand over is well under half of market price.]

(Source: KHRG)



Left: Original Burmese version of the above order.

Appendix #3

VPDC

Sa-Kan-Gi group, Ka-Lay township

Dear

Date April 23 2000

Subject : Request for you to come and discuss money collection.

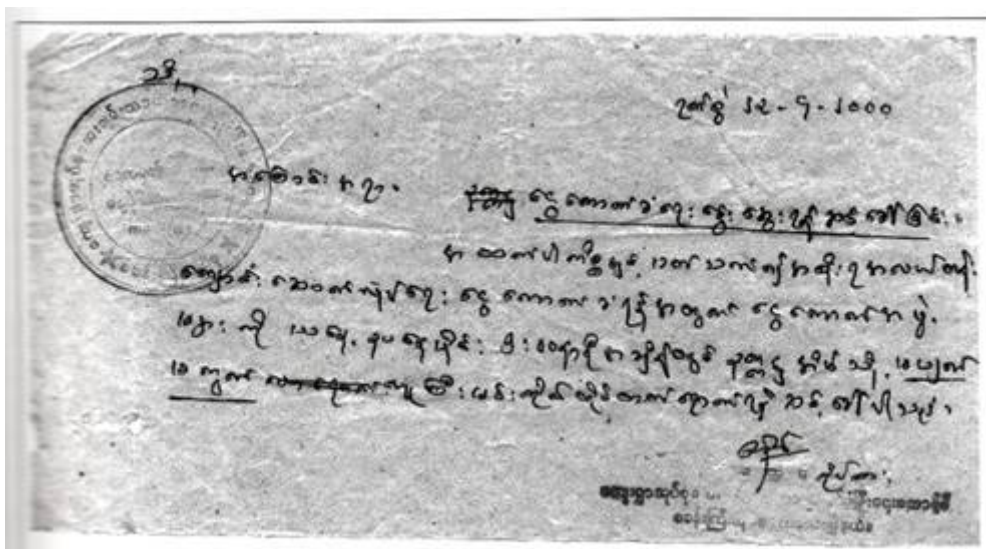
According to the matter above, we are required to collect money for the construction of a government school. The groups responsible for the money collection must come this evening at 5 o'clock to the chairman's house, without fail.

(sd.)

VPDC

San-Kan-Gi group, Ka-Lay Township

(Source: Inside Burma)



Appendix #4

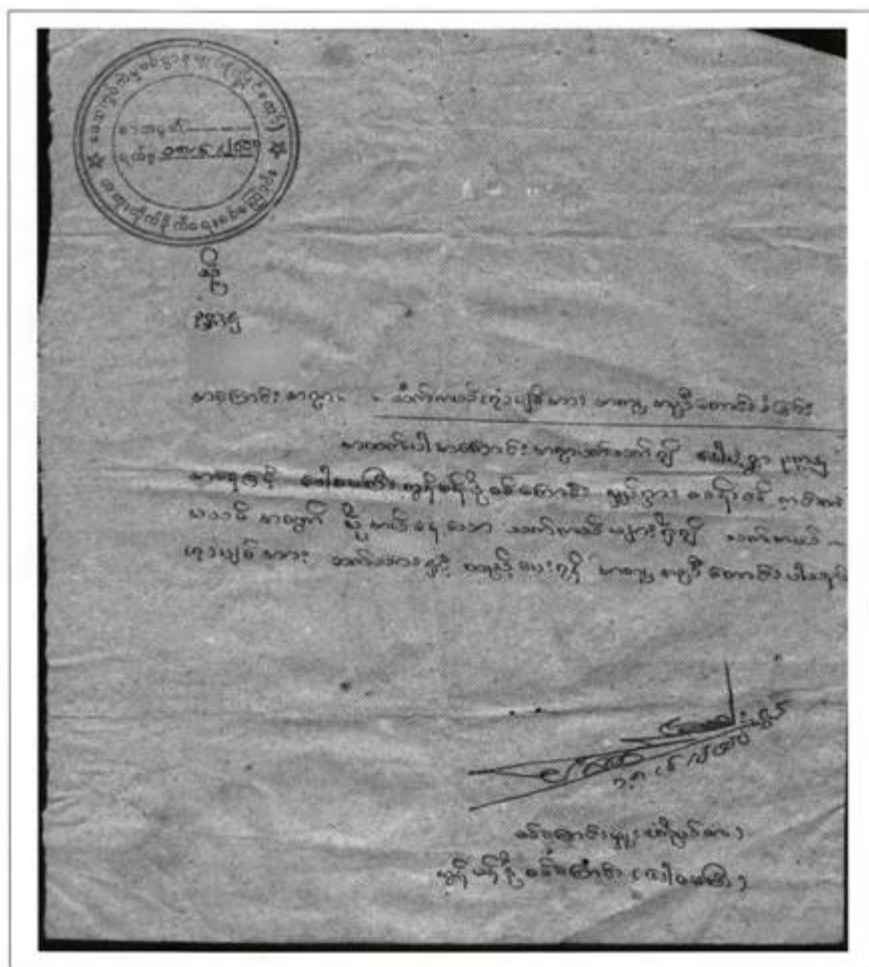
To
Chairman,

Subject: Request for 7 slats of woven roofing thatch

Regarding the aforementioned subject, as a chairman of xxxxxxxx village, you are being asked to give 7 slats of woven roofing thatch for the new xxxxxx Commando Guard House.

(Sd.)
Column Commander
(for)
Commando Military Column
xxxxxxx

(Source: KNAHR) Below is the original Burmese version.



Appendix #5

VPDC

Sa-Kan-Gi group, Ka-Lay Township

Date: September 6 2000

Subject: For the purchase of wood products, firewood, bamboo, xxxxx, thatch

Every family must give 35 kyats, including guests and divorced families for the construction of DP 29. The money must be collected by June 20 2000 and given to xxxx (a member of VPDC).

(Sd)

VPDC

Sa-Kan-Gi group, Ka-Lay Township

(Source: Inside Burma)



6. Rights of the Child

6.1 Background

On April 23, 1999, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights passed a resolution deploring the *"continuing violations of the rights of children, in particular through the lack of conformity of the existing legal framework with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, through conscription of children into forced labor programs, through their military and sexual exploitation and through discrimination against children belonging to ethnic and religious minority groups."* There is little reason to believe that the situation has changed since then. According to UNICEF, out of the 1.3 million children born in Myanmar every year, 92,500 die before their first birthday and 1:3 children under 5 are malnourished and almost half of all children get no education. While national laws to protect children are in place, little is done to enforce them, and exploitative and dangerous forms of child labor had been widely reported, including work on infrastructure development projects, in military support operations, as child soldiers, and in the sex industry. The military government continues to prioritize strengthening the military over improving the education system and there are dramatic differences between the quality of education received by civilian children and the children of the military.

Burma became a part to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on August 15, 1991 after acceding to the Convention on July 16, 1991. The SPDC promulgated its new Child Law on July 14, 1993 in order to "implement the rights of the child recognized in the Convention." Chapter V, section 8 of the Child Law states that *"the state recognized that every child has the right to survival, development, protection and care, and to achieve active participation with the community."* SPDC's Child Law was seen as a positive sign internationally and it temporarily improved SPDC's image for the world community; but the continuing violations of the rights of children show how little the SPDC government actually values this law. The actual treatment of children in Burma is contrary to the objectives and stated purpose of the Convention and the law.

6.2 Social, Education and Health Situation of Children from Burma

The Education Situation for Children Inside Burma

According to a report updated in 2000 by the United States Department of Labor, the SPDC's apparent lack of commitment to primary education and widespread poverty are contributing factors to child labor in Burma. Despite a compulsory education law, less than half of the children in Burma enroll in school and only 25-35% of those students complete the 5-year primary school course and according to the World Bank the government only spends 28 cents a year per child on public schools. UNICEF estimates of the 3/4 of children enrolled in primary school only one in four teenagers continues to High School. At the regional UNESCO conference in 2000 Burma and Pakistan came under direct attack from prioritizing military expenditure over education. Of the national budget, 40.1 percent is used for the military forces while less than 1% is for education. Of this 1%, only 7.7% is used for civilian education.

Those who are able to attend school rarely receive a quality education. Textbooks, school equipment and school supplies are outdated and in short supply. The content of textbooks is censored and teachers receive military training. The requirements for passing grades has

Total number of students: 7 million	
Type of School	Number of Schools
Primary School	37,627
Middle School	3,695
High School	1,572
Total	42,894

been lowered and the introduction of a new exam system has lessened the need to study in order to pass in primary, middle and high school levels. Cheat sheets are widely available for purchase and bribes, corruption and favoritism are linked to passing with good grades. The high cost of tuition

and fees is also a major factor in prohibiting children from completing their education. School fees include fees for enrollment, textbooks, exercise books, school cleaning, examination papers, sport, tutoring and USDA membership. The continuing economic crisis in Burma has meant that the dropout rate is steadily increasing, as children are forced to leave school to work and their families cannot afford to pay school fees. A joint research project between the Burma Labor Department and UNICEF found that of 1163 children between the ages of 5 and 14 who dropped out of school in Rangoon and Mandalay in 1994-1995, 57.6% had done so because of the high tuition and fees. In addition, the low salaries paid to teachers, between 900-1200 kyats per month (approximately \$2-3), has meant that they cannot devote their full time and energy to their classes and put in extra hours tutoring to earn more money.

According to a shadow report for the 22nd session of CEDAW done by women's organizations from Burma and the Women's Affairs Department of the NCGUB, female children are the most at risk for dropping out of school when a family faces hardship. Fewer than 1/3 of all girls that enroll in primary school make it through. Even though education is highly valued for males and females among most of Burma's ethnic groups, because it is perceived as the girls role to help with family duties, they are often taken out of school to help provide the family with basic necessities.

In addition, thousands of children are forced to drop out or interrupt their education because of such things as forced labor requirements, the burning of villages by the military, and the extra-judicial killing or arbitrary arrest of their parents. Children who have been forcibly relocated, along with the rest of their villages, are often forced to work and help support their families rather than attend school. In addition many schools have been closed or destroyed, and the children often do not speak the language used by the schools at relocation sites. Orphaned and poor boys living in youth centers are reportedly educated only to the primary school level.

Ethnic and religious minorities are often discriminated against in their access to education and the quality of education received. A study of education in Mon State found that the education policy of the SPDC had been to promote Burmanization at the detriment of the Mon ethnic group. In another example, education in Naga hills is extremely poor with only few matriculates and graduates due to its geographical isolation from the rest of the world and negligence of its education system by the government. Though there are primary and high schools in some villages and townships, the government appointed teachers are often not found in the villages where they are posted even though they are receiving salaries and facilities provided by the government. Under these circumstances, schools are being run

by the villagers at their own expense using locals college drop-outs as teaches. Besides lacking furniture, students are not provided with the requisite text books and stationary materials that should be given free by the government to all the students and there is a discrepancy in the amount of materials provided to Buddhist and Christian students with Buddhist students being given preference.

Situation of education for Children of Migrant workers

For many children who follow their parents to Thailand this can mean the end of their education and the beginning of their working life. According to children interviewed by HRDU in the Mae Sot area, although they desired to attend school and there existed some limited opportunities, they were forced to work for their families' survival instead. The fact that many of their parents place a low value on education contributed to the problem. According to children collecting recyclables in Mae Sot, there are between 40-60 such children, all males, between the ages of 9-16 doing this type of work. They earned between 40 and 60 baht a day and the job is sometimes passed down from an older sibling when he becomes old enough to find a new type of work. Such children are generally treated as a nuisance by the community and they have a fear of the police and arrest, particularly if they are working at night.

In 2000, the Thai police announced that their crackdown against illegal immigrants would include Burmese children begging on Bangkok streets. Pol Gen Sant Sarutanon, deputy national police chief, said the crackdown would focus on some 350,000 Burmese children under 13 who were roaming Bangkok streets as beggars. A police investigation of more than 10 Burmese children arrested at Ratchaprasong intersection indicated there were many networks controlling the young beggars.

The following information comes from a report done by the Asian Research Center for Migration in 1997-1998, entitled " *Migrant Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances in Thailand*" This report focused on 3 types of migrant children; child laborers; child sex-workers and street children. Burmese children are the majority of migrant children in Thailand and the overall level of children coming to Thailand is on the rise. There are several reasons why Burmese children come to Thailand; because their families bring them; to avoid such things as forced labor, government extortion or loss of liberty; for economic reasons; because they are lured or trafficked; or for social reasons, such as they know someone in Thailand or have heard good reports back from people known to them who have migrated to Thailand.

The Health Situation of children from Burma

According to the WHO World Health Report 2000 Burma is ranked 139th out of 191 countries in terms of the overall level of health of the population and 190th for performance of health care systems, given the level of resources (**see chapter on Education and Health**). According to figures from the National AIDS Program, of all the HIV infections estimated to have occurred by 1995, 50 percent were among pregnant women attending antenatal clinics and there is no evidence that the situation has improved since then. Although there is no available data, this indicates that there is a number of children being born HIV+ who are not receiving adequate or any medical attention at all for their conditions.

UNICEF STATISTICS

Infant mortality rate	79	(per 1,000 live births)
Under 5 mortality rate	12	(per 1,000 live births)
Annual no. of under 5 deaths	106	(thousands)

IMMUNIZATIONS	% fully immunized (1-year-old children)
BCG	90
DPT3	75
Polio3	88
Measles	86
TT2	64

% of EPI routine vaccinations financed by the government 0%

% of Population with access to safe water	% of population with access to adequate sanitation
Water (total) 68	Sanitation (total) 46
Water (Urban) 88	Sanitation (Urban) 65
Water (Rural) - 60	Sanitation (Rural) 39

Estimates suggest that 60% of teenage drug users are HIV positive

Nutrition	
Infants with low birth weight	24 %
Exclusively breastfed (0-3 mos)	-
Breastfed with complimentary food (6-9 mos)	78
Still breastfeeding (20-23 months)	75
Moderately to severely underweight	39
Severely underweight	13

Acute respiratory infections account for **24%** of infant and child deaths. Lack of available antibiotics is a contributing factor.

Diarrhea is the second leading cause of death of children under five accounting for **18%** of deaths. Lack of knowledge about oral rehydration salts outside of urban areas is a contributing factor as is malnutrition and other diseases.

Of Burma's 320 townships, 210 have a coverage rate of 80% for child immunizations. However, in rural areas a 60% coverage rate is a more likely statistic. Security issues, lack of infrastructure and shortage of health care workers are contributing factors to this discrepancy. The mortality rate among children 5-15 years old is 2 per 1000, with most of these deaths being from preventable diseases.

As of March 24, 2000 it was announced that Japan had donated dollars 5.5 million for a UNICEF program to improve health care services for mothers and children in Burma, this was an increase of 3.8 million dollars over their donation for the project last year. UNICEF deputy director for the East Asia and the Pacific, Carroll Long said that with the new grant, 319 townships in Burma would receive essential drugs and basic medical equipment, to be distributed to township hospitals and rural clinics with the help of the government.

It has been reported that in the beginning of May 2000, SPDC's LIBs 406, 407, 408, 409, and 410 were forcibly selling health care cards for mothers and children in Yebyu township, Tavoy District, Tenasserim Division. Every family was forced to buy a card, which cost 100 kyat. They were ordered to do this by Operation Command HQ No. 8 based in Kanbauk village and the profits went to support their military fund.(Source: TIR)

6.3 Children in Prison and Labor Camps

Children under five may be found in prison with their mothers for 3 reasons; they have no relatives to care for them, their mothers have requested that they stay together; or they are born there. However, all children must leave at the age of 5 and they are placed in social services if there are no relatives to care for them. Political prisoners are not allowed to have their children stay with them unless they are born in prison and men are never allowed to keep their children with them.

Because children live under the same conditions as prisoners, they do not have access to adequate health care and nutritious food. They get rice gruel in the morning and two other meals a day of boiled rice and a watery soup made with a little fish paste and unwashed vegetables and chili. They must share this food with their mothers and are not given any additional food by the prison authorities. Women in prison are given 7-8 cups of water a day for washing and this must also be shared with the children. In addition to this, no special

provisions are made for their education or recreational needs. They have no books, toys or play area and because they have to stay with their mothers at all times, their movements are restricted and they can rarely go outdoors or out of the multiple occupancy cells. They are not given immunizations and because there is rarely medicine in the prison clinic, the prisoners must rely on family members or other prisoners for medicine if the children get sick. T.B. is a common problem in prison and also affects children. Because their mothers are not tested for H.I.V., the number of children with this condition is unknown. In addition, women giving birth in prison do not receive adequate pre-natal care and during birth they are only assisted by a midwife who is a fellow prisoner. A high number of children die during childbirth due to complications.

According to one female political prisoner, there were approximately 50 children staying in Insein prison from 1992-1995. Of these, 15 were born in prison, mostly to long-term prisoners. There are three prison labor camps in Burma that have women prisoners; Pyinmana-Yezin, HtoneBon, and Mandalay-Pathein Gyi. Mothers have to work long days and have quotas to fill; if they don't they are beaten. For this reason, some women choose to tie their children to trees so they aren't bothered while they are working. Many children die in the labor camps due to the heat, no health care, and no medicine for treatable conditions such as diarrhea.

6.4 Child Labor

Child Labor in Burma

There is little comprehensive data available on the situation of child labor inside Burma. However, it is visible by simply touring the country that child labor is commonplace across Burma and children are often seen working in various sectors of the economy. Many children from Burma enjoy no childhood at all; they are simply put straight to work. There are no mechanisms to protect child laborers, to enforce laws for the minimum labor age, or to give compensation for injuries that result from the often dangerous working conditions in which children work.

The skyrocketing costs of living often render working people in Burma incapable of providing their children with an education, and thus a future. A single working family member is no longer able to secure enough food for the whole family, which forces other family members, including school-aged children, into the work place.

Migrant Child Laborers from Burma

There are two types of migrant child laborers, those who are temporary or short-term and stay from a few weeks to a few months. For example, Burmese children working for 2-3 months during school vacations have been found in Kanchanaburi and Tak provinces on the Thai-Burma borders. The second type are long-term and work the border provinces and large cities, such as Bangkok. Overall, Burmese child migrant workers, including Mon, Karen, Tai Yai and other ethnic groups are more than half of all child migrant workers in Thailand. It has been found that some Burmese Mon children have come to Thailand under the cover of being novice monks, and some Mon children have been ordained as novice monks at the Mon temple in Kanchanaburi province, after which they move on to another Mon temple and then disrobe to become workers.

	TYPES OF WORK	WORKING CONDITIONS
General Service Jobs	Domestic work such as; cleaning, doing laundry, cooking, dishwashing, Jobs in restaurants such as buying food, cooking, serving food; Baby sitting, Car washing and Gas attendants	Usually have long working hours, more than 10 a day. Children can be exposed to inappropriate environments, such as if they work in places that serve alcohol or sell sex.
Use of Labor Jobs	Work in fisheries, agriculture, transportation, tourism and construction	Are heavy duty jobs that have long hours and can be unsafe work environments
Jobs in factories	Textile factories, garment factories, food canning factories, water boiler production factories, water bottling factories, steel factories, and food product production factories.	Long hours under potentially unhealthy or dangerous conditions
Other	Vendors, packing charcoal, chili and garlic pickers, fish grading, collecting garbage	Long working hours, are exposed to heat if outside, dust that can cause respiratory problems, and potentially dangerous chemicals

All working children are subjective to potentially abusive and exploitative conditions. This is exacerbated by the fact that most migrant children workers are separated from their families and therefore have no support system. They are at risk for physical abuse, including sexual abuse by their employers and others, wage exploitation, long working hours and few or no days off, and lack of health care and educational opportunities. Some children never receive any education and very few go beyond the primary level. In addition, because of their illegal status, they have no protection from the authorities if they are being exploited or abused, in fact in some cases they have to pay bribes along with adult workers to the Thai police to prevent deportation.

Migrant Street Children

Street children are children who spend the majority of their time on the street, whether they staying with their families or not. Some may stay with parents or relatives at night and spend their days on the street while their families are working, some have families that live on the street and some have no family and are living on the street independently. The number of migrant street children is on the rise and their reasons for being on the street differ from Thai street children. Thai street children are usually escaping family problems while migrant children are there out of economic necessity. A new phenomenon is children who come to Thailand with the intention to become beggars. They live in mentally and physically unhealthy environments and can easily be taken advantage of by adults.

There are two groups of children who beg for a living, independent beggars and those who are part of beggar gangs. Children who are independent beggars are usually older and have had experience begging. They can be found near shopping malls, overpasses, markets and tourist spots but move around frequently. Some stay with other children and live in places such as bus stations, parks or under bridges. Children who are part of beggar gangs are usually under the control of another person, it could be a relative or broker and some children are trafficked for this purpose. Children in beggar gangs have little control over their situation and are often threatened or beaten if they do not collect enough money.

PROBLEMS FACED BY MIGRANT STREET CHILDREN				
Health	Education	Intimidation, Assault	Sexual Abuse	Arrest
Street children live in crowded or exposed conditions and do not get sufficient or nutritious food. Intestinal problems are common. They do not get enough rest and if they are working, such as begging or collecting garbage, they are often in unhealthy or dangerous environments. There is little or no access to health care and if they have families, they do not have the money, knowledge or time to care adequately for their health. They are also susceptible to drug addiction.	Migrant children receive little or no education.	Migrant street children have no one to protect or care for them. They are at risk for abuse from other children, and adults such as brokers or authorities. Even in cases where there are other migrant adults present there is often little they can do to protect them. This is especially true of trafficked children.	Migrant street children are at risk for being lured or forced into the sex industry. They may be lured by money to be provide sexual services on an irregular basis. They are also at risk for sexual abuse.	Migrant street children are an easy target for arrest by Thai authorities. However, lack of evidence to prove their nationalities makes it difficult to know their origins and has caused mistakes in deportations. Some children have been detained for over one month.

6.5 Child Trafficking for the Sex Industry

Burmese children; including a large number of ethnic minority children, mostly from Shan and Kachin States, are the largest percentage of child migrant prostitutes in Thailand. In the north they enter Thailand through Mai Sai, Mae Sot and Khunyuam districts. In the west they come in through Three Pagodas Pass in Kanchanaburi Province and Ranong Province. Some are trafficked through agents for the purpose of entering the sex trade, others have come to Thailand either by themselves or with their families to work, and enter sex work either through economic necessity or are forced into it. Even those children who are aware they will enter the sex industry are rarely aware of the circumstances they will be working under. Child prostitutes who come to work in Thailand through agents have to pay agents' fees and transportations costs. Many children are sold to the owner of an establishment that sells sex, Burmese children are sold for between 10,000-25,000 baht, this then becomes their debt which they have to work off. Commercial sex establishments which employ migrant children are located in border provinces, near the border, in big cities that attract tourists, and in Bangkok.

Working Conditions

The AMRC reported that children had 1-3 customers per day in middle class commercial sex establishments and 3-10 customers per day in lower class commercial sex establishments. During holidays or festivals there were more customers than during normal working days. Wages for virgin children started at 3,000-15,000 baht per service and decreased to 100-1,200 baht per service as the number of customers they had served increased. The children never received these amounts in full, some only receiving half, a quarter or no money at all. In addition to deducting money to pay of the debt of the purchase price, the owner of the sex establishments also charge for room and board, clothes and similar costs, sometimes at a price higher than the actual cost and deduct for interest payments.

Both agents and owners of commercial sex establishments use physical beatings and abuse to control migrant sex workers. In some cases if children refused to give service they have been raped by the customers. In addition children have been raped by agents, owners and sometimes police while in custody. In addition to the physical abuse, owners often don't let children outside the place that they work without and escort in order to prevent them from fleeing or being arrested.

Trafficking of Virgin Girls

One new development in child prostitution, reported by sociologist David Kyle, at a U. N. conference on migration in Bangkok, is that trafficked girls are increasingly virgins who are in demand, partially because of the belief that there is reduced risk of their having HIV. According to a report by the Women's League of Burma, doctors at a clinic in Mae Sot, reported to that the increased demand for virgins had led an increased number of families to sell their daughters into brothels for short periods of time until the "value of their virginity" expired, at which point they return to their families. Contributing to this problem is tacit approval from the Thai and Burmese officials and sometimes their complicity in the trafficking of women and children. Often they are bribed by brothel owners to ignore the importation of young girls. The virgin girls are rarely aware of the kind of work they will be doing in Thailand and if they are they are not aware of the working conditions. Young female virgins and children often service foreign customers who are rarely caught or prosecuted and Thai and Burmese police also frequently have been accused of taking bribes to let pedophiles go free. The recent Asian financial crisis forced more young women and children into prostitution and encouraged more foreign pedophiles to come into the region. Young girls are often held against their will after being sold into prostitution and do not receive adequate food or health care and live in physically insecure situations where they fear bodily harm from both their employers and customers. They are not adequately educated about sexually transmitted diseases and if a girl is no longer profitable because of pregnancy or disease she can be turned out on the street. Customers who pay more for a virgin or young girl are rarely willing to use a condom. For more information on the situation of child prostitutes see the interview of Cho-cho-san at the end of this chapter.

6.6 Children in Armed Conflict

Children living in areas of armed conflict are subjected to numerous hardships that mar their entire lives. Children have witnessed the killing of parents or neighbors. Children have had parents killed or abducted either by security forces or by armed groups. Children have witnessed bomb explosions, military operations by the army and security forces, and attacked by armed groups.

The civil war in Burma affects civilians more than combatants. The majority of civilians killed or wounded in time of war are children. Children are the first victims of any war. Children are most vulnerable to injury and death. Sometimes they are specially targeted as a way of terrorizing their community. They are used as soldiers, sexually abused, tortured and exploited. Their opportunity to grow up in an environment that nurtures and promotes their development is taken away from them. They miss out on education, their health and nutrition suffer. The list goes on.

Children need special protection because they are vulnerable- both because of the direct harm they sustain and the opportunities lost- and because children have a crucial role in

peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction. Children also need to be recognized as potential actors in their own right.

6.7 Child Forced Labor

In 2000, government and military authorities continued to use forced and abusive forms of child labor. In many cases when the authorities demand forced labor from families or villages children are sent, either to free their parents so they can perform needed income generating work or to ease the burden for the family or village. For this reason, children work alongside adult forced laborers and on the same type of jobs. Children have been used as forced labor on infrastructure development projects, income generating projects for the military and support for military activities. This includes work such as portering, road construction, sanitation and building maintenance work for the soldiers, working in dams, building construction, acting as messengers and doing various chores for the military. There are also reports that children have been used as minesweepers and human shields and that they have been forcibly drafted by the military.

6.8 Child Soldiers

At the July 2000 ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Bangkok, the issue of child soldiers in the Southeast Asian region was raised. The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, a rights group made up of several leading rights groups, including Amnesty and the Save the Children Alliance, called for the region to declare itself a "child soldier-free zone". ASEAN Coordinator Rory Mungoven cited Burma as one of the world's single largest users of child soldiers, noting that ethnic insurgent groups and the military regime together employed thousands of children as fighters, porters and sex slaves. Mungoven said many children in their early teens are serving in the Burmese army voluntarily because they are attracted by the power and prestige, but some are enlisted forcibly. He quoted an ILO Commission of Inquiry which found evidence of children as young as 10 being used by the Burmese army as porters and mine sweepers. The use of child soldiers under the age of 15 in armed conflict is considered a war crime and under the ILO Convention, forced recruitment of children under 18 is considered one of the worst forms of child labor. Factors that lead to the use of child soldiers include poverty, economic disparity, displacement, lack of educational opportunities, arms proliferation, and the militarization of society. Because the Burmese government denies the use of child soldiers, it is difficult make any progress regarding this issue.

According to 2001 Karen Human Rights group report, many children between the ages of 13-19 are enlisted, and some as young as 9. In some cases, children were taken from their parents under the guise of wanting to give them educational opportunities, but they were then placed in military schools after which they were expected to join the SPDC. Children are given the same basic training as other soldiers, but if they are not strong enough to carry their own guns or backpacks they can be kept in battalion camps for months or years. If they are too young to be sent out on operations, under the age of 12 or 13, they can be used a forced labor on projects such as digging roads, taking care of animals or cutting grass and bushes. Child soldiers are often beaten by other soldiers or their commanders. The following testimonial comes from a KHRG interview with a former child soldier:

"They also have children as young as 10 or 12 years old. They really need the manpower at the frontline of the battlefield so they arrest children. Some are too young so they keep them to take care of goats, cows and chickens [at the camps]. They also have children that they send to school. It is because they need higher numbers of soldiers that they are arresting like that...The 10 and 11 year olds have to attend the training. If they couldn't follow to the frontline and couldn't carry their backpack and gun, they were ordered to go to the rear area and raise goats for one or two years." – Soe Tint (M,18), Lance Corporal from LIB #504, Papun District (KHRG Interview #6, Abuse under Orders report. 3/2001). See the end of this chapter for an interview on life as a child soldier.

Recruitment of Orphan Boys by SPDC

At the end of August 2000, LIBs 403,404 and 405, based in Thaya-Chawn Township, Tenasserim Division, started making lists of orphan children 7 to 8 years old in the township villages. The reason they gave was that they wanted to educate the children. However, it was strongly suspected that the SPDC planned to put these children in with military cadets. As a result of this SPDC action, many orphan children ran to the border and other places. (Source: THRF)

Recruitment of Ethnic Minority Child Soldiers in Arakan State

The SPDC is recruiting child soldiers from Arakan state, particularly from among the tribal people such as Chakmas, Mro, and Saak (Thet). The child soldiers are being given education and military training in Akyab (Sittwe) while their parents are given financial support. These child soldiers, all of them under the age of 18, are called Yay Nyunt Lu Ngay (The Brave Blossom youth). Soon after the completion of their training they can be sent to the frontline to combat insurgents. Similar information about the recruitment and use of child soldiers has been reported in other parts of the country. (Source: ARNO)

Child Soldiers Desert, Flee to India, Then Deported Back

On March 16, four Burmese army deserters, one of whom was a thirteen year old boy, were handed over to the Burmese authorities by the Indian authorities. The soldiers, who were arrested on February 17 by Mizoram police on the India-Burma border, said that they left the army due to little salary and injustice done to them in the army. The four army deserters told the police investigation team in Champhai that their monthly salary of 450 kyat (US \$1) for a soldier with Private rank was too little to survive. They said that their officers treated them badly and occasionally beat them. One of the soldiers showed his fresh injuries to the police team, which he got due to beating by his officers. The four soldiers deserted their army outpost in Rid village of Chin State of Burma on February 17. The local police arrested them the same day near a border village in Champhai district of Mizoram State of India. According to police sources, Mizoram State's Director General of Police Mr. M.Tumsanga and Champhai Superintendent of Police Mr. K. Amonan crossed the border to Rid village on February 19 to discuss the fate of the deserters with their Burmese counterparts. The soldiers, (Pvt Tun Linn Naung, 13, Pvt Win Kyaw, 18, Pvt Than Thun, 25, and Pvt Soe Aye, 20) from LIB No. 266 deserted along with three G-3 assault rifles and ammunition. The decision to deport them was made by the Central Government in New Delhi. "The Government of India has appealed to the Myanmar army to be lenient on them. But it is up to the Myanmar authorities to deal with them," said Mr. Tumsanga when asked about the personal safety of the deserters once they were in the hands of Burmese authorities. (Source: Mizzima News Group)

Children Sold to United Wa State Army for Drug Running Activities

On June 29, 2000, The Nation reported that according to a senior Thai security source the UWSA has bought young hill-tribe boys from Mae Hong Son's Pai and Pang Mapha districts in order to train them to join their drug-running activities. Many parents agreed to sell their children although they knew they would be working in the UWSA's narcotics smuggling ring. (Source: The Nation)

6.9 Refugee Children

To flee from one's home is to experience a deep sense of loss, and the decision to flee is not taken lightly. Those who make this decision do so because they are in danger of being killed, tortured, forcibly recruited, raped, abducted or starved, among other reasons. They leave behind them assets and property, relatives, friends, familiar surroundings and established social networks. Although the decision to leave is normally taken by adults, even the youngest children recognize what is happening and can sense their parents' uncertainty and fear.

During flight from the dangers of conflict, families and children continue to be exposed to multiple physical dangers. They are threatened by sudden attacks, shelling, snipers and landmines, and must often walk for days without only limited quantities of water and food. Under such circumstances, children become acutely undernourished and prone to illness, and they are the first to die. Girls in flight are even more vulnerable than usual to sexual abuses. Children forced to flee on their own to ensure their survival are also at heightened risk. Children are often separated from parents in the chaos of conflict, escape and displacement. Parents or other care-givers are the major source of a child's emotional and physical security and for this reason family separation can have a devastating social and psychological impact. Unaccompanied children are especially vulnerable and at risk of neglect, violence, military recruitment, sexual assaults and other abuses.

More than half of the refugee population are children, and they are especially vulnerable. They are vulnerable not only as refugees, but also as children who, in the majority of cases, are dependent upon their mothers who, as women refugees, are themselves vulnerable. This vulnerability leaves children open to violence, to disruption of vulnerability and social structures and to shortage of basic resources which affects physical and psycho-social development. Unaccompanied refugee children are in an especially difficult position, without even a nominal caregiver to ensure survival.

In the aftermath of the January 2000 attack on Ratchaburi Hospital by 10 guerrillas, the Thai military stepped up border security and pushed all ethnic Burmese troops on Thai soil back into Burma. Unfortunately as a result, a number of ethnic children were left behind when their parents went back to Burma. In Ratchaburi's Suan Phung district, fourteen children, aged between seven and 13, took refuge at Ban Thahin School and were being given food and shelter by their teachers who were also border police. At the nearby Tako Pidthong School, 41 ethnic children were in the same situation. Associate Professor Dr. Thongkhon Hongphan, a deputy permanent secretary to the Education Ministry, appealed for help from the private sector because the ministry's budget to support these children was falling far short of the actual need. Displaced ethnic children are not a phenomenon known to these schools alone and are present in almost every border province in increasing numbers. In Ratchaburi alone, the population of displaced ethnic children is about 1,000.

6.10 Sexual Assault of Children – partial list of incidents

On March 27, 2000, 3 relocated Shan woman, including a 15 year old girl named Naang Ong, were shot dead after they had been captured, interrogated, and raped by troops from Company No.3 of LIB514 led by Capt. Than Myint at a place 2-1/2 miles south of Kae-See town, Kae-See township, Shan State. The women were captured on March 26 and were shot dead the next day after the troops had gang-raped the women. (See chapter on woman). (Source: SHRF)

In May 2000, four Burmese security forces in Maungdaw township of Arakan state grabbed minor Rohingya boys and sexually assaulted them several times. As a result, one of the boys died of excessive bleeding. (Source: RSO)

On May 5, 2000, a section of NaSaKa (western border control) with a strength of 7 soldiers seized and killed a 14 year old minor student, Abdul Hafez son of of Dil Mohammed of East Auk Rwa village, 12 miles south of Maungdaw town ,under Ale Thankyaw police station. Abdul Hafez was an 8th grade student in Ali Thankyaw High School. On the fateful night, Abdul Hafez and 6 other young boys from the village were watching the village watch post, a routine duty, as per order of the commander of NaSaKa Area No.7. At about 10 p.m. a NaSaKa inspection team came to the said village post and grabbed Abdul Hafez. They carried him to an isolated place and committed sodomy. After repeated sexual assaults the boy was killed by squeezing his neck and his dead body was thrown into nearby Ale Thankyaw creek. The next morning a fisherman found the body, with a broken neck and a morsel of straw in its mouth, caught in his fishing net. The fisherman handed the dead body over to the boy's family whereupon a complaint was lodged with the commander of NaSaKa Area No. 7. However, no action was taken against the perpetrators of the crime. Instead the commander advised the relatives to immediately bury the dead body. (Source: ARNO, RSO)

On July 10, 2000, Ma Nu (14), an eighth grade student, from Akyab (Sittwe), the provincial capital of Arakan state, was gang raped by 10 SPDC armed policemen and soldiers belonging to battalion No. 20, while she was on her way back from her uncle's funeral. Witnesses to the rape could do nothing to help the victim because they were afraid of the well-armed troops. One of the eye-witness ran to her home to inform her parents and her mother and older brother rushed to the site of the incident. When they arrived the rapists were gone and the victim was lying unconscious and bleeding excessively. Her parents didn't dare to report the incident because they were afraid of reprisals and the girl received medical treatment at her home. (Source: ARNO)

On August 12, 2000, a unit of troops from Loikaw based IB 261 gang raped a 12 year-old girl living in Mingalar Ward, Loikaw City, Karenni State. After the incident, the young girl was brought to central hospital for medical treatment and was still receiving medical care there as of the end of August 2000. (Source: KNAHR)

6.11 Killing of Children - partial list of incidents

On January 22, 2000, a patrol of 50-60 SPDC troops from IB246, led by Capt. Aung Moe, traveling with 14 civilian porters, came to a rice farm at Nawng Hai, about 3 miles from Kun-Hing town, where a man, Lung Ti, 40, and his 2 children were threshing rice. The troops arrested the villagers and then tied them up. They were separated, interrogated, beaten and tortured. Lung Ti and Zaai Lu, M, 11, were beaten to death during interrogation, but Naang Ser, F, 18, was repeatedly raped before eventually also being beaten to death. (Source: SHRF)

On May 9 2000, a Burmese patrol from LIB 377, under the command of Operational Commanding Headquarters' No.1 Tactical command # 9, met a Karen family while patrolling the surrounding area of their Tactical Command Headquarters. Spotting the family 500 yards from the headquarter as the family was heading to work on their rice field, the troops accused the family of attempting to supply food to the rebels and killed all of them on the spot. The family was from the village of Kataungni where the No.1 Tactical command had set up its headquarter in the east of Tavoy Township. The victims were:

- (1) Saw Wah Htoo, 25 years: Son of Saw Sanet
- (2) Naw Spider, 20 years: Wife of Saw Wah Htoo, who was 4 months pregnant.
- (3) Saw John, 3 years: son of Saw Wah Htoo.
- (4) Saw Joy, 2 years: son of Saw Wah Htoo.

They were shot to death and abandoned on the footpath to their plantation. Though knowing that the family was killed and abandoned on the path, their relatives from the Kataungni village were afraid to retrieve the bodies because of the Burmese soldiers. (Source: TIR)

On July 15, 2000, a one year old child was shot to death when a troop of 30 'Pyi Thu Sit' (SPDC's people militia) from Le Thit village tract, Mergui District, Tenasserim Division, headed by Khin Maung Tint, entered the compound of Saw Hpo Nu and shot at his house. His wife was in the house. After entering the house and learning that Saw Hpo Nu was not there, they told Saw Hpo Nu's wife that her husband was a rebel informer shot Saw Nu's son, age 1, to death. (Source: TIR)

On July 20 2000, SPDC troops (battalion unidentified) entered Toe Thoo Khee village, Shwe Gyin Township, Karen State and shot at villagers. They killed 4 villagers, including the small baby of Naw Nelly Paw, aged 19, who was also killed. (Source: KAWU)

On November 11, 2000, troops from SPDC tactical command (1) LIB 340, led by company (1) commander Win Myint, without reason shot to death Maw-hta villager, Saw Pah Kyaw, 15, son of Saw Too Loo, while he was carrying cardamon seeds. The troops were in the area of Kay-kor, Doh-kho-wah, Maw-hta and Mar-lay-ler, Pa-pun District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

6.12 Personal Accounts

‘A young girl destroyed by the prostitute market’

An interview by the Burmese Women's Union (BWU) September 2000

There was a girl I met who came to Thailand; it was not because she was angry with her parents or for her own enjoyment. She was an orphan and had nothing to eat. She was sold into prostitution in Mae Sot, although the kind of job she wanted was washing dishes, cooking and domestic help.

But cute girls without breasts and young unmarried 13 years old girls are part of prostitution circles. These cute girls are "Par-Kin-Paunt". (Par-Kin-Paunt is a Burmese term which literally means "first opening" or "deflowering" and refers to virgin girls who are new to prostitution and who are free from HIV/AIDS) These young unmarried girls are very valuable. This Karen girl, at the age of 13, heard the word "Par-Kin-Paunt" for first time when she was sold to a brothel. The following are her personal experiences as she related them:

The conversation;

At first, they didn't put me at the prostitute house. I don't know what they call it (the brothel) – is that "Par-Kin-Paunt"? I don't know. They sent me to that place. As soon as they sent me there, a man started to "Par-Kin-Paunt" me. I asked him "what are you going to do to me?" The uncle told me "I paid for you, I can do with you whatever I want." I tried to fight him then, but he beat me and then used me. At this place sold me as "Par-Kin-Paunt" maybe three times. I don't remember. After that, the head person of the Darling Prostitution House came and took me to work at their brothel. They didn't allow me to go out or look out the windows. They beat me when they saw me looking out the windows. And they didn't feed me enough food.

After "Par-Kin-Paunt", she was taken to a brothel in Mae-Sot. When she arrived at the brothel, she was forced to persuade guests. She had to wear very short skirts without underwear and sit where everybody could see her. The head prostitutes taught her how to sit a particular way and if she sat the wrong way she was punished and beaten. When a guest wanted to sleep with one of the girls, they pointed to the number card they wore on their shirts and the girls had no choice but to comply. It was the same for this girl. One day she had to go with a guest that paid to bring her outside the brothel.

The conversation;

It was the worst day of my life, the day I had to follow that customer. I thought I would be killed. He didn't send me back to the Darling prostitute house (like he said he would). I was brought to a hill-side cultivation site where there were two men working. They were holding knives. I thought I would die. I thought they were criminals. These two men carried me into a hut. I was screaming and crying for help. I shouted, "Why did you take me? I have no money", I shouted and screamed and pleaded with them. When I arrived at the hut, there were about 6 men, and they all took turns at raping me.

[After] she was bleeding from her vagina, mouth and nose and she had no place to go. She was arrested after a police officer saw her walking down a road and stopped her. The head prostitutes from her brothel heard the news that she had been arrested and came to get her.

The conversation;

When I arrived back at the Darling prostitute house, the head woman asked me, "Why have you been gone and away for two days, you ran away from us, didn't you?" And they beat me and put me into a locked room. They tied me up and didn't feed me for 10 days. Some of my friends who had the same life as me (other young prostitutes) felt sympathy for me. They came and fed me secretly. I told them I would not forget their kindness. After those 10 days I planned to run away. I thought that I wouldn't face any difficulties worse than I had faced there. I didn't even care if I died. I planned to jump out of the building. I really couldn't stay there. I jumped out.

After Cho Cho San escaped from Darling prostitute house a man helped her get a job in Bangkok. She decided that she would do any job but prostitution. While working in Bangkok she was married, at the age of 14. When she was five months pregnant, her husband left her and married another girl. Cho Cho San felt very depressed and without hope. One day, when Thai police arrested Burmese migrant workers, she was arrested by police and police sent her to Mae Sot, and thus she was in Mae Sot again. Even though she feared for her life and livelihood, she swore she would never return to the life of prostitution. During her life as a prostitute others had looked down on her because she has no parents.

The conversation;

They look down on me. They told me "you have no parents, you are sold by other people, and on top of being a prostitute you have no parents". I didn't care. I told them "I didn't come to make money, I came because other people took me and sold me. I have to be here."

Cho Cho San told me that in the brothel that there were other girls that were very young like her. When some medics came to check her health, they found that she had Syphilis. Even though it couldn't kill her, she was very afraid. She also talked about one of her friends who had a sexually transmitted disease and about how she had asked the head prostitutes permission to leave Darling prostitute house.

The conversation;

At the brothel, there was another girl. She was 12 years old, one year younger than me. She told me she had a disease. Excuse me (for saying this), but from her female sex organs there was liquid and pus when she sat down. No guests would sleep with her, so the head prostitutes fired her. One day there was a meeting held by the head prostitutes. They told all the women "if you have diseases, leave here before we fire you. We won't allow you to stay here." At that time I also had a disease and I asked permission to leave. The head prostitute told me, "Your disease is not AIDS, your disease is Syphilis. You don't have to care about Syphilis and neither do we. So you can't leave." I had no answer to what she told me.

Cho Cho San fears the prostitute community. She told me about her experience of returning to Mae Sot while pregnant.

The conversation;

When I arrived back in Mae Sot, I was pregnant. I didn't know where to give birth to my child. A medic from the Students Clinic (Mae-Tao Clinic) saw me at the Mae-Sot market when she was buying vegetables. She asked me, "Where will you give birth to your child?" And she asked me, "Where do you live?" I told her my husband had another wife and she gave me 100 Baht for a taxi and food and she told me "tomorrow come to the clinic". When I arrived at the clinic, she checked how my pregnancy was coming along and did a blood test. Then she allowed me to go and told me to come back next week to see if I had a disease or not. The next week, I went to the clinic. When I met her, she told me that I had a STD. At that time, I felt like my whole body was in shock. I was really afraid that if I had a virus [like HIV] I would die soon, and if I died, how would my child grow up and who could it stay with? I was thinking so many things at once. I asked the medic, "What virus do I have?" She said "Don't worry, my daughter, we can treat this STD. And she gave me medicine an injection of medicine. Then it was close to the time for me to give birth. I gave birth at the Students Clinic. I was very sad when I gave birth because nobody was beside me. When I looked at my child tears came down my face. I can't retell how I felt that day. After I gave birth, the medics brought me some food, but I couldn't eat any because it was very tight in my heart.

So Cho-Cho- San had a daughter. The girl begging in front of the Mae-Sot market public toilet, sleeping at night on fish and meat selling tables, this was Cho-Cho-San who had just finished giving birth 3 days prior. Then, when her daughter was 3 months old, a 50-year-old Thai man who works as night security for the Mae-sot market, and who allowed her to sleep in the market, raped her. She had only needed a place to sleep, but she was raped. Although many beggars from Burma heard him raping her, no one was able to stop it or say anything. Now Cho-Cho-San is 15 years old. She told me that "I will work for my daughter as much as I can and my daughter must not have the same life as me". She said, "when my daughter grows up, I won't allow her to know that I was a prostitute and I won't let other people speak about me badly to my daughter." So she is begging all day all night in the rain and in the sun. She told me when she gets a little bit of money that she will go back to Myawaddy (in Pa-an District, Karen State – across the border from Mae Sot) and she will work in a garden. (plantation) Cho-Cho-San is now staying with a group of women in safety. We don't how many children prostitute from Burma, like Cho-Cho-San, are now on the Thai-Burma borders.

Rights of the Child

Name: "Tin Aung Win"

Sex: Male

Age: 17

Ethnicity: Chin/Burman

Religion: Christian

Occupation: Soldier

Marital Status: Single

Address: xxxx village, Minbu township, Magwe Division

Rank and area: Private, Company #3, Light Infantry Battalion #549, Military Operations Command #12, Pa'an District

Date of Interview: December 2000

Source: KHRG

[His father is Chin and his mother is Burman, but he considers himself to be Burman. He was forced to join the Army at 13. He has served in both Pa'an and Papun Districts.]

Q: How many siblings do you have?

A: There is only my younger sister and myself. My parents work in the hill fields. My mother and sister are still alive, but my father is dead.

Q: How many years did you study?

A: I studied 5 standards [*grades*]. I studied at the Hinthada monastery until the fourth standard. When I was a novice, the teachers taught me [*to study at the monasteries, boys are taken into the monastery as novices*]. The monks hired a teacher for us. After I passed the fourth standard, I went outside [*the monastery*] and studied in the fifth standard. After the fifth standard, I thought I would work so I left from being a novice. Then I worked.

Q: What was your rank in the Army?

A: In the Army I was a private.

Q: Did you enjoy joining the Army?

A: I didn't enjoy joining the Army at all.

Q: Did you have to join?

A: Yes, they forcibly arrested me so I had to join.

Q: Tell me how you became a soldier.

A: When I was 13 years old my mother handed me over to a monk to go to Rangoon. The next morning I followed the monk. I was a novice and studied in the monastery. When I passed fourth standard, I continued studying, but when I passed fifth standard, I went to work. The monk had found a job for me. I was to serve food in a rice and curry shop near a car road. They gave me 8,000 kyat per month with food. I didn't even work there a month and the owner fired me, so I was angry with the owner. I fought with the owner and went back to the monk. When I went back to the monastery the monk shouted at me. I was angry with the monk and went to the Bayinnaung festival in Rangoon with my friends. On the

way, I visited a section [of Rangoon] with a group of my friends. I asked my friends to wait for me while I stepped into the dark [down a dark alley] so I could urinate. I don't know if they heard me or not. When I finished, my friends were not there. Five or six police came to me. They ran and chased me to arrest me. They tried to arrest all four of us, but the others fled and escaped. They could only arrest me. They asked me if I had brought my nationality card [identity cards which are supposed to be carried by all Burmese, but are commonly left at home]. I told them I didn't bring it, but that I was a student and had come with my friends. I pointed to my friends, but they were gone. They had disappeared. I told them I hadn't brought my student card. They didn't like that. They put handcuffs on me and took me to their station.

Q: Did they question you after they handcuffed you?

A: They questioned me about why I was going around in that section without a nationality card. They told me they had arrested me because they suspected me of doing something or hiding in the dark [*'hiding in the dark' is actually an offense but is so vaguely worded that Burmese police are able to use it to arrest people even in the daytime.*]. They said they arrested me because it was their responsibility. However, I had done nothing. I was going around in that section with my friends. They arrested me because I didn't bring my nationality card.

Q: How old were you then?

A: I think I was 13 years old at that time. They took my book and everything, so I don't remember what year. It was in the daytime at 11 or 12:00, during the cold season [December - February 1996].

Q: If you were not arrested would you have continued studying?

A: I had planned to continue studying.

Q: Where did they send you?

A: The next morning one of the soldiers came to them and the police handed me over to him. Then they sent me to the Mingaladon Su Saung Yay place in Rangoon [*this is a gathering and processing center for new Army recruits*]. I told them, "I would like to go back to my parents. Send me to the monastery." They told me they couldn't send me back.

Q: What did they do with you when you arrived there?

A: They cut my hair and also the hair of the other people who arrived at the Army camp with me. They kept us in the same barracks. There were over 60 people in that barracks.

Q: Had those 60 people been arrested in the same way as you?

A: When I asked them, the police had arrested most of them. There were only 2 people out of 10 who were interested in being there [*had volunteered*].

Q: Did they beat you when they sent you to the Su Saung Yay?

A: When I told them I would like to go back outside [*to go home*], they asked me, "Will you enter here, or will you enter prison?" They gave me only two options. I didn't want to be in prison. My parents had told me about prison. So, I joined them [*the Army*].

Q: What happened then?

A: They kept me for one week at the Su Saung Yay. The rice and curry that they fed me was morning glory leaves mixed with leeches. There were insects in the soup and in the rice there were stones. We couldn't eat. They fed us two times; one time in the afternoon and one time at night. During the mealtime, they ordered all 50 or 60 of us to queue up, then we had to go one by one into the eating room. We had to stay inside all the time. When we went to the latrine, they ordered us to take off all our clothes, then they allowed us to go to the latrine. They kept one, two or three sentries. They were worried we would escape.

Q: Do you know the name of the leader of the Su Saung Yay?

A: I don't know the leader's name. During the training, the trainees didn't get a chance to know all their names.

Q: How wide was your room?

A: It was a very long barracks and the room was very wide. Here was a group and there was a group. They had to lay on the timber planks, put their clothes packs under their heads and sleep *[They do not have individual beds. The barracks have a walkway down the middle, and a wooden floor on both sides of the walkway raised about 1 foot, where the soldiers sleep side by side]*. There were 4 barracks.

Q: Where did they send you after you stayed there for a week?

A: They sent me to attend the training at the Oak Twin training school in Pegu Division for 6 months. They sent me by truck. There were over 50 people attending the training with me. The whole group went there, about 54 people. They were the people who had stayed and slept with me in the same barracks. It was all of them. They *[the camp officials]* called our names and the names of our parents and then they sent us. The people in the other barracks were being gathered to attend the next training.

Q: Do you remember the date you went for training?

A: I don't remember the date.

Q: What did they teach you in the training?

A: They taught us the military methods. They taught us how to hold guns, how to run and how to fight the enemy. They taught us what to do when we were traveling or eating. They taught us how to fight when our enemies were staying on a mountain. They also had us practice it ourselves.

Q: Did they give you any political or social training?

A: The instructors and the head instructor didn't teach us so we didn't know about them. In the training they didn't tell or teach us about it. They only gave us military training.

Q: Did they teach you how to deal with the civilians during the training?

A: They didn't teach us about that. They taught us only military things.

Q: What time did they start the training in the morning and when did it finish?

A: They taught us from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. After they taught us, they sent us to a hall for writing and explained to us about the military terms. Then they told us what we shouldn't do *[this is what they shouldn't do militarily and not what they shouldn't do to civilians]*. Then they drove us outside *[the camp]* again. After we got there, we had to queue up and then each group of us had to go under the bamboo or under the trees where one of the officers held a book in front of us and taught us.

Q: Did they give you only military training or did they also teach you agriculture?

A: It was not only military training. We also had to do agriculture; making rubber plantations and planting trees *[they were not taught agriculture, but had to work at it]*. We had to do *Pa Take*. We called it *Pa Take*. *Pa Take* means *Loh Ah Pay* *[the term used for civilian forced labor]*. It means we have to work. We had to go and do *Loh Ah Pay*.

Q: How long was the training?

A: We had to attend the training for four months.

Q: If the training was for four months, what did they ask you to do for the other two months?

A: Sometimes they didn't send material for the Army, so we had to work for two months *[until their equipment arrived]*. We had to do *Pa Take*. We had to do *Loh Ah Pay*. They ordered us to work from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. After we ate rice at 1 p.m., we started to work again at 1:30 p.m. We had to cut bamboo and trees on the hill for their families *[the instructors' families]* to lay their floors and build their houses. After we cut the trees, we had to carry the wood back to the car road. Then they demanded bullock carts from the nearby villages and sent the wood to the Army camp. They didn't fulfill our needs at all. We couldn't report our problems at all.

Q: How did they feed you in the training?

A: When the news was sent that someone was not good, the *Bo Mu* *[Major, or officer]* from the training had a bad habit of putting a half a sack of sand into one sack of rice. Then they fed us. We ate, but we bit on stones. Each time we would chew we would bite a stone. There were also insects in the soup. If one of the trainees was no good, then all the trainees had a problem. They *[the instructors]* said they hated it when a person went to complain to them. That is why they did it.

Q: How did the instructors eat?

A: When they ate, the rice was very white. Everything including the curry was very white *[meaning that it was very good quality]*. They fed us rice and curry that was the same as pig food. They fed us rice weighed on a regular scale, one or two plates. If they didn't have rice, they fed us only this *[food fit for a pig]*.

Q: Did anyone get sick during the training?

A: I saw two trainees die during the training. When one of them went to the clinic, he couldn't walk at all. He was slowly becoming thinner and thinner. He didn't smoke, but he had drunk alcohol. I saw two people die. One was sick and was given the wrong treatment. At first they gave him an injection, then they fed him English medicine *[a term used by Burmese to mean anything Western]*. They gave it to him during the training, but then he ate something sour. In the afternoon, when the training had finished, we went and saw that he was dead *[there is a common folk belief in Burma that if someone is already sick and then eats something sour, he will die]*.

Q: Did they take care of the sick people?

A: If there were sick people, they *[the instructors]* asked them to go to the clinic. If they got better, they had to go back and rest in the barracks. They didn't need to attend the training. They gave time like that, but the instructors did come to look in on them a few times. We

trainees who attended the training had to take care of each other. If they *[the sick people]* couldn't wash their clothes, we washed it for them.

Q: How many instructors were there?

A: There were five or six instructors. In the six months the Bo Mu *[the officers]* didn't tell us their names. Their superior officers told them not to. They just gave us the training. After they trained us, they went back to their Army family camp *[the camp where soldiers and their families live]*. They came to teach us at 10 a.m. or 12 p.m. and in the afternoon they went back at 4 or 5 p.m. We didn't get a chance to learn their names and we couldn't ask them.

Q: Did they give you a personnel number when you attended the training?

A: They gave me a personnel number when the training was finished. It was xx/xxxxx.

Q: Did they give you a uniform?

A: The OG uniform *[OG is a brand name of clothing made in Burma which is known for its poor quality; they also make the uniforms for the Burmese Army]* they gave us was no good to wear. It was very heavy when it got wet. The uniforms were all ragged after we went for a military operation for one week. We couldn't wear them anymore.

Q: Did they beat you during the six months you attended the training?

A: I was beaten by them within the first two or three months of the training. I was together with my friends and talking about the bad things done by the officers at the Su Saung Yay. A person who heard us went to tell the instructors. They slapped my cheek, punched me with their fists and kicked me with their boots. I told them, "We are young people, friends talking and joking." They told me someone had come and told them. Then they punched me, slapped my cheek and kicked me.

Q: Did they tell you what that person told them you said?

A: That person went to tell them that I was speaking about the officers doing bad things to the civilians. He was attending the training and in the same unit with me. After the training, when they sent us to the different battalions like #545, 546, 231, 547, 548, and 549 *[all Light Infantry Battalions except #231 Infantry Battalion]* we were separated from each other and I didn't see him anymore. His name is Aung Zaya. Right now he is a Saya *[this term is used for Corporals]* in #231 *[Infantry Battalion]*. He was injured in the leg by a bullet and lost one side of his leg, so he has taken a rest from the Army. He was a soldier and was wounded in the leg when he went to the frontline.

Q: Did they give you money during the training?

A: They never gave money to me. I had to be poor and use only the little bit of money I had brought from the monk *[the monk at the monastery where he was studying had given him some money]*. I brought a little over 2,000 kyat from the monk. They didn't give me a single coin of money.

Q: Was the training enough for you?

A: I think it was enough.

Q: Where did they send you after the 6 months of training?

A: They sent me to Karen State to LIB #549, Nabu Battalion *[the battalion based at Nabu village, also called T'Nay Hsah in Karen]*. Fourteen or fifteen people were sent there. The other people took duties in the other battalions.

Q: What kind of equipment did they give you?

A: They gave us one uniform set for a year. They gave us an OG uniform and a jungle hat.

Q: Did they also give you a mess tin?

A: They people who were in the Army longer got them. The soldiers who had been in for six or seven years got mess tins. I had only four years so I didn't get one.

Q: What kind of weapon did they give you?

A: They gave me an MA 1. It is the same design as the AK. They didn't tell us where it was made, but the name of the gun is MA 1. The *[serial]* number of my gun was xxxx. The Chinese sent them to Burma and then the Burmese designed it.

Q: How many bullets did they give to each soldier?

A: I could take 240, 250 or 260 bullets with a guarantee *[the soldiers have to account for all of the bullets when they hand them back in after a patrol or operation]*. We took four or five magazines. The gun and bullets were enough for me at the frontline.

Q: How many soldiers were in LIB #549?

A: There were more than 100 or 120 soldiers in one battalion. The name of the commander is U Kyaing Zaw. I guess he is about 30 or 40 years old. The deputy battalion commander went to attend a training and a new deputy battalion commander came not so long ago so I don't know his name. The name of the first deputy battalion commander was Bo Mu Aung Tin Htay *[Bo Mu is a major]*. The one who is charge of the rear area *[the battalion's base camp where the supplies and offices are]* is Bo Mu Min Shwe Oo. When all the companies in the battalion have left, he has to stay with the sentries for the headquarters and take responsibility for the monthly salary at the battalion camp. He had to take responsibility and be in charge of security at the rear area battalion camp in the Nabu region.

Q: Which Company were you in?

A: I was in Company #3. When we were moving, there were five people in one section and the Saya Gyi *[Sergeants]* controlled them. In most of the companies there are 20 or 21 soldiers.

Q: How long did you serve with LIB #549?

A: I served with them for four years.

Q: How old is the oldest soldier in your unit?

A: The person who led the single people was about 30 years old. He was Saya Gyi Aung Win *[Sergeant Aung Win]* from Company #3; and also Saya Gyi Hla Shwe *[Sergeant Hla Shwe]*. They lead the single people separately. The married people had to stay separated. They kept the single people in a separate barracks *[at permanent Army camps, the single men and the married soldiers and their families are housed in separate compounds]*.

Q: How old is the youngest soldier in the battalion?

A: The youngest is 11 or 12 years old. There are many soldiers younger than me. Right now, on November 8th [2000], before I left, there were 15 more trainees who arrived at the singles barracks. I asked at least one child, "How old are you?" He told me he was 10 years old. When I asked him if he had joined because he enjoyed it, he told me he was angry with his parents and went to sit on the Rangoon platform [at the train station] in the nighttime. A soldier called to him and told him he would give him pocket money. Then he could see his parents again. Then the soldier invited him to go and stay at his house freely. When he spoke to him like that, he followed. The next morning he [the boy] had to go to the Su Saung Yay for three days. He said, "Brother, I want to go back to my house." The soldier said to him, "Young brother, you are a soldier. You can't go back." He told me that. He was a new soldier so I didn't ask his name. He was a child, that is why I asked him why he joined. I had been in the Army for four years so I had experience. That is why I asked him.

Q: What is the name of the camp?

A: They call it Nabu. There are three battalions, LIB #547, LIB #548 and LIB #549. Their camps are along the car road and each battalion camp is an hour apart. LIB #549 is at the Nabu battalion camp. In the past the Indians were staying there [Burma-born people of Indian descent, most of them Muslims; the SLORC forced them out of Nabu village in 1995, bulldozed their homes and built an Army base]. They [the SLORC troops] destroyed the Indians' Arabic school and drove out the Indians, then they built the car road. I saw it. [For more information see the main body of the report under 'Life in the Tatmadaw/In the Rear Areas'.]

Q: Do you know which villages are close to the LIB #549 camp?

A: Yes, I will tell you. The name of the village that is close to the battalion camp is Inn Shay. It is behind the mountain ridge of LIB #549. There are Inn Shay, Twee Sawan, and Dta Weh Dah. These villages are around #547, #548, and #549. The villages close to #547 are Toh Kaw Ko, Wah Lay and Tee Po San.

Q: What is the attitude of your battalion commander?

A: The attitude of the battalion commander who has arrived now is that as long as his family is living comfortably he doesn't care about anything. He allows us soldiers to live as we like. He is a battalion commander who doesn't look out for the benefit of many people, but only looks out for his own benefit. The officers who are staying in the battalion camp are working hard for their families to be comfortable. They don't know what is happening to the soldiers and Saya Gyi [Sergeants] who are under them. If we have a problem, we are supposed send the news to the Saya Gyi, and the Saya Gyi sends the news on to the officers, but we couldn't do that. We had to clear the problem ourselves, and the Company Commanders stay as though they don't know [the official path for problems goes through the Sergeants to the officers, but in reality, the officers aren't interested so the soldiers must solve their problems themselves].

Q: Do the other soldiers who work with you have bad feelings about being in the Army?

A: They want to gather and tell about their feelings, but if we gathered and talked about it,

the officers would have thought we were plotting against them. They thought the officers would kill them. That is why they didn't even dare to think. They want to think, but they don't want to do anything [*which might get them in trouble with the officers*]. I have seen that even the Sergeants and Corporals and the other soldiers who have high ranks have fled [*he means senior Non-Commissioned Officers, not senior officers*].

Q: Were they arrested after they escaped?

A: If they were arrested, they were put in prison. But, if the leaders were not satisfied or didn't like those who fled, they were even killed.....

Q: Did they order you to do agricultural work when you were at the camp?

A: When I arrived at the battalion camp we had to queue up in the morning at 6 a.m. At 6:30 a.m. they finished the line up [*inspection; roll call*]. Then we each had to do *Pa Take* [*'practice', a term used for soldiers' forced labor*]. We had to bake bricks, to cut trees and carry them, and to cut bamboo and carry them. We had to build the buildings in the battalion camp. They [*the officers*] forcibly ordered the villagers to do *Loh Ah Pay*. When they [*the officers*] arrived in a village, they demanded chicken and rice from the village headwoman. We saw it with our own eyes and didn't agree with this. Once they got it from the village headwoman, they sent it to their section. There is a Company office and the officers are in charge of it. There are 6 or 7 or 8 officers living there. They take the good things for themselves and the poor things like potatoes, they gave seven of them to each section. We have five or six soldiers in each section and we can't eat enough with just seven potatoes. We complained, but they didn't respond to us. We had to take the things they gave us, had to eat what they fed us and had to do what they forced us to do. The commander told me it is the orders of the Army. I didn't say anything in reply because he is a higher officer than me and also older than me. I didn't reply and stayed quietly. I have seen them force the civilians to build roads, bridges and do everything for the battalion camp and do *Pa Take* [*soldiers' term meaning forced labor at the Army camp*]. I even had to force the mothers [*in Burmese, older women are referred to as mothers*]. When the mothers were tired and if I gave them a chance to rest, the officers asked me why they had to rest. I told them, "Bo Gyi [*captain*], it is like this; they are tired so I asked them to rest." He asked me, "Don't you want to force the civilians? Why don't you want to force them?" I told him, "Bo Gyi, they work and are tired so I asked them to rest." I told them [*the officers*], but they didn't excuse me at all. They didn't say anything to the villagers. They called me away and slapped my face. I felt distressed that time also.....

Q: Did you ever have to go on operations in other places, like Chin State or Kachin State?

A: I have not been there. I have only been in the Karen State area.

Q: Where did you go in Karen State?

A: I went on the Papun military operation and it took over 8 months. I went before the end of June [1999]. I also had to go and patrol around the villages close to the camp [*around Naba in southeastern Pa'an District*]. I had to do sentry duty for one or two weeks. I have never been to the south or to the north in Shan State.

Q: Have you ever fought the KNLA?

A: It never happened when I went to the frontline. Another unit went in front and our unit came behind and I saw that they were fighting. I have never fought directly, but I wouldn't have been afraid if a battle had occurred.

Q: Did your unit ever arrest any of the enemy?

A: When I went on an operation in Papun [*district*], one of the soldiers from Signals [*the communications unit of the battalion*] went down in the valley and saw an AK [*AK-47 assault rifle*]. Above the bank of the river there is a village and it was before we arrived at that village. They suspected a person we saw near there. When an officer saw the gun he suspected that man. Nearby there was a boy looking after some cows. "Where are you from?" They asked the boy who the man was, but he didn't know. They arrested the man and asked him, "Whose gun is this?" They interrogated him and punched him. Later, when they couldn't ask him anything else, they called the village head. He asked a soldier to go and call the village head. The village head said he had never seen this person. He also didn't know what village the man was from. They asked him again and again, but they couldn't get an answer. They asked through an interpreter because he couldn't speak Burmese. He didn't answer so the senior officer gave us an order and we had to kill him ourselves. The one who ordered us was from our company and his name is Captain Aye Min Oo. He is the company commander and has two stars. They [*the soldiers*] took a mattock from the village, dug a hole and killed him. I saw it. I killed only this person. Three or four soldiers were there. Each soldier shot him two or three times. He was dead and we buried him there.

Q: Was he a villager or an enemy soldier?

A: They couldn't tell whether he was a villager or an enemy. They saw an AK, so they suspected him and killed him.

Q: Are there any prisoners in your unit?

A: There is no jail in our camp, so they are put in prison.

Q: Did your unit plant landmines?

A: When we went on operations we saw landmines, but we didn't plant them. We planted landmines when we were staying in the camp. We didn't plant them when we went to the frontline. We saw the landmines from our enemies. We dug them out. When #547 [*Light Infantry Battalion*] arrived on the Papun military operation, the Nga Pway [*'Ringworm'; a derogatory term used by the SPDC when referring to the KNU and KNLA*] put a hand grenade in a bag and threw it near them when they were eating. The #547 soldiers fled. When they were laying down [*to take shelter from the explosion of the grenade*], they [*the KNLA*] took three guns and then ran away. We followed them but we couldn't catch them.

Q: How did you think about the KNU when you were a soldier?

A: When I was a new soldier, I didn't know that the KNU are *tha bone* [*rebels*]. I didn't know what it was at all. After four years, why don't they allow us to read the newspapers or listen to the radio? Are they worried that we will understand something? Are they worried that we will be confused? I thought about this and I left the Army camp with my brother and put down my weapon [*surrendered*].

Q: Did you think that the KNU was your enemy or bad people?

A: If I have to give my opinion, my Saya Gyi told me they were the enemy. I didn't know what kind of enemy. Now I have stayed in the Army for four years and I have seen the DKBA. They [*the officers*] said that this is an enemy. So then I knew.

Q: Did they say the DKBA were the enemy?

A: Yes, they said that they [*the DKBA*] had surrendered. I saw them only one time there.

Q: How did the soldiers deal with the DKBA?

A: We soldiers can't fight [*he means fist fights*] with the DKBA. They [*the SPDC*] are worried that the opinions of the DKBA are going to change. If we fight with them, they [*the SPDC*] take action against us. Nothing happens to the DKBA.

Q: Has there ever been fighting involving shooting with the DKBA?

A: We have had misunderstandings and fought the DKBA. We shot them because we thought they were the enemy. The officers in LIB #547 had a problem that they were not satisfied with the DKBA. They are staying in the Nabu area. Some of the officers talked about fighting the DKBA. Some of the DKBA heard them and rebelled. They returned to the KNU, but they didn't fight yet [*they didn't attack LIB #547*].

Q: Did any other soldiers flee or kill themselves before you left?

A: I have seen that. Some of the soldiers were depressed because they suffered from being punched by the officers. Their parents had given birth to them and had never slapped their faces. They were angry and shot themselves dead. I saw three people do that. They were older than I was and they had arrived at the Army camp before me, so the officers didn't tell us their names. They only showed us their photos.

Q: Did the soldiers talk about democracy or Aung San Suu Kyi in the Army camp?

A: Usually, we didn't talk about this. We worked and didn't dare to think about that. I have heard about it because people have told me, but I don't have an opinion about it.

Q: Did you know about the refugee camps along the Burmese-Thai border?

A: I also didn't know about them.

Q: Did you steal the villagers' animals or rice when you were in the Army camp?

A: I didn't steal them myself, but I saw the officers demand them from the village headwoman.

Q: Didn't the officers order you to do it?

A: They ordered me to do it, but I told them I didn't know where the things were. They told me where the things were that the village headwoman had, but I didn't do as they asked me to do.

Q: Have you ever seen the soldiers kill villagers or rape women?

A: I have seen the families of the soldiers. The men did it because their living situation is no good. The SPDC gives them a small monthly salary to use for their families, but they have a wife and two children, so it is not enough for them to live on. It is for their wives and children that they robbed the villagers. Some were imprisoned for it. Some of the single soldiers were drunk with alcohol and went up the villagers' houses and pulled the girls hands and raped them. Then they were imprisoned, I have seen it [*the imprisonment of soldiers for these offences is rare; most are given some form of light punishment, if any at all*].

Q: Do you know the names of the ones who were imprisoned?

A: They were staying in the camp for many years longer than me, so I don't know them.

Q: What did the villagers think of the SPDC?

A: The villagers were suffering from the forced demands. I don't know their opinion, so I can't speak about it. The Mother didn't tell us.

Q: Who is the Mother?

A: When I was staying the four years in the battalion camp, the Mother supported and fed me whatever I needed food. She is Karen. She lives in *aaaa* village, *bbbb*. She is not the village head, just a Mother [*one of the older women of the village*]. I don't know her name, I only know the name of her sister, Naw xxxx.

Q: Did you hear the villagers talking about democracy or the military government?

A: When we were patrolling I saw some villagers drinking alcohol and talking about this, but they spoke Karen and I am Burmese, so I didn't understand [*he does speak a small amount of Karen*].

Q: When you ate rice did everyone eat together or separately?

A: When we ate the Saya Gyi [*Sergeant*] took out his mess tin and we cooked rice in it. We had to go and take rice and curry separately. We soldiers had to eat separately from the Saya Gyi.

Q: Do the soldiers' families stay in the Army camp?

A: They don't keep the families of the soldiers in the Army camp. They keep the families of the soldiers in the battalion camp. The buildings on the outside are called the Army camp. The camp on the other side is called the battalion camp. The children who are studying in the middle school or high school are kept in the families' place. They are staying with their families at Nabu.

Q: Did they allow you to listen to the radio or read magazines in the camp?

A: They allowed radios, reading books, and magazines. They didn't allow us to listen to the radio [*they could only use it to listen to music cassettes*]. When the Saya Gyi [*Sergeant*] saw one radio, he asked, "What is that?" I told him it was nothing and I turned on a cassette [*he had been listening to the radio*]. He said, "That isn't true. Bring that radio to me." Then they kept it in a box. We couldn't listen to it anymore.

Q: Did they allow you to write a letter to your parents when you were in the camp? Did they allow you to go and visit them?

A: For this, they asked that anyone who wanted to go back must go and report [*to the officers*]. They will do it when we go to report. They will write a letter of recommendation. When someone had gone back, they would let another person from the battalion go back only when the first person returned. But the first person didn't come back to the battalion and fled. Therefore, very few of us were given permission. They didn't dare give permission. Many people fled. When we sent letters to our parents, none of the letters reached them. They [*the officers*] took them from the mailbox, read them and then threw them away. They didn't let us read any of the letters from our parents. They disappeared.

Q: Do your parents know that you are in the Army?

A: The monk went back to my village, so they know. The monk went back and told my mother. Right now she doesn't know which battalion I am taking duty in, but she knows I am in the Army.

Q: Have you sent any letters to your mother?

A: I sent them, but the letters I sent did not arrive to my parents. The letters reached the Saya Gyi [*Sergeants*] and disappeared in their office. The letters sent from my parents didn't get to my hands. They [*the Sergeants*] destroyed them in their hands. The monk went back to the village and told my mother that I had joined the Army, but they don't know which battalion, state, or where. They only know that I have arrived at an Army camp.

Q: How much was the salary of the battalion commander each month?

A: The battalion commander received over 10,000 kyat per month. The officers received 12,000 kyat. The company commander [*a captain*] gets 12,000 or 13,000 kyat. The higher officers received 14,000 or 15,000 kyat. U Kyaing Zaw is the major who controlled the whole battalion camp, so I think he got 15,000 or 16,000 kyat. The Sergeants receive over 6,000 kyat. Lance Corporals get 5,300 kyat. He is a Lance Corporal [*indicating his friend*]. I was a private for four years, but he was in the Army for five years. We privates are starting from the basic military training and if we do a good job, they will increase our rank. If they don't want to give [*promotions*], they don't give. This is the opinion of the leaders. I worked for four years in the Army, so I got 4,700 kyat. The new soldiers receive about 3,000 kyat.

Q: How much did you receive when you started as a soldier?

A: When I started they hadn't increased the salary yet, I got only 650 kyat per month. After six or seven months during the Papun operation, they increased the salary [*this five-fold salary increase was given to the civil service and Army on April 1st 2000 to ensure their continued loyalty to the regime*].

Q: What was your monthly salary?

A: They gave me a monthly salary of 4,700 kyat. I had to buy military equipment when I arrived at the battalion. I had to buy jungle boots. One boot is over 300 kyat. I had to buy slippers, a black collar badge, a gold collar badge, and a gold and black color badge for my hat. I also had to buy and wear a good uniform [*dress uniform*]. They gave us only one uniform each year. In the area of our military operations it was very rough. When we were running and climbing the mountains, it was hooked on thorns. Sometimes it was scraped by a tree branch and it had become ragged. For a new one we had to buy it. I also bought a chest for putting clothes and other things in. They also took out support money. I couldn't spend this monthly salary for myself at all.

Q: How much did they take out?

A: They took out 400 kyat for support money. The battalion support money is for the children's nursery school. They took out money for the middle school and the high school [*it is doubtful that these schools ever received the money. It was more probably taken by the officers for personal use*]. Then they told us that to save money for later they took out 1,000 kyat for that [*the officers claim to set up savings accounts for the soldiers, but when the soldiers later go to withdraw the money they find that there is little if any of it in there - the officers have taken it; see interview #2*]. In addition, money is taken out for parties and funerals. If people die in the Army camp, they take out 40 or 50 kyat [*for the funeral*]. They

take 500 kyat for building a pagoda. When it has all been taken out, we received only 200 kyat of our salary. They cut it every month. They show this reason and that reason and then cut it. Then they don't explain themselves. They write a letter and say that they cut it for this reason and then give the salary to us. The soldiers who can't read came to show the letter to us and we read it to them. We told them, "Don't go to ask them *[the officers]*. If you go to ask them, you will be punched and your cheeks slapped by them."

Q: Did they punch you when you stayed in the Army camp?

A: They punched me. I was not enjoying being in the Army, but I had to be a soldier. I was depressed, but they kept me in the section. They ordered me to do sentry duty. I didn't take the duty and did as I wanted to do. I slept. They slapped my cheek and kicked me with their boots. At that time I continued to stay with a bad feeling in my heart *[about being in the Army]*. I was staying because I didn't have a friend. Then Company #3 and Company #4 were traveling together and one of the brothers named "Aung Zaw Moe", from Company #4 and I were planning with each other about escaping and living for the future. We would put down the weapons of the Army. We left on November 8th 2000 in the evening. I left with my brother *[his friend; Burmese typically refer to friends of the same age as "brother"]*. He is older than me so I call him "brother". His name is "Aung Zaw Moe". I think he is about 19 years old. We also planned to take guns.

Q: Why did you plan to run from the Army?

A: They called the civilians to do *Loh Ah Pay* without asking their opinion and they demanded paddy, chickens and pigs. I saw it with my own eyes. I wanted to complain about it, but if I told my officers, they wouldn't agree with me. They replied, "You don't understand this matter." When I thought back on this, I saw that the officers were acting without laws. I was tormented and on November 8th, in the evening, I fled with my brother *[his friend]*. We also tried to get guns, but when we came back from operations we had to keep them locked up in the weapons barracks. We also had to give back our bullets. So we didn't have time to get the guns. We didn't bring guns. We didn't bring any kind of military equipment.

Q: Can you tell me step by step how you escaped?

A: Yes, we started from LIB #549's battalion camp at Nabu. It is in the Kawkareik area in Karen State. We left on November 8th at 4 p.m. in the evening. Both of us went to *aaaa* *[village]*. From *aaaa*, we crossed the monastery path and arrived at *bbbb* village at 12 a.m. When we arrived at *bbbb* we saw that they *[the villagers]* were showing a video at a wedding. We didn't watch the video because we had to go the next morning. We hadn't eaten rice, so we asked for some rice from the house of a Mother who was friendly with us and slept there for the night. We slept in *bbbb* village. The next morning, after we slept, we went together with some Maung Kyaw who were going to the mountains. He asked us, "Where will you go? What will you do?" At first we were afraid and lied. When we arrived in front of the checkpoint, one of the Bo Gyi's *[captain; here used to refer to any officer]* from the KNU with a humpback interrogated us and put handcuffs on us. Then they interrogated us one by one. "Why did you flee the Army camp and do like this?" I told him like I am telling you now. That Uncle believed us and we slept there for three days. We slept two nights in locked handcuffs. We had only one sarong for each of us. We put on the

sarong and slept in the jungle. The day when we left and in the night we were cold, but they believed us and unlocked the handcuffs. They told us to warm ourselves by the fire. The next morning they sent us step by step to this place. They didn't beat us on the way.

Q: How many days did you run before you met the KNU?

A: We fled on November 8th [2000] and we slept one night at *bbbb [village]* on the 9th. We slept there [at the KNU camp] for three nights, the 10th, 11th and 12th. We heard that a battle occurred, so the path was closed.

Q: Did you plan to go to the KNU when you escaped?

A: We didn't plan like that. The two of us planned that if we got jobs, we would work, then we left. We thought about whether they [the KNU] would believe us fully or not if we said we would work for the KNU. We were worried that they would think we were fake [sent as spies]. That is why we told them we wouldn't do it. If they believed and trusted us, we promised that we would work with them.

Q: When you saw the KNU, were they like you had imagined them when you were a soldier?

A: No.

Q: How did the KNU deal with you when they saw you?

A: They couldn't speak Burmese, so they talked to us in Karen. I can't speak much Karen language so at first I was downhearted. I was downhearted but he [the other man who fled with him] wasn't. I was downhearted because I had never experienced being arrested. They talked to us in Karen. We also spoke to them. They laughed. We had a problem with communication. Later, the Burmese student group [the All Burma Students' Democratic Front; ABSDF] came and gave encouragement to us. From then on there were Burmans also staying with us, so I've been happier since then. We left the Army camp, but not with the intention of going back to Burma [to their home villages]. We left the Army camp to work. We felt that the KNU would believe us if we worked for the resistance.

Q: What do you plan to do now?

A: I have been planning to work if I can get it.

Q: Do you plan to go back home?

A: I don't plan to go back home. If I get money, I will support the Mother who took care of me [a Karen woman who took care of him when he was in the battalion camp] because I love her as my parent. But I dare not go back to Burma. Every battalion sends the information [about who has deserted], so if they arrest us, they will kill us.

Q: Do you think they will do something to your mother now that you have fled like this?

A: I don't know. I don't think they will send the information to her yet. They will keep it for one year. Then they will send a letter to my mother that I died in the fighting or stepped on a landmine.

Q: What is the situation in your village?

A: When I stayed in my village, the village head had to collect a tax on the flat fields, land, hill fields and humans. I didn't know about these taxes when I was young. When I asked my

parents they said, "We don't know son. They are collecting it from those of us who are working the hill fields. The people who don't have hill fields and work for a day and eat for a day *[villagers who don't own land but work on other people's land for a daily wage]* have to pay at least 1,000 kyat."

Q: Did they take porters in your village?

A: They didn't take porters there. Few soldiers come there because there are no insurgents. They did come a few times, but not very often.

Q: Is there a school in your village?

A: There is only a primary school and the monastery. There is no hospital or clinic. We have to go to the hospital and clinic in the town. We have to send the sick to town by bullock cart.

Q: What did the villagers in your village think about the SPDC?

A: The villagers near my house were talking among themselves, but they didn't want us children to listen. I was young at that time.

Q: Is there a Karen village near your mother's house?

A: There is no Karen village. They are mountain Chin. We baked charcoal. We went to town by bullock cart and sold the charcoal. We had to use the money that we received for our living.

Q: Before you were a soldier, did you think about the military government and what they were doing?

A: At that time I didn't think about it. I stayed in the Army for four years and I didn't know what was happening in Burma at all. I knew about it when I arrived on this side *[of the conflict]* and one of the KNU uncles told me about it.

Q: What would you say now about the military government in Burma?

A: We saw it with our own eyes that the SPDC military dictatorship is governing the civilians unjustly and we are not satisfied. For that reason I want to say that I don't want them taking and forcing people to do *Loh Ah Pay*, to build roads and to build Army camps without consulting their opinion.

Q: What else would you like to say?

A: I am not satisfied that the SPDC military dictatorship in Burma is forcing the civilians to do *Loh Ah Pay*. One day, I plan to avenge them. I will work. If I don't work, I will work in the resistance with the student group *[ABSDF]*.

Q: Do you think you will continue to study?

A: I don't have any relatives here so I don't have any way to study *[no one to support him while he studies]*. If I have a chance and people send me to school, I would like to continue to study.

Q: Thank you.

A: Yes.



Children living in hiding in a jungle area in Karen State. They are without adequate food or shelter and lack access to education or health care. (Photo: KWO)



Boys from Burma working as “rag-pickers” in Mae Sot, Thailand. Work hours are long and they must work outside in the hot sun and rain. (Photo: Mae Tao Clinic)



A young Mon girl selling water at the Pegu Railway Station to supplement her parents' income. (Photo: HURFOM)



Selling goods on the Ye-Tavoy train (Photo: Yoma3)



A young SPDC soldier (circled) sleeps. (Photo: Yoma3)



Children forced to flee with their families away from their homes in Karen State. These children lack the security they need. (Photo: KWO)



A makeshift school at an IDP hideout in Karen State. (Photos: KWO)



Severely malnourished children from Burma being treated in a clinic at Mae Sot, Thailand.
(Photos: Mae Tao Clinic)



7. Rights of Women

7.1 Background

"[There are] continuing violations of the human rights of women, in particular forced labor, trafficking, sexual violence and exploitation, often committed by military personnel, and especially directed towards women who are returning refugees, internally displaced or belong to ethnic minorities or the political opposition."

UNHCR Resolution on Burma

Since the military regime took power in 1962, it has had to put disproportionate resources into maintaining its power and strengthening the military. The result of this and ongoing civil war is poor infrastructure, inadequate health care and education systems, widespread poverty and a militarized society that puts the needs of the civilian population, particularly women, second to military concerns. The elevation of the military in society has enforced stereotypes about the subordinate status of women while at the same time blocked access to the tools, such as education and health care, that women need to attain genuine equality. Although the military regime became a party to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination of Women (CEDAW) in 1997 it has done little more than make token changes, such as the formation of some women's organizations, to implement it.

Ethnic women living in conflict areas are particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses. Health care and education is severely underdeveloped in these areas, including access to family planning methods. They are also subject to forced relocations, forced labor, forced portering in war zones, violence and sexual violence which is directed at ethnic minorities seeking autonomy. Women in conflict areas find themselves vulnerable to abuse and lacking in their basic needs which may lead to their becoming refugees or migrants.

Women in Politics

Although Burma signed the U.N Convention on Political Rights in 1954, male dominance is also seen in the Burmese political arena. Women and girls are educated less frequently than males and are often relegated to low-paying, unskilled jobs in the economy. As a result of this and other factors women have less access to positions of power and decision and policy-making positions. Since 1962 the number of women reaching high level positions in their careers has declined and because women are barred from serving in the military they are effectively blocked from all positions of leadership in the country. The few women who are in senior positions, such as Dr. Khin Win Shwe, leader of the MMCWA, are often the wives and relatives of SPDC officials. In 1996, subsequent to the Beijing conference on women, a Myanmar National Women's Affairs Committee was established and later Women's Affairs Committees were formed at the state/division and township levels. However, on the national level both the chair and vice-chair are men, and of the remaining 32 members only half are women. On the state/division, district and township levels, the wives of SPDC administrators hold the second positions. There are no women in the SPDC cabinet and at the district and township levels administrators are male military appointees. In addition, in villages and remote areas

that have little contact with the central government, most local authority figures, such as village heads and village council members, are men.

During the 1988 pro-democracy uprising many women took to the streets to protest against the military dictatorship and during the violent suppression of the movement, hundreds were shot and killed during demonstrations in Rangoon and other towns. After the formation of independent political parties in 1988 several women, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of the NLD, rose to prominent political leadership roles. In the election of 1990, the results of which have never been honored, 14 women, out of 485 members, were elected to parliament. Since that time hundreds of women have been imprisoned for their political activities as well as systematically harassed, interrogated or detained for being politically active, aligning themselves with a political party, or speaking out for human rights. Wives and mothers of male political prisoners have been harassed by MI and are left with the financial responsibility for the family in the absence of their husbands and sons. The number of politically active women on the whole has been smaller than that of men, in part because of a fear that they are vulnerable to sexual abuse if taken in to custody.

Several women were among scores of people arrested in April 2000 in an ongoing crackdown by the SPDC, against the political opposition. This was widely seen as a pre-emptive move by the SPDC in the run-up to the 10th anniversary of the NLD's election anniversary on May 27th. Young women who are part of banned student unions are also routinely arrested and deprived of their liberty, often in the context of peaceful protest demonstrations. Moe Kalayar Oo, a university science student in her early 30s, was arrested in 1995 for participating in a funeral eulogy of former Prime Minister U Nu and sentenced to seven years imprisonment. She is in poor health at Tharawaddy Prison, central Myanmar. (Amnesty International, *Unsung Heroines: the women of Myanmar*)

7.2 Health of Women from Burma

As a result of the SPDC prioritizing military expenditures over spending for social services, such as health care, women's health has suffered. Not only has the prolonged military conflict in Burma created new health care concerns for women, such as landmines, but access to basic health care services, including family planning and prenatal care, is extremely limited, particularly in rural and conflict areas. Women are prevented from having access to adequate health care in many ways, through violence or threat of violence (such as actual warfare or fear of encounters with SPDC troops) inadequate infrastructure and transportation, the high cost of medicine and lack of facilities with sufficiently trained health care workers. While on the run or in relocation sites, exposure to the elements, lack of clean water and sanitation, not enough food and no medicine lead to increased risk of disease, such as malaria, anemia, hepatitis and dysentery. Family planning education has almost no impact on the population and for those who have the necessary information, access to family planning methods is scarce. In 1994, the World Health Organization helped the National AIDS Program measure HIV infection among addicts. The results showed that HIV infection rates among Burma's addicts are the highest among addicts worldwide. The lethal drugs-AIDS combination is particularly found in ethnic minority areas that are the source of the drugs. Because most addicts are men, this facilitates the fast spread of the infection to women. According to figures from the National AIDS Program, of all the HIV infections estimated to have occurred by 1995, 50 percent were among pregnant women attending antenatal clinics.

Rights of Women

Information from the SPDC's Ministry of Health:

HIV Prevalence Rates Among Pregnant Women

Site	3/98	9/98	3/99	9/99
Bago	0.50	1.52	1.50	2.04
Bamaw	0.50	1.00	2.50	2.50
Dawei	2.17	2.00	0.52	3.00
Haka	0.00	1.33	0.00	1.00
Hawthaung	2.00	3.50	13.07	2.00
Lashio	NAD	4.00	0.00	1.00
Loikow	0.00	0.00	1.01	0.50
Magway	1.50	1.01	2.50	1.50
Mandalay	1.00	1.01	1.50	3.00
Malamyaing	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Meiktila	NAD	NAD	NAD	4.00
Monywa	2.50	2.11	2.00	1.48
Muse	4.00	3.00	4.26	6.50
Myitkyeena	2.00	2.50	4.00	3.00
Patheingyi	NAD	NAD	NAD	0.50
Pyaw	0.50	1.03	2.07	0.50
Sittway	NAD	NAD	NAD	0.00
Tachileik	5.00	2.53	5.36	3.00
Taunggyi	5.00	1.50	2.53	1.50
Rangoon	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.50
Average	1.88	1.79	2.65	1.92
	%			

HIV Prevalence Among Women Sex Workers

Site	3/98	9/98	3/99	9/99
Mandalay	32.0	39.8	29.0	57.0
Rangoon	26.0	20.0	23.0	37.0
Average	29.0	29.8	26.0	47.0
	%			

The maternal mortality rate for women in Burma is approximately 517 per 100,000 live births. Infant mortality is 105 per 1,000 live births and both figures are presumed higher in conflict areas. Births are more dangerous as a result of complications from repeated pregnancy. Access to family planning education and methods is extremely limited and contraceptives were only legally introduced in 1991 and condoms in 1993. Sterilization for women is cost prohibitive, difficult to get and permission must be given from the husband. Vasectomies for men are illegal. For ethnic women, particularly IDPs, even when there are health care facilities available, information is often not printed in their native language and they are either not aware of contraceptives, they are not available, or they cannot afford them. Women who do attempt to use modern contraceptives often do not have information on how to use them correctly which leads to misuse and negative experiences. Women who have bad experiences with contraceptives are deterred from using them again in the future as are others who hear negative things about them. (WLB)

Unsafe illegal abortions also contribute significantly maternal mortality. A joint study by the SPDC Ministry of Health and the UNPF found that illegal abortions account for between 1/3 and 1/2 of all maternal deaths which is line with other similar studies. It is likely that the actual number is much higher due to underreporting for cultural reasons and the illegality of abortion. The following is a typical case of botched abortion that was seen in a clinic on the Thai border area.

"Two young women came to the clinic...one was bleeding for an abortion she had with the help of a woman who claimed to be a traditional medical practitioner. The practitioner put a stick in the woman's cervix, then the ovary to abort the pregnancy. An hour later, the young woman started bleeding heavily. She was still bleeding when she arrived to our clinic. It cost 500 baht. She was married. Both her husband and she decided to have an abortion because they could not afford to raise a child with earning for daily-waged jobs." (WLB Report)

In March 200 it was reported that over the previous six months more than 300 women from Burma had been hospitalized in Mae Sot, Thailand for botched abortions. In addition the *Globe and Mail* reported that doctors in a Mae Sot hospital have been sterilizing Karen women without their knowledge after they have given birth. The women were forced to thumbprint authorization forms for sterilization, which they could not read. This covert family planning policy was in practice throughout most of the 1990's.

7.3 Women and Forced Labor

Burma ratified Article 11 of ILO convention No. 29 in 1955; the article states that the use of compulsory labor must be confined to males between the ages of 18 and 45 and only used under very limited circumstances. Despite this, the SPDC does not hesitate to use women in all kinds of forced labor, such as building railways, hydro-electric dams, building and maintaining military supply roads, digging ditches, breaking stones and portering in war zones. Ethnic women, who largely live in rural areas, are routinely taken for forced labor duties, including teenage girls if both their parents are busy working and they must fill a household forced labor quota.

Forced labor, and in particular forced portering, puts women at greater risk for sexual violence. In some instances the military specifically demands or captures women, usually young and unmarried, for use as porters because they are then easier targets for rape. In addition to being vulnerable to sexual harassment and abuse during forced labor, women most often do not receive adequate food or medical treatment which combined with the physical strain of forced labor puts their health at risk. Even when women are not directly engaged in forced labor, the absence of men, either because they have been taken for forced labor or because they have fled their homes to avoid capture for forced labor, puts greater financial burden and responsibility on the female members of a family.

Example incidents of Women and forced labor

In the third week of April 2000, a group of soldiers from LID 44 arrived to Khay-wee village, Kya-Ein-Seik-Gyi Township, Karen State and arrested about 20 women. The women had stayed in the village after the men had run away because they thought the soldiers wouldn't take women for porter duty. However, when the soldiers arrived and saw

no men, they were angered, arrested the women as porters and forced them to carry the same loads as the men. These women were used by the army for three days and then released when the soldiers could replace them with porters from other villages. (Source: HURFOM)

On May 4 2000, forced women laborers were raped by the SPDC and DKBa officers, according to a forced laborer who escaped. Since May 4 2000, many forced laborers, about 40 women among them, have been constructing joint military camps for the SPDC and DKBa soldiers near Pin Nae Daw village, Pa-an township, Karen state. Pin Nae Daw village is about 30 miles away from Pa-an. The following six women were out of many who were raped by the authorities. 1) Daw Myint Khin, 25, daughter of U Thaw, 2) Daw Anyo, 30 daughter of U sultan, 3) Daw Ba Ma 28 daughter of U Mae, 4) Daw Khin Myintt Oo, 29 daughter of U Hashim, 5) Daw Khin Wei Oo, 18 daughter of U Malik, 6) Daw Zan Bi, 25 (unknown) (Source: MICB)

7.4 Violence against Women

According to a shadow report prepared by the Women's Affairs Department of the NCGUB and various women's groups from Burma for the 22nd session of CEDAW, violence against women is present in 3 realms of society; the family, the community and the state. Domestic violence is a worldwide problem, however it has been found that incidents of domestic violence increase in situations where there is fear, anxiety, desperation and anger that can turn to violence, such as in areas where there is ongoing civil war. One symptom of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which has been found present in up to 15% of some adult refugee populations, is irritability and anger than can lead to aggressive and violent behavior. All types of violence are aggravated by the militarized nature of Burmese society and the ongoing civil unrest.

Women, particularly ethnic women, are the targets of state violence in Burma. Rape is a common form of state violence carried out against women and troops often rape ethnic women in conflict zones knowing that they will not be punished. Because women are often raped during everyday activities they cannot avoid situations where they might be at risk of rape and are in constant fear of sexual violence. Gang rapes are common, suggesting that rape is not a random act of violence but is systematically carried out by the military, and women are not infrequently killed afterwards to prevent them from reporting the incident. In addition, women and in particular young girls often die of injuries sustained during rape. There are also known cases of soldiers raping women in order to force marriages. The SPDC has shown itself at worst to be encouraging the practice of rape of ethnic women and at best indifferent to it. Villagers that complain about rape can either be met with apathy or threats of retaliation if they continue to complain about it.

Women from Burma are also often victims of sexual violence while staying in Thailand where it is often tolerated. This is both because of negative attitudes and stereotypes about Burmese and because rapist feel certain of their impunity if they attack an undocumented migrant worker. See the partial list of incidents at the end of the chapter for more information on rape.

7.5 Trafficking of Women

"Trafficking in persons - the illegal and highly profitable recruitment, transport or sale of human beings for the purpose of exploiting their labor - is a slavery-like practice that must be eliminated." Human Rights Watch

Many refugees, particularly from Shan State, Chin State and Sagaing Division are unable to enter refugee camps and therefore are restricted in their options for leaving the country. Seeking the help of agents and being trafficked, whether for sex work or other types of employment, such as factory work or domestic service is one possibility. The greatest number of women are trafficked to Pakistan via Bangladesh and Thailand. In a best case scenario trafficked women are able to escape exploitative labor situations and enjoy greater self-determination than they would have by staying in Burma. In worst case scenarios they are sold into bonded labor situations where they are kept incommunicado in slavery like conditions. Age is an important factor in determining what kind of situation a trafficked person will face, with younger women and girls being more easily exploited. The continuing economic crisis in Burma combined with the lack of social welfare services and the strong sex industry in Thailand, as well as inside Burma, has left sex work as one of the only viable employment opportunities for women. It is estimated that there are more than 40,000 Burmese sex workers in Thailand alone. Sometimes women willingly go into this kind of work, but often don't realize the conditions they will be working under or the risks to their health, while in other cases women and girls are sold by their families, or others, into prostitution. Traffickers are often powerful and easily escape prosecution as a result of maintaining close ties with border police and other officials who profit from the trafficking of women. The complicity of officials allows the trade to continue and thrive and limits women's access to other types of work as they are often passed from the trafficker directly into the hands of the brothel owner. Women who return home after working in the sex industry often face discrimination and can be prosecuted for illegal departure and prostitution with sentences of up to three years. To combat the migration of women for sex work the SPDC enacted laws to restrict the movement of women who want to travel both domestically and internationally. A law initiated in 1995-6 prohibits women from obtaining a passport that allows them to work abroad and for travel within the country women between 16 and 25 must be accompanied by a legal guardian. However, rather than curtailing trafficking, this has just put women in a more vulnerable position where they are more dependent on traffickers for their movement. (see chapter on Children for interview with trafficked minor girl)

Trafficking of Rohingya women to Pakistan

A report by Images Asia says large scale trafficking of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh via India to Pakistan has been going on for about a decade and the number of Rohingyas in Karachi is estimated to be over 300,000. Exoduses of Rohingya refugees from Burma in 1978 and 1991/2 has coincided with influxes of immigrants into Pakistan, not likely a coincidence. The refugee camps in Bangladesh have become recruiting areas for traffickers and a Bangladeshi NGO found that there have also been various cases of disappearances, abductions, rape and sexual assault of women living outside the camps. Many women are trafficked into brothels in the southern province of Sindh and some have been sold to feudal landlords as concubines. Rohingya prostitutes are extremely likely to contract sexually

transmitted diseases because they have little knowledge of contraception and are afraid to visit health authorities for fear of being caught by the police. The Rohingya in Bangladesh are unwanted refugees and face the threat of repatriation and deportation to Burma where they are deprived of citizenship and face atrocities committed by the military junta. This and the conditions of the refugee camps where they are unable to meet their most basic needs means that being trafficked is often the only option for survival. During the journey to Pakistan the women are vulnerable to sexual and physical abuse whether it be from traffickers, police, border guards or while in detention. The Dhaka Ahsania Mission, a Bangladeshi NGO, reported one case to Images Asia in 1998 in which a bus carrying 71 passengers, mostly women and children, was intercepted on its way from Cox's Bazaar to Benpale on the Indian border, after the bus driver got suspicious. It was found that all the passengers were going to be trafficked illegally to India, and after the passengers gave fake addresses in Cox's Bazaar to the police, it was assumed that they were all Rohingya. Not only Rohingya women are trafficked into Pakistan. There is large scale trafficking of women of other ethnic groups from Burma into Pakistan on the pretense of finding them legitimate work. However, they are then sold to third parties, mostly for prostitution, but also as domestic servants. In some cases they are sold like slaves in an open market, such as the one in Thar district of Bangladesh, in which buyers are able to examine them, molest them and harass them before buying them. At least one former minister and two members of the disbanded parliament maintain huge stakes in the business of selling women in Thar. They are often sold and resold after their utility has been used up by one buyer. Human rights lawyer Zia Awan, says women can be bought in any Burmese slum in Karachi where 2.5 million of the residents are illegal.

7.6 Rape and sexual violence - Partial list of incidents

On January 1, 2000, at 5:00 a.m., Naang Suk, age 25 was captured by a column of 70-80 troops from IB66 led by Capt. Htun Mya at a farm hut in Kho Lam area, Nam-Zarng township, Shan State. She was captured along with another villager after the soldiers had fired at the farm hut they had been staying in, killing 2 other farmers. They were taken with the column for 90 days, during which the soldiers beat and tortured them and raped the woman. Then Capt. Htun Mya ordered Sgt. Tin Hla and 5 troops to send them back to Kho Lam relocation site. Naang Suk died at the relocation site 5 days later from the injuries she suffered from the beating and raping by the SPDC troops. (Source: SHRF)

On January 8, 2000, SPDC troops from IB 230 led by battalion commander Lwin Moe and intelligence officer Tin Ngwe came to Pwa-gaw villager, Tha-ton District, Karen State and raped several women. (Source: KIC, KWO)

On January 11, 2000, a patrol of 80-90 SPDC troops, accompanied by 26 forced civilian porters, from Co. 2 of IB102 led by Capt. Saw Hpyu beat to death 3 men and raped and shot dead 2 women along the banks of the Nam Paang river, a tributary of the Salween river, in Kun-Hing township. The 2 women Naang Nguay, aged 21, and Naang Lern, aged 17, originally from Nam Pa Man village, Kaeng Lom tract, were taken with the troops for

2 days and 2 nights during which they were raped. On the last day, when the troops were about to return to their base, the 2 women were forced to take off all their clothes and gang-raped by all the officers, and eventually shot dead. (Source: SHRF)

On January 22, 2000, a patrol of 50-60 SPDC troops from IB246, led by Capt. Aung Moe, traveling with 14 civilian porters, came to a rice farm at Nawng Hai, about 3 miles from Kun-Hing town, where a man and his 2 children were threshing rice. The villagers were separated, interrogated and beaten to death during interrogation. One victim, Naang Ser, 18, was repeatedly raped before being beaten to death. The nephew of Lung Ti, a forced civilian porter, was present at the incident and was beaten for trying to intervene and later died of his injuries. (See Killing and Forced Labor) (Source: SHRF)

On February 10, 2000, a patrol of 12 SPDC troops from LIB316 led by Commander Naing Lin raped 2 Lisaw village girls in a farm hut near their village, San Long Laao Lee, Murng Laen tract, Ta-Khi-laek township. Both girls were raped by Naing Lin and some of his troops. (Source: SHRF)

On February 12, 2000, Sergeant Hla Myint 2 of histroops from IB279 of the SPDC, gang-raped a village girl, Naang (Mon), aged 16, on the bank of Nam Yarng stream near Ter Laat village, in Murng-Yarng township. (Source: SHRF)

On February 23, 2000, 3 SPDC soldiers from LIB334 saw 2 women, "Naang Long", aged 18 and "Naang La", aged 18, who were catching fish in a stream near Ta Khoi village in Wan Tap tract, Murng-Yawn township. The 3 soldiers seized the women in the water, took them and raped them on the bank of the stream. When it was over, as if to further humiliate the women, the troops gave 10 kyat to each of them and left. (Source: SHRF)

On February 27, 2000, about 120 houses in one part of Ho Phaai Long village, Ho Phaai Long tract, Murng-Pan township were forced to move to another part of the village by 70-80 SPDC troops from LIB520 led by Capt. Than Maung. In the process many women, whose husbands had run away, were called in and interrogated and raped by the SPDC troops. The following is the known list of the women that were raped: a) 5 married women whose husbands had run away, b) 3 Divorcees, c) 4 widows, and d) 7 single women between 15 to 21 years old. (Source: SHRF)

In March 2000, during the forced labor enforced by IB 104 upon villagers of 20 villages in Tha-Jet-Taw tract, Tenasserim Division, (see chapter on forced labor) the soldiers would summon women for "emergency work" and when the women would arrive, there would be nothing and the troops would rape them. (Source: THRF)

On March 6, 2000, 2 Shan women were raped by SPDC troops from LIB314 near Yaang Khum Mu village, Nawng Kwaang tract, Kaeng-Tung township. The 2 victims, Naang (Zang), aged 18 and Naang (Nawt), aged 17, were from Yaang Khum Mu village and were foraging for wild vegetables along the banks of Nam Yaang stream 3 SPDC soldiers led by Lt. Hla Htwe quietly approached and seized them. The soldiers raped them several times on the bank of the stream, depriving them of their virginity, and then left. The girls told their parents, who then complained about it to the village and community leaders, but no one dared take the case to the SPDC authorities in the area. (Source: SHRF)

On March 13, 2000, about 80 SPDC troops from LIB 359, led by Capt. Htun Kyaw, who were on patrol near Pa Sak village, Waeng Nur tract, Murng-Sart township raped 3 women collecting firewood. The troops then seized Naang Mya Ki, aged 24, Naang Mya Lu, aged 21, and Naang Thun Nae, aged 18 and and interrogated them. After a while, Capt. Htun Kyaw took Naang Thun Nae into a nearby bush and raped her. After that, he gave all the women to his junior officers and told them to rape them. Eventually, after they had raped the women, the troops beat all the women to death with sticks. (Source: SHRF)

On March 15 2000, three girls (two Muslims and one Karen girl) were arrested and raped for three days continuously in Karen sate by SPDC officers. The three girls aged between 20 and 24, were traveling by a car with other passengers. When the car was at a check-point between Kaw kareik and May waaddy, the authorities checked their identity cards and dragged them out of the car as being non-Buddhists. According to one of the victims, Mi Mi, 24 (not her real name), the three girls were brought to their camps where they were raped continuously for three days. (Source: MICB)

On March 22, 2000, Tactical Commander Than Oo Lwin from LIB 581 captured Naw Paw Cho, age 16, the daughter of Saw Aung Kyaw Myint, Naw Kya Sein, age 17, the daughter of Saw Htun Sein, and Naw Tway Nyo age 20, the daughter of Saw Kyu Nah. He took them to Saung Sune Camp and raped them. As of May 2000, they had not been released. The girls were from Kyawt Baloo village, Doo-Playa District, Karen State. (Source: KWO)

On March 26, 2000, about 30 troops from Company No.3 of LIB 514 led by Capt. Than Myint surrounded 3 women from the Kae See relocation site at a place 2-1/2 miles south of Kae-See town, Kae-See township, Shan State who had been foraging for vegetables. The troops arrested the women, accused them of being the wives of rebels, and then interrogated them and tortured them for information about the Shan rebels. A male civilian porter, Sai La Kyaw, who happened to be from the same original village as the women, tried to explain to the troops that the women were not wives of Shan soldiers, but the SPDC soldiers only slapped his face and ordered him to stay away. (They were all originally from Wan Khem village) Eventually, Capt. Than Myint took the youngest woman, Naang Ong, age 15, for himself and ordered 2 of his junior officers to take the other 2 women. Naang Thun Nae, aged 19, was raped by Lt. Aung Hla, and Naang Paan Yaen, aged 22, was raped by Sgt. Pa Thein. The 3 SPDC military officers raped the women all night and into half of the next day and finally gave the 3 women to the remaining 30 troops. The troops then gang-raped the women to their satisfaction and eventually shot all 3 of them dead. (Source: SHRF)

On March 29, 2000, Capt. Hla Maung, commander of Company No.4 of the SPDC Kaeng-Tung-based LIB529, stationed at Naa Kawng Mu entered the house of Naang (Mya Tawng) and asked for some sticky rice and when he discovered she was alone, raped her at gunpoint, threatening to shoot her dead if she made any noise. After he raped her, the Captain took the sticky rice and left immediately. The woman ran immediately to relate her plight to the village tract headman. Yet when the headman, 5 village committee members, and Naang (Mya Tawng), went to the LIB base to hold Capt. Hla Maung responsible, the Captain denied the charge and accused the villagers of trying to frame him so that he would be transferred. He then shot his gun in the air 3 times, threatened the villagers with jail if they brought any such accusation again, and drove off in a car. The victim had been

displaced from Kung Kaat village, Wan Lao tract in Kun-Hing township, and had come to Naa Kawng Mu village in March 1999.(Source: SHRF)

On April 6, 2000, Ma Ngae Tin, age 23, and her Aunt, Daw Mya Thein, of Tavoyan ethnicity, were cutting firewood in U Hla Thee garden, located in Tenasserim Division. Troops from IB 403, section 2 then came and raped Ma Ngae Tin. Daw Mya Thein attempted to stop the rape, but the troops held her back and tortured her. Ma Ngae Tin lost consciousness and Daw Mya Thein had to be sent to hospital. (Source: THRF)

On April 6, 2000, Noor Jahan (25), wife of Nurul Islam of Upper Hlay Rwa (village), under Rathedaung township, was gang raped by three SPDC soldiers belonging to LIB 239, while she was going for a visit to her parents. When her husband went to the commander of the battalion to lodge a complaint, the army became furious and detained and tortured him inhumanly by accusing him of defaming the image of the armed forces. Then the commander asked for a ransom in the amount of Kyats 25,000 which the victim had to comply with. (Source: ARNO)

On April 9, 2000, "Naang In Keo", aged 19, from Wan Paw villallage was raped by Private Kyaw San, from Co. No.2 of LIB334, near her village in Mung Yu tract, Mung-Yawng township. She was gathering wild vegetables along the banks of Nam Paw stream when Private Kyaw San grabbed her and dragged her into a nearby bush. The soldier threatened to shoot her dead if she struggled to get away and then raped her. Private Kyaw San was known to the villagers in the area and had bought food from "Naang In Keo's" food stall many times. When "Naang In Keo's" father and the village headman tried to lodge a complaint with the Commander of Company No.2 at the military camp, no action was taken. The Commander claimed that the incident occurred because Private Kyaw saw was in love with "Naang In Keo" and that her father should allow him to marry her in order to "save face". (Source: SHRF)

On April 11, 2000, a patrol of about 100 SPDC troops, with 20 forced civilian porters, from IB246, led by Capt. Htun Myint, looted and burned the camps and granaries of displaced farmers hiding in some small remote islands in Nam Paang river (see Livelihood). The camps were deserted when the troops came because all the farmers had run away just before their arrival. However, Naang Oo, age 18, who could not walk properly because one of her legs was badly deformed and could not speak sensibly or communicate properly with others, had not been able to run away and was captured by the troops. The SPDC Captain, despite her handicaps, interrogated her for some time, beating and torturing her. When it became clear that she was mentally handicapped and could not answer his questions sensibly, he ordered his troops to take her away, saying, "*Take her away, I don't want to see this kind of fool anymore*". The soldiers took her away and gang-raped her and eventually shot her dead on the bank of Nam Poon stream, a tributary of Nam Paang river, and dumped her body into the water. (Source: SHRF)

In late April 2000, 4 women who were peddling small things and food stuff in the countryside were arrested, forced to act as guides and raped for 5 days and 4 nights, by a patrol of about 100 SPDC troops from LIB246 led by Capt. Htun Myint in Kun-Hing township. The victims had been forcibly relocated to Kun-Hing town from Kun Pu and Nawng Hai village tracts in 1997 and had been selling their goods to displaced people in

hiding. The troops interrogated them and forced them to lead them to the camps where displaced people were hiding. The women took them to camps that had already been burned by the same troops on April 11, 2000 and said they did not know of any others when questioned. The troops, however, continued to patrol the area and took the women with them for 5 days and 4 nights. During the night, the Captain took the youngest woman and raped her, while his officers and troops raped the rest. After the troops returned to their base and the women were released, but all their merchandise had been taken or eaten and the little money they had was stolen by the troops. The 4 victims were: 1) Pa Wai, aged 37, originally from Kun Pu village, Kun Pu tract, 2) Naang Thawn, aged 24, originally from Naa Mawn village, Nawng Hai tract, 3) Naang Thun Nae, aged 22, originally from Naa Mawn village, Nawng Hai tract and 4) Naang Ing, aged 19, originally from Naa Mawn village, Nawng Hai tract (Source: SHRF)

On May 2 2000, three young Muslim girls were arrested and gang-raped by the SPDC and DKBA officers, according to a Karen trader. The officers led by Lt. (Bo) Myint of DKBA entered Myin Zee village, arrested the girls brought them to their military camps and gang-raped them there. The village is in Pa-an township, Karen state. The victims were Ma Nge, 24, ma Than Oo, 22 and Ma Ni, 18. One Abdul Salam of the same village, who talked to his friends about the rapes of the SPDC and DKBA officers, was severely beaten and fined Ks. 150,000 and latter released with a warning not to criticize the deeds of the officers in the future. (Source: MICB)

On May 2, 2000, a column of 50-60 SPDC troops from Company No.3 of IB55 led by Capt. Thein Win arrested 2 relocated girls who were grazing their oxen about half a mile from Lai-Kha town. The girls were among the villagers who had been forcibly relocated to the outskirts of Lai-Kha town from surrounding rural villages by SLORC/SPDC troops in 1997-98. There were usually 5-6 girls who often came to graze their cattle at the place, but on that day the others had not come because their ox-carts had been taken for forced labor by other SPDC troops. The 2 victims, Naang Kham Leng, age 16, from Kung Sa village, and Naang Zing Nyunt, age 17 from Nam Tawng village were detained in the military camp for 6 days and 5 nights, where they were repeatedly raped by Capt. Thein Win and his officers. The 4 oxen were also killed for meat by the troops When the troops had to go out for a round of patrol, they took the 2 girls with them and when they got to a remote place in the forest, Capt. Thein Win ordered some of his troops to take them away to a remote spot and shoot them. A civilian who was being forced to serve as a guide and had seen and talked to the girls, was warned not to tell anyone or else his property would be seized and he and his family would be killed. (Source: SHRF, MICB)

On May 2, 2000, SPDC troops from Company 3 of IB 55, led by Capt. Thein Win arrested 2 Shan girls who had been grazing their oxen near Lai Kha town, Shan State. The troops kept the girls, Naang Kham Leng, age 16, from Kung Sa village, and Naang Zing Nyunt, age 17 from Nam Tawng village for 6 days, during which time they repeatedly raped them, and then shot them dead. (Source: MICB)

On May 6, 2000, at 11:20 am, a group of SPDC troops, called a "Guerilla Force", led by Captain Nyan Myint Kyaw, entered Weh Mu village, Kyaukkyi Township, Karen State and arrested two daughters of villager UYe Myint, namely Ma Pya Min Soe, age 20, and Ma Kay Thwe Win, age 18. The girls were arrested with 10 sacks of rice worth 50,000 kyats which the girls had bought from Naw Paw Wah's house at Hin-Tha-Wai village.

U Ye Myunt himself was able to escape but these troops accused him that he would sent these rice sacks to KNU and threatened house owner Naw Paw Wah in various ways and at last extorted from her 20,000 kyats. Those troops took the two girls to their base and raped them, and then demanded 10,000 kyats for each of them. They then released them on June 8 at mid night. The army also threatened these two girls to shut their mouth so that the news would not spread. (Source: KAWU)

On May 7, 2000, SPDC sergeant Hla Shwe, from IB 374 raped Ma Saw Tin 19 years of Kay Nyo Ann village, Kyauktaw Township, Arakan state. According to a relative of the victim, the rape case was reported to the authorities, yet no action was taken against the rapist. (Source: MICB)

On May 17 2000, SPDC immigration officers raped three Muslim girls in the Karen state of Burma. The girls were traveling by bus with other passengers. The officers checked their identity cards at a check-point between Pa-an and Kyondo townships. Upon knowing of being Muslims, the three girls wee ordered to get out of the car. Then they were brought into a nearby tent where they were raped. The victims wee (1) Ma Soe, 19 (2) Ma Myint Nwe, 20 and (3) Ma Khi Mar Oo, 23 (not their real names) (Source: MICB)

In late May 2000, 6 displaced women were gang-raped and shot dead by 70-80 SPDC troops from IB 246, led by Capt. Aung Htay, near the Kun-Hing - Murng-Paeng road between Ka Li village relocation site and Kun-Hing town, Kun-Hing township (see Women). The 6 victims were:

1.	Naang Muay Phawng	aged 27	originally from Sa Harnng village, Ho Yarn tract
2.	Naang Zaam Pao	aged 24	originally from Naa Khaak village, Ho Yarn tract
3.	Naang Htun Nae	aged 21	originally from Naa Tong village, Ho Yarn tract
4.	Naang Khur Wan	aged 20	originally from Kaeng Lom Awn village, Ho Yarn tract
5.	Naang Lao Sai	aged 18	originally from Narn Pon village, Ho Yarn tract
6.	Naang Seng Hurn	aged 16	originally from Laai Ha village, Ho Yarn tract

(Note: These troops left their base on May 22, 2000 and returned on June 7, 2000, so this event took place sometime between these dates and after the massacre of 64 villagers)
(Source: SHRF)

On May 22 2000, two Muslim girls were paped by SPDC officers n Karen state. Sergeant Tin Ngwe and three of his colleagues from LIB 28 called the girls into military camps where they were raped by the four officers. After the rapes, the girls were thrown out of the camps. One of the victims' brother, U Mya Win who reported the matter the authorities was subsequently arrested by the soldiers from the same battalion. His whereabouts remains unknown. The two victims were (1) Ma Cho Win (22 yeare) and (2) Ma Nyo Nyo (19 years) were from Ka So village, Hlaing Bwe township (Their names have been changed). LIB (28) is situated near Ka So village which is about 15 miles away from Hlaing Bwe. (Source: MICB)

On May 22, 2000, at 10 p.m., four Burmese soldiers from IB No. 20, molested a girl from House No. 2, Ohntapin Quarter, Sittwe, Arakan State. Later that day 30 people surrounded and attacked the soldiers who had molested the girl. One soldier was killed and the other three were injured but escaped. At 12:00 that night 40 soldiers came to the colony and arrested one person from each house. More than 100 residents were tortured and interrogated by the soldiers to reveal the names of the attackers. (Source: Mizzima News Group).

On May 27 2000, about 30 Burmese soldiers, of battalion No.555 led by Lt. Tun Tun Win and Lt. Kyaw Kyaw Oo, arrested the following six Muslim goods-sellers and robbed them of all their belongings worth about Ks. 500,000. Later, the officers took away three women into the nearby bushes and raped them there. The whereabouts of the three women remain still unknown. The Muslims were selling their goods from one village to another and they were arrested between Mi Zan village and Min zi village which are in Pa-an township of Karen state. The victims were (1) Ms. Noor Mar Bi (41 years), robbed and raped, (not her real name) (2) Ms. Kha Toon (40 years), robbed and raped, (not her real name) (3) Ms. Ra Bia (27 years), robbed and raped (not her real name) (4) Mr. Kasen 35 years, robbed, (5) Mr. Ha shin 26 years, robbed, (6) Mr. Yusoof 25 years, robbed. (Source: MICB)

On May 28, 2000, some SPDC security officers led by sergeant Aung Nyien raped two Muslim women in Pyinmana, Mandalay. According to a trader, the officers were living in military camps near Pyinmana-Ye Zinn railway station where the women were brought and raped. The victims were Ma Khin Ohn (28 years) and Ma Aye Aye (26 years) (not their real names). (Source: MICB)

On June 26, 2000, Lieutenant Win Naing, an intelligence officer under Company 4 Commander, Kyaw Tin Oo, from Column 1 of SPDC LIB 3, came to Peh-leh-no village, Tha-ton District, Karen State, at about 12 p.m. midnight, and raped Naw Beh Leh, 18, daughter of Tee Soe Myint. (Source: KIC, KWO)

On June 28, 2000, Lt. Win Naing of Light IB 81 based in Papun Township raped Daw Hla Yin (not her real name) of Gwan Ta Hla village, Papun Township. The victim reported the rape-case to the high authorities of the same battalion who alleged that the woman framed a false case and fined her 12,000 Kyat. (Source: MICB)

On June 29, 2000, Capt. Myint Oo, from the SPDC Lai-Kha-based LIB515, Company No. 3, raped Naang Zing U, aged 18, and shot dead her brother, Zaai Maai, who tried to intervene, at a rice farm in Lai-Kha township. (Source: SHRF)

In mid-2000, IB 403, based in Thaya-Chaun Township, Tenasserim Division entered Tee-Tout-Pyin village in the afternoon. On the way into the village, they saw Ma Tin Ngae, the daughter of U Su Tha and Daw Hlay, working in the fields and they raped her. As a result of the gang-rape, Ma Tin Ngae lost consciousness and had to be sent to hospital. Later, at a checkpoint on the way to the hospital, her uncle was stopped and tortured because he told the soldiers at the checkpoint what had happened. He also had to be sent to hospital. (Source: THRF)

In July 2000, soldiers from LIB 208 arrested Naw Paw Sa (about 21 years old) on her farm and accused her having contact with rebels. The soldiers then raped her. Then in late July, the same soldiers arrested another girl, Naw Ba Baw near the village and raped her. In August, the soldiers arrested Naw Kyin Shwe (15 years old) in the village with accusation she was a rebel's relatives and raped her and killed her. Similarly another two sisters, Naw Tin Nyunt (18 years old) and Naw Tin Hla (16 years old) were arrested on their farms and raped by the soldiers. (Source: HURFOM)

On July 5, 2000, a column of about 80 SPDC troops from IB99 led by Capt. Than Maung, who were patrolling the Kho Lam area in Nam-Zarng township, Shan State seized 2 displaced women, who had been working at their farm. They forced the women to go with them for 4 days and 3 nights, until July 8. During the 4 days and 3 nights, the 2 women were repeatedly raped day and night by all the troops who wanted to do so. The victims, Naang Ngeru Lu, aged 37 and Naang Kham Suay, aged 35, were originally from Haang Naa village in Wan Zid tract that had been forcibly relocated to Kho Lam by SLORC/SPDC troops in 1997. Then on July 10, the same troops, who were still patrolling, seized another woman at a different farm and took her with them for 4 days and 3 nights, until July 14, during which they repeatedly raped her like the 2 previous women. The victim, Naang Phit, aged 18, upon returning home was so physically and mentally sick that as of October 2000 she still was not able to eat and sleep properly. (Source: SHRF)

On July 7, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 286 captured and raped a young girl named Nang Eb, age 15, daughter of Loong Nan Ta and Pa War in the village of Hai Khai, Par Kee tract, Murg Paeng Township, Shan State. The soldiers silenced her mouth with a piece of cloth and gang-raped her until she lost consciousness. (Source: SSANews)

On July 18, 2000, 60 SPDC troops from Company No. 3 of IB 66 led by Capt. Htay Aung raped and killed 2 displaced women at their rice farm about 3 miles north of Nam-Zarng town, Nam-Zarng township. The victims were sisters, Naang Tawng, aged 18 and Naang Maai, aged 16, who were originally from Haang Lin village in Naa Poi tract that had been forcibly relocated to the outskirts of Nam-Zarng town in 1997. On the day of the incident troops surrounded the farm and arrested the women. They took Naang Maai into a nearby farm hut and raped her. At the same time, Naang Tawng was taken by other troops to the edge of the farm and raped. Eventually, the troops beat both women to death and left their bodies where they had been raped. (Source: SHRF)

On July 27, 2000, SPDC troops from LIB 286, led by Major Htay Aung, and PNA troops numbering altogether 135 men entered Wan Khai village and looted village property. After their looting, the SPDC soldiers also captured and gang-raped a Shan girl named Nang Zarm from Wan Na Khun village, Phong Seng tract, Lai Kha township until the young girl lost consciousness. (Source:SSA News)

On September 17, 2000, 2 women who were gathering firewood were raped by 3 SPDC soldiers from LIB333 in the forest about 1-1/2 miles from their village, Pa Sak, in Mae Nim tract, Murg-Sart Township. The victims were Naang Taeng Nae, aged 19 and Naang La Khin, aged 21. The 3 soldiers, Tin Aye, Mya Maung and Htun Hpe threatened to shoot them if they did not comply. After they had all raped the women, the soldiers warned them not to tell any one or they would kill them and burn down their houses. The women knew these

soldiers and their names and told their families and the village headman. The headman explained that there was no way the military commander would be fair to them. Most likely, the victims would be told to point out the perpetrators in a line of soldiers where they were not included, and when they were not able to pick out the culprits, they would be scolded, accused of dishonoring the military and fined and/or punished. The headman said that this had often been the case with rape cases committed by SPDC soldiers. In Murg-Sart township alone, there had already been 20-30 rape cases by SPDC troops that were being left un-tackled and in most cases the victims were fined and/or punished. (Source:SHRF)

On September 23, 2000, on the last day of a forced labor duty, Sgt. San Win of LIB 282 attempted to rape one of the forced laborers, a Mon woman named Mi San Htay, age 28. Sgt. San Win had forced 25 villagers of Kwe-tha-lin village, Yabyu Township, Tenasserim Division to labor for 3 days in the military palm plantation, and in the evening of the last day he ordered that Mi San Htay meet him. She went to meet him accompanied with another woman, but he refused entry to the other woman and took Mi San Htay to a kitchen building near the barracks and tried to rape her. Mi San Htay cried for her friend, and when her friend came back with other villagers, the commander's attempt was stopped. A group of villagers took the case to the battalion commander, but after 2 days the battalion commander was transferred and no action was taken against Sgt. San Win. (Source: HURFOM)

On September 24, 2000, a patrol of SPDC troops from LIB515 led by Capt. Aung Hpyu killed a farmer and raped his wife at a farm 2-1/2 miles south of Lai-Kha town. The victims, Zaai Za-ling, aged 26, and Naang Mon, aged 21, were from Kun Hung village, Wan Saang tract, Lai-Kha township. They were weeding their rice farm on the day of the incident. Zaai Za-Ling ran into a patrol of the said SPDC troops outside their farm on his way to fetch water and was arrested. The troops took him back to the farm and when they saw Naang Mon they arrested her as well. Capt. Aung Hpyu then took her into a nearby stilted farm hut and raped her. When they left the farm, the troops beat Zaai Za-Ling on the head with a heavy stick at the edge of the farm, killing him instantly, and took Naang Mon with them. For 10 days, Naang Mon was forced to go with the troops and was repeatedly raped by several officers. On the 10th day, she was gang-raped by 10 troops and was let go. She was not even able to stand up when she was released, and it took her some time to be able to walk back to her village. (Source: SHRF)

On September 25, 2000, 2 young Akha women from Nam Kaang village in Huay Koi tract, Kaeng-Tung township, were raped by 7 SPDC troops from IB245 at their farm which was not far from their village. The victims, Aa Mu, aged 20 and her younger sister, Aa Thuay, aged 17, were working in their farm when the troops, who were coming from the direction of Wan Urm village in Murg Khawn tract and were heading towards Huay Koi village, saw them. They came into the farm, seized them and gang-raped them until all 7 of them had raped both women several times. Aa Mu, managed to keep herself conscious, but Aa Thuay, completely lost consciousness. When the troops left, Aa Mu staggered back to her village and reported the incident to her parents. Her parents, relatives and fellow villagers went to the farm and found the younger women still unconscious. Since the said SPDC troops stopped at Huay Koi village, which was not very far from Nam Kaang village, and forced the headman to serve them food, the villagers knew that they were from IB245. However, no one dared to say anything against them. (Source: SHRF)

On October 14, 2000, SPDC troops from the 99th Brigade in the village of Wan Nong Murng, Nar Poi tract, Lai Kha township, captured a young Shan girl, Nang Zang, aged 18, daughter of Loong Kheng and Nai Lu of Wan Nong Murng village, Nar Poi tract, Lai Kha township. They dragged her to their base and gang raped her by SPDC soldiers for the whole night and released her in the morning. (Source: Freedom News)

On October 27, 2000, Naang Mon, aged 30, from Loi Sak village in Kyawk Teng village tract, Yawng-Hwe Township, was raped by Khun Gyi, the deputy commander of Company No.2 of Pa-O militia in charge of Kyawk Teng village tract in Yawng-Hwe township. The Pa-O militia was formed by a Pa-O ceasefire group commanded by Aung Kham Hti under the sponsorship of the SPDC. On the day of the incident, the victim was bicycling from the town market to Loi Sak village in Kyawk Teng tract when she met Khun Gyi in a remote area as he was driving a car alone. Khun Gyi stopped his car and dragged Naang Mon into a roadside bush, pointing his pistol at her and threatening to shoot if she shouted or struggled. He raped her and then left. When Naang Mon got back home, she told her parents about her plight and they complained about it to the village headman. Though the headman said he would do whatever he could, nothing had been done as of January 2001. (Source: SHRF)

On October 19, 2000, a corporal from SPDC LIB 545, raped Naw Ma Ma of Kaw-nweh village, Doo-pla-ya District, Karen State. (Source: KIC, KWO)

On December 20, 2000, Private Ye Myint from Company 3, Column 2 of LIB 370 entered Mah Lay Leh village tract, Papun District, Karen State and raped Bwe Bwah villager Naw Mu, age 20, the daughter of Saw Kyaw Htoo. (Source: KWO)



Women forced to labor for the SPDC army are vulnerable to sexual abuse from SPDC officers. (Photo: HURFOM)



This 28 year-old woman was raped while serving as a forced laborer. She was raped by Corporal Than Win from IB 282 on September 23, 2000.



Due to lack of stability, and constant movement away from SPDC abuses, this Karen woman gave birth without any medical attention or health care. (Photo: KWO)



Karen women living as refugees in Thailand. (Photo: Ma Aindra)

8. Rights of Ethnic Minorities

8.1 Background

Burma is a country rich in ethnic diversity. Yet although the SPDC attempts to promote this diversity, and the existence of its 135 "national races" (SPDC term for the country's ethnic minority groups), the rights of ethnic minority people remain in violation. Burma's ethnic minorities, the largest groups being Chin, Kachin, Karen, Karenni, Mon, Rakhine and Shan are predominantly located in the border areas of the country. In part due to violations of their rights, as well as to secure their right to land and self-determination, these groups have been fighting the central government of Burma for varying lengths of time, most since independence in 1948.

The SLORC/SPDC adopted a policy of negotiating cease-fires with individual ethnic groups. Since 1989 about 15 such groups have reached cease-fire agreements with the SPDC. However, the Karen National Union (KNU) has continued to conduct armed operations in areas with significant Karen populations in the eastern and southern region of Burma, the Karenni National Progressive Party (KPP) has resumed fighting against the SPDC since the breakdown of a cease-fire negotiated in 1995. In central and southern Shan State, military forces continues to engage the Shan State Army (SSA). Numerous other minor ethnically armed groups including the Chin national Front (CNF), the Naga National Council, the Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO), and the Arakan National Organization (ANO) continue to oppose the SPDC with varying levels of armed opposition.

In areas where cease-fire agreements have been reached, human rights abuses continue to take place. In fact, in these "national reconciliation" areas human rights abuses have increased rather than abated. There has been no move on the part of the SPDC to engage in political discussions with opposition groups to reinforce the military cease-fire agreements. Under the terms of the cease-fire, some ethnic groups have been allowed to keep their arms and soldiers, however, SPDC had vastly increased the number of its soldiers in those areas.

Cease-fire groups are also unhappy with the implementation of SPDC's so-called local development projects. SPDC officials have redirected development projects funds into their own pockets. As a result, the groups have had to finance the construction of schools and hospital facilities as well as provide the necessary infrastructure themselves. By doing this, cease-fire groups have attempted to prove that they are able to carry out their own development projects efficiently and humanely.

The continuing armed conflicts in the Karen, Karenni, Shan and Chin States have been accompanied by massive human rights violations. The SPDC army routinely seized civilians to work as porters, the majority of whom are members of ethnic minorities. These civilians are arbitrarily detained, tortured and ill-treated. They are severely punished, especially when they are unable to perform all that is required of them. Further abuses of porters include being repeatedly beaten with bamboo sticks or rifle butts, being deprived of food, water, rest and medical treatment, and being killed.

Hundreds of thousands of others, including many ethnic minorities, have been forced to

work as unpaid laborers on new construction "development" projects in the past years. No one is spared, neither the sick nor the elderly, neither women nor children. For many, this work is utterly degrading, and causes cruel and inhumane suffering, which often results in death. Countless numbers of ethnic minorities have been removed from their homes to resettlement areas, where the conditions of the "resettlement" are brutally enforced by the army. In areas where the SPDC suspects opposition, some or even all of the civilian populations is forced at gunpoint to move into relocation camps, where they are told that they cannot return home until the opposition groups among them surrender. If villagers do not obey, they are summarily executed. Their homes, crops and livestock are also destroyed. Such "scorched earth" campaigns have been conducted in Karenni State, Shan State and Karen State.

Through, in part, this civil war, the SPDC gives itself excuse to expand its army, and to exert its mainly Burman influence over the minorities living in areas of insurgency. Indeed, even in areas where ethnic minority groups have signed cease-fires the SPDC does not cease from its demands for labor and money, or policies that demean the ethnic minority people.

All residents in Burma have to carry national identity cards, showing the citizenship status, normal place of residence, date of birth, name of father, and so on. The format of the identity card was changed in 1990 to include not only all of the above, but also of ethnicity and religion. Without these national ID cards it is illegal to buy a train or bus ticket, to register with a local council outside one's normal place of residence, to enroll in school, or to vote in any future election. As ethnicity is included on these national ID cards discrimination can be carried out, and there are several reported cases where ethnic minorities are deprived of their right to travel, to enroll in school, or are arbitrarily detained on the basis of their ethnic minority status. (For more information see the chapters on the Freedom of Movement, and the Freedom of Belief and Religious Practice)

The military has promoted Burman language and culture in all areas of the country, while actively discouraging expressions of ethnic language and culture. In most border areas the regime prohibits ethnic minority groups from teaching their language and culture in schools. In some areas this goes even further, and the military even attempts to prohibit people to use their own language, even among their own communities. In 2000 KNAHR reported that such a policy had been enforced in Karenni State. The SPDC has enforced a policy in many ethnic minority areas that all signs must be printed in Burmese. Signs, such as road signs or shop signs, which are found in the minority language are often pulled down by government officials or troops. In Shan State even locally brewed traditional alcohol was outlawed.

The policies of the military regime towards its ethnic minority groups has galvanized feelings of racial prejudice from all parties involved, and made prospects for future peace and reconciliation between the ethnic groups in Burma daunting.

8.2 Discrimination against Rohingya people

Members of the Muslim Rohingya minority in Arakan State, on the country's western coast, continued to experience severe legal, economic, and social discrimination. (See also chapter on the freedom of religion) The Government denies citizenship status to most Rohingyas on the grounds that their ancestors allegedly did not reside in the country at the start of British

colonial rule, as required by the country's highly restrictive citizenship law. In 1991 tens of thousands of Rohingya, according to some reports as many as 300,000 persons, fled from Arakan State into Bangladesh following anti-Muslim violence alleged although not proven to have involved government troops. Many of the 21,000 Rohingya Muslims remaining in refugee camps in Bangladesh have refused to return to Burma because they feared human rights abuses, including religious persecution. The UNHCR reported that authorities cooperated in investigating isolated incidents of renewed abuse of repatriated citizens. However, returnees complained of severe government restrictions on their ability to travel and to engage in economic activity.

More than thirty thousand Muslim Rohingya citizens living in and around Sittaw (Capital of Arakan State) have no national identity cards as the government refused to issue new identity cards to them. After it came into power in 1988, the present military government in Burma issued new National Identity Cards for the citizens after abolishing existing identity cards. Without the identity cards, these Arakan people are unable to travel freely, enter educational institutes or start a business. Hundreds of Arakan citizens are also staying without identity cards in other parts of the State, including Maung Taw township, Buu Thee Taung township and Paut Taw township. The people have written many times to the Home Ministry on the issue, yet there has been no reply so far from the government. Some Arakan nationals in 1990 even formed a political party and entered the elections with the promise of getting back identity cards to these unfortunate Arakan nationals. (Source: AHRW)

Unlike the practice with other foreign persons in the country, these Muslims are not issued a foreign registration card (FRC). They are required to obtain permission from the concerned area authorities whenever they wish to leave their village area. Permission to travel to Rangoon usually is not granted to Rohingya Muslims, but permission can sometimes be obtained through bribery. (See chapter on the freedom of movement) These extraordinary payments result in limiting travel to the capital to only the wealthiest people. There were credible reports that Muslims in Arakan State continue to be compelled to build Buddhist pagodas as part of the country's forced labor program. These pagodas often are built on confiscated Muslim land.

Partial List of Incidents in 2000

From early June 2000, the marriageable Rohingya boys and girls living in the township of Maungdaw have been deprived of their right to marriage under a torturous tax collection introduced by the local administration. For the permission of a marriage the guardians of the bride and bridegroom have to pay a sum of 200,000 Kyat and 150 gallons of kerosene to the authorities of the SPDC's Western Area Command. (Source: ARNO)

Under the garb of so-called border development project, the SPDC is establishing settlements of Buddhist communities being invited from within and outside Arakan. These settlers have been grabbing the lands of the Rohingyas under the patronage of the administration. The land grabbers include Rakhine, Burman and tribal people. The authorities subject the Rohingya villagers to provide house building materials, arable lands, cattle, agricultural crops, tools and other needs to those hostile settlers who have been gradually marginalising the Rohingyas from their ancestral homes. (Source: ARNO)

In early June 2000, the authorities ordered all the Rohingya farmers inhabiting NaSaKa

area No.1 in Maungdaw north to hand over to the authorities concerned all their old documents and title-deeds of farmlands. They warned that those who do not comply with the order will be seriously dealt with and barred from using the lands. The authorities also ordered the Rohingya farmers to surrender fifty Tans (about 1750 kgs) of paddy per acre to the government this year. (Source: ARNO)

On June 20, 2000, SPDC village elders, members of USDA and local police officers arrested a Burmese Muslim family of five members who had lived all their lives in Burma and fined them 8, 000 Kyats each, (total 8,000 x 5=40,000), because the family could not show them their identity cards at night. The head of the family is U Mohammad. The victims live in Block No.5, South Dagon, Rangoon. (Source: MICB)

On July 5 2000, Burmese junta's police officers arrested two Muslim Rohingyas on the false allegation that they possessed fake Identity (ID) cards. The two Muslims, U Loon Tin (48 years) and U Myint Win (45 years) were sent to the SPDC court in Moulmein. The police officers were from Pa-an main police station who were led by U Tin Aung, Chief of the police station. It was them informed, in advance, to the relatives that the two Muslims would be sentenced to six years jail-term each. According to a villager, when the relatives of the two Muslims bribed 500,000 Kyats to U Tin Aung, chief of Pa-an police station, U Hla Yi, SPDC government pleader and Daw Khin San Win, the judge, their jail terms were reduced to two years each. Since 1988, the military regime stopped issuing ID cards to the Muslims. U Loon Tin and U Myint Win were from Block No.3, Pa-an (Myo) town, Karen state. (Source: MICB)

On September 19 2000, SPDC authorities arrested and put three Rohingya Muslims into Insein jail of Rangoon. The junta's immigration authorities distributed the (ID cards) to all the villagers except Burmese Muslim community, in Dowbong township of Rangoon. The immigration officers led by Capt. Mya Win arrested and beat some of the Muslim community and put them into Insein jail on the allegation that they were foreigners of Bangladesh origin. According to a relative, the Muslims arrested, beaten and put into jail were from A/10 Block village, Dowbong township. Their names were Ko Than Nyunt (28 years), Ko Soe Myint (30 years) and Ko Nyi Nyi Zaw (23 years). (Source: MICB)

On August 20, 2000, SPDC immigration officers arrested some Burmese Muslim villagers in Mon state of Burma. The officers called all the Muktama villagers in Apong township of Mon state to receive their ID cards. The authorities systematically distributed the ID cards to all the villagers except the Muslim families. The Burmese Muslims were accused of being foreigners from Bangladesh. According to a villager, later, a settlement was negotiated between SPDC authorities and the Muslim community. Under the settlement, every Burmese Muslim family had to pay kyats 3000/- to the authorities as bribe money to get their ID cards. The immigration officers were led by U Myint Maung and USDA Chairman U Mya Naing. (Source: MICB)

8.3 Discrimination against the Mon people

Mon National Day Prohibited in Rangoon

In order to celebrate the 53rd Anniversary of Mon National Day in Rangoon, which was planned to be celebrated on February 20, 2000, key members of the celebration committee and other Mon leaders met with a high ranking SPDC Intelligence Officer, Col. San Pwint and asked for permission. The intelligence officer gave permission to the committee to celebrate the Mon national day, but imposed many restrictions. They were told not to display the Mon national flag or the Mon National Day banner, and not to give any speeches. Yet despite the many restrictions, the Mon leaders agreed to hold the national day with a small ceremony so that they could at least give the traditional alms to the Mon monks. After this, the Mon people of Rangoon prepared for about a month for the celebrations, collecting funds from the community, and inviting people and the monks to attend the celebration. However, on February 17, Lt. Gen. Khin Maung Than, the Commander of Rangoon Division Military Command, summoned the key leaders of the celebration committee and told them that the permission given by the Intelligence Officer was illegal and he would not allow the celebration of Mon national day to be held in Rangoon which was under his control. (Source: HURFOM)

Mon Literacy Training in Moulmein is banned

On May, 9, 2000, the Mon State PDC ordered the members of the Mon Literacy and Culture Committee (MLCC) Moulmein to stop the teaching of Mon literature and forced them to sign a document promising that they would not continue operating the literacy training. The training programs had opened for this year on April 24, 2000. One responsible person from MLCC (Moulmein) was forced to sign the document in front of the General-Secretary of Mon State PDC, Co. Aung Maw Maw, and all activities of operating of Mon literacy training were halted by the authorities. The authorities and Unit No. 5 of DDSI also threatened the activists and students with imprisonment if they did not stop teaching Mon literature.

The MLCC had been operating Mon literacy training in 11 city wards of Moulmein, the capital of Mon State. The 11 city wards are: San-gyi, Daung-zayat, Thiri-myaing, Say-gyo, Myaingthaya, Sayay-gyi-gone, Thei-gone, Pago-chaung, Shwe-myaing-thiri (1) and (2). In each city ward, there were about 20-80 students who attended the classes and many Mon parents sent their children to these classes to learn how to read and write Mon literature, with the objective of maintaining Mon identity. The MLCC provided about 15 Mon teachers including some monks, and the training programs were based in monasteries. This training has been arranged by MLCC (Moulmein) to operate only for a one month period, from the last week of April to the last week of May, during the holiday of the government school, therefore it was not in competition with government schools. Every previous year, the MLCC (Moulmein) had conducted this type of training and the authorities had not taken any action against them. Thus, when they started the training, they did not ask any permission and expected the authorities would allow it as before. However the number of students who joined the classes in 2000 were higher than previous years, with nearly 500 students in Moulmein, thus a reason why the authorities stopped the arrangement of Mon literacy training. The training had been arranged with great effort in Moulmein, as unlike other villages and town wards that had arranged Mon literacy training programs earlier in the year, and had held closing ceremonies in the last week of April, the training program

in Moulmein had gotten a late start. This was due to difficulties in organizing the Mon people in the city in support of the training where many Mon people have forgotten their identity and have not given much support or interest in the training. In the villages and towns where the SPDC authorities have less influence, or where the local Mon people have strong communities, the authorities were unable to close down the training.

In Moulmein, even though it is the capital of Mon State, the Mon communities are weak and some Mon people are working as government servants and have less cooperation with each other. Therefore, the Mon community in Moulmein is quite vulnerable to the actions of the Mon State PDC authorities to stop the Mon literacy training. (Source: HURFOM)

Mon Schools ordered closed

In the first week of October 2000, MI No. 5 of the SPDC, the area intelligence officer based in Gyaing bridge, ordered the village headmen of Mon villages in Kawkareik township of Karen State to close all the Mon schools or the teachers would be arrested. Prior to this, on September 22, 2000, MI No. 5 had demanded that the village headmen give him the details of the schools by the next day. He asked for the name of the organization that opened the school; the person responsible for the school; the names, ages, ID numbers, addresses and family information of all the teachers in each school; and the number of children in each class. Some of the village headmen sent the information and some did not. In the beginning of October he declared the schools illegal and said that all teaching activities must stop or the teachers would be arrested. He also told the village headman to stop the children from attending the schools and warn their parents. The order was sent to over 10 Mon villages where Mon National Schools were operated to teach children in the Mon language according to the courses and system developed by the Mon National Education Committee and Education Department of New Mon State Party (NMSP). Mon villages in this area include Zathapyin, Kaw-pauk, Min-ywa, Kaw-bein, Kaw-go, Kaw-kyaik, Thayet-taw and operate the Mon education system with the help of community leaders, Buddhist monks and educated people. NMSP's Education Department provides teachers for the schools and sometimes pays salaries. Education is free of charge for the children in the villages. (Source: HURFOM)

8.4 Personal Accounts

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Biak To
 Sex: Male
 Age: Not given
 Ethnicity: Chin
 Religion: Christian
 Occupation: former Lt. Col. in the 1st Police Regiment of Burma
 Date of Interview: January 2001
 Source: CHRO

Q: How was your life during your service in the Burmese Army and Police?

A: My father was Rev. Lal Hnin. He was one of the first Chin converts into Christianity. So,

I was grown up in a good Christian family. I finished high school from Haka State High School and graduated from Mandalay University in 1972. I was a weight lifter and healthy young man. I would like to become an army officer. Therefore, after my graduation from university, I applied for Military Officer Training School. However, because I am of Chin ethnic nationality, my application was not considered. So, I joined the army as a private on November 17, 1973. I tried very hard to please my superiors in performing my duties. I was promoted to Lance corporal in February 1976 and corporal in October of the same year in 1976. Because of my work performance, I was allowed to join Officer Training School in 1979 in service. Then I became second Lieutenant in April 1980. That means it took me almost 8 years to reach this level while other Burmese Buddhist graduates could attain this level of rank just one year after their graduation from a university. The vast majority of the ranking officers in the Burmese Army are Burman Buddhists. As a result, I was always discriminated against the dominant Buddhists for my being an ethnic Chin Christian. For example, the non-Burman soldiers were selectively assigned in the front line to fight against the Karen rebels, saying that we were brave and loyal. The ethnic soldiers were, in fact, respected as the most brave and hardy fighters in the Burmese Army. As ethnic minority soldiers, we enjoyed virtually no rest time and were never given permission or leave to visit our relatives. The most frustrating thing was when we returned from a successful operation or captured enemy positions, the Burman soldiers who remained in the camps all the while and did not participate in the actual combat got promoted, while we, the actual fighters were neglected for promotions. A Burman officer with less educational background and service experience would become a Colonel while I remained as a Captain. Our superiors would always encourage us to become Buddhists so as to be considered for promotions, but we always chose not to be promoted than abandoning our faith. An ethnic soldier would not be promoted to a position higher than Major regardless of his service years and how many times he had been transferred.

There is no difference in the Police either. We were repeatedly told to convert to Buddhism if we really aspired for promotions. This also tended to be a mere deception. A close friend of mine, Thein Lwin, an ethnic Shan Christian converted to Buddhism for want of promotions but was never promoted. He just ended up being cheated of his faith.

On July 10, 2000, I gave a speech to the police parade mentioning my being a Chin Christian and son of a pastor that from childhood, I never wanted to tell lies, steal or misbehave and that I wanted everyone to do likewise. Four days later, on July 14, I received an order saying that I have been dismissed from the police.

Q: Do you know the reason why you were laid off?

A: I still have no idea on what exact account I was dismissed. The order came all of a sudden without any formal procedures. Under normal circumstances either a preliminary inquiry or departmental inquiry should have been conducted before a government service could be tried for any misconduct or violations of rules. There was not any such thing happening in my case. At the time of my dismissal, I was the only person holding a B.A degree among officers of my rank in the entire nine Police Regiments in Burma. In fact, I should have been the first one to be considered for promotions. Obviously, the authorities did not want to see a Chin Christian holding high position that they made a pre-emptive move to dismiss me without any apparent charges. It just did not end with my dismissal. In

an attempt to prevent me from leaving the country, the authorities disqualified me from being eligible for a passport for seven years. However, I was able to obtain a passport under a fake name and secretly managed to sneak out of the country. I have a wife and three children remaining in Burma. I am constantly worried about them because if the authorities found out my absence, they would be subject to harassment and persecution.

Q: As a middle rank police officer, can you tell us about the prison conditions in Burma? Under what conditions do the prisoners commonly live?

A: Prison conditions differ from one another. In a major prison like Insein prison, different inmates receive different treatment depending on the severity and importance of their case. Inmates serving political sentence would receive better treatments in terms of food and facilities so as to look good before foreign agencies that might come to assess the prison conditions. All the prisoners in general, are not adequately receiving food and medical attention. In some cases, prisoners mostly depend on their relatives who brought them food from outside. Prisoners having no relatives around have to stay hungry. There are nine hard labor camps across Burma in which inmates have to work on government's agricultural projects and road construction etc. This usually happened under serious conditions and beyond the prisoners can endure. There is no medical treatment available for them unless their relatives can send them money to buy it. But the jail officials would always take the money for themselves. The number of deaths in prisons is dramatically increasing everywhere. People are so much afraid of being ended up in the country's prison that they are fleeing the country each day.

Q: What is the nexus between the military regime and drug?

A: I do not know much about the drug situation. Drugs come mostly from the area controlled by Wa militants, which had signed cease-fire agreement with the SPDC. This drug involved mostly stimulant tablets and fewer amount of cocaine. There are more than 50 such refinery machines operating in Wa area. These drugs are transported and smuggled out to Thailand from where they are transported again to other countries.

Q: How would you describe your views with regards to the present military regime and the country's problems in general?

A: What appears to be the main problem with the present military regime is a notion that they can stay in power as long as they can cheat the people. They do not seem to care about what is going on around the world other than their own ideological belief. They have sold off all the country's natural resources including teaks and gemstones and pocketed it for themselves. Huge amount of money is spent on military hard wares and equipments. They projected some money on building bridges and dams, which they boasted them in the State-controlled Television broadcast and newspapers as the unprecedented achievements that ever happened only under their reign.

They believe that no one including the UN can interfere with the internal matters and that they will run the country as they like. What the military regime has in mind is only the benefits and welfare of their own families while the people at large are being pushed to the point of starvation. Prices are skyrocketing day after day and year after year. A person could live easily on 3.15 kyats a day earning in the 1960s. But today, kyats 300 cannot even survive a person. Inflation rate is fast becoming high because the government had allowed former Drug lord Khunsa and his associates to launder their drug money in the country,

which involved large scale buying of properties and land across the country. The question of democracy seems to be still far away. The military officials have enjoyed very much the taste of being in power that they will never want cede it again. They do not even attempt to understand what democracy really is. The cry of ethnic minority for self-determination and federalism means some sort of separatism or independence movement to the military junta. All their intention and attempts are only to suppress any kind of elements they deem a threat to them. Their targets have constantly been the NLD and Aung San Suu Kyi.

They are now trying to expand the arm force on a daily basis. More than thrice the numbers of normal recruits are now in the Defense Studies Academy in Maymyo. Because the junta has held everything so tight that without any assistance or effective pressure from abroad, I think the question of democracy is still not within reach.

(NOTE: Lieutenant Colonel Biak To, a B.A graduate from Mandalay University, enlisted as a private in the Burmese Army on 17 November 1973 after he found out that his movement as leader of Haka University Students Association was closely monitored by the notorious MIS. It was the time when a new constitution for Socialist authoritarian regime was being drafted in Burma and the authorities were in full alert to crush every possible hindrance to the progress of constitutional making process. After going through different levels of military training with a number of postings in different parts of Burma including one in the LIB 101 under Divisional Command 77 stationed in Wa area, he became a Captain in 1984. In 1990, he shifted from the Army to Police service on a rank-to-rank basis, becoming a police inspector. Being an educated man with adequate service experience, he was promoted Major in 1994. And by 1998, he became Lieutenant Colonel in the 1st Police Regiment.

In 2000, for the reason that was never made clear to him, Lt. Colonel Biak To had his position stripped off from him. Much to his surprise, he was fired with a fine of Kyats 15,9000, which he had to pay apparently without knowing why.

In the following disclosure to CHRO, Lt. Colonel Biak To revealed how he was discriminated and unfairly treated by his superiors in the Army and Police simply because of his religious and ethnic identity. He also explained his views and perspectives involving the various aspects of problems facing Burma.)

9. Rights to Education and Health

9.1 Background

"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care."

- Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Burma has one of the poorest health records and lowest standards of living in the developing world. The desire of the military government to hold on to power at any cost has meant that human rights, including the rights to health and education, are given scant attention in comparison to political and security issues. Health and education are given incredibly low priorities in the national budget, and lip-service to these issues often take the place of substantial reforms or programs. Because of political considerations the root causes of problems in these arenas, such as the affects of landmines and forced labor on health and the effect of school closings and censorship on education, are not dealt with in meaningful ways. Low salaries and lack of transparent and effective supervision has made it easy for corruption to flourish among medical personnel and educators. Patients more often than not have to pay a bribe to be seen by a doctor, get a bed in a hospital, or receive essential medicine. Primary school students can pay to receive better grades or get private tutoring from their teachers. Higher education in Burma is particularly substandard with students being given rush degrees, during those times that the universities are actually open, in order to prevent any political opposition to the military regime to spring up on college campuses.

The political situation in Burma has a direct impact on the poor quality of education and healthcare available to the general public. The level of access a person has to quality health and education infrastructure depends on economic level, geographical location and individual, family or ethnic group relations with the military regime. For example, a Burmese military officer and his family living in Rangoon has much better access to high quality education and medical treatment than a family that is part of an ethnic and religious minority group living in a conflict area on the border. As of yet the military regime has been unwilling to address these inequalities to ensure that all people living in Burma, regardless of their ethnic group, religion, political affiliation, economic status or geographical location have access adequate health care and education.

9.2 Situation of Education

Section 34, Chapter IV of the 1947 Constitution -

"The State shall pay special attention to the young and promote their education."

Section 36, Chapter IV of the 1947 Constitution -

"The State shall regard the raising of the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties."

"The Government continued to restrict academic freedom severely. University teachers and professors remained subject to the same restrictions on freedom of speech, political activities, and publications as other government employees. The Ministry of Higher Education continued routinely to warn them against criticism of the Government; to instruct them not to discuss politics while at work; to prohibit them from joining or supporting political parties or engaging in political activity; and to require them to obtain advance ministerial approval for meetings with foreigners. Like all government employees, professors and teachers continued to be coerced into joining and taking part in the activities of the USDA. Teachers at all levels continued to be held responsible for preventing students from engaging in any unauthorized demonstrations or political activity."

– US State Department

Education in Burma has been severely impacted by more than four decades of military rule. Because the military regime views potentially politically active university and high school students as one of the biggest threats to their grip on power, all-non military education is treated as expendable. All civilian schools and universities throughout Burma suffer from a lack of resources and qualified educators, a problem found in many developing countries, however, unique to Burma is the fact that the ruling government actively tries to thwart universal and advanced higher education. On April 17 2000, a DVB broadcast reported that it had been announced that Burmese soldiers who passed matriculation would be appointed as high school teachers in frontier areas.

In order to receive higher education in Burma several conditions must first be in place: the student must not be politically active or have politically active family members; the universities must be open; the student must be from a social and economic group and have an educational background that makes higher education feasible. When these conditions are met, a student then faces a university system where teaching materials and classroom topics are heavily censored, group activities are restricted and freedom of thought is generally hindered. Students are then rushed through courses that focus on memorization rather than critical thinking and upon graduation are ill-equipped to find quality employment. (See chapter on children for information on primary education)

Partial Re-opening of Universities

In 2000, civilian universities, which were closed since 1996, were "re-opened" with one year of course content packed in to 3 months and 2/3 of courses offered by mail. On June 26, fourth, fifth and sixth year students began their studies again and on July 24 second and 3rd year students and first year students who matriculated from high school in 1996. Before students could enroll they had to take an oath that they would not become involved in political activities, which many refused to do and as such only 1/3 of previously enrolled students were allowed to re-enroll. It is reported that between 25,000 and 60,000 students enrolled, however more than 400,000 students matriculated from high school since the closures in December 1996.

Despite the fact that only 0.5% of GNP is spent on education in Burma, compared to 2.7% in other Southeast Asian countries, the military government went to the extra expense of building university facilities in the outskirts of major cities near military barracks in order to stop students from gathering and protesting. The main campuses of Rangoon University

and Rangoon Institute of Technology, which have been centers of student protest in the past, were moved 20 kilometers outside of Rangoon. Students from the provinces were being spread out among the new universities in order to prevent a concentration of students. The relatively isolated nature of the new campuses has led to some security concerns and at least 3 women were robbed at knifepoint while walking on Rangoon University campus. Several people who attended a forum on education at the NLD headquarters on August 21 emphasized that the quality of education presently available was lower than in 1988 and that there were few educational opportunities. In addition, the distance of the campuses prevented some students from attending classes regularly because they couldn't afford transportation.

Closure of Dagon and Rangoon Cultural University

It was reported that on October 10, 2000, Dagon University, Rangoon Cultural University and some teachers training colleges were closed under the emergency act because anti-SPDC posters calling for a freer education system were found posted to walls. From September 29 to October 8 security had been increased at Dagon and Rangoon Cultural University because of rumors of a forthcoming student protest. Riot police and security forces were making checks in around the campuses but were withdrawn on October 9 when the situation looked clear. In addition, lecturer U Tin Shwe of Rangoon Cultural University, which has 1,000 students, was dismissed for discussing politics in the classroom. 20,000 students attend Dagon University with 8,000 studying on campus and 12,000 studying by distance learning.

No Housing for Students at Pa-an college

Pa-an college, located in Karen state was re-opened on July 24, 2000. However, students that came from Thandaung, Hlingbwe, Myawaddy and Kyarinnseikgyi Township faced complications because the college could not provide them with a place to stay and rent at places close to the college was too high. As a result, some students were forced to leave the school. Students said that they were upset because they only attending class 3 days a week and were already preparing for their final exam after only 3 months of studying. Students can attend Pa-an College for 3 years after which they have to join Mawlamyine University if they want more education. (Source: ABFSU-FAC)

Technical Institute moved to remote areas and tuition too high for most students

The SPDC has closed most urban universities and sent students off to remote rural campuses. The Computer Technical Institute has its classrooms spread out in remote areas, including one classroom located on the third floor of the immigration office Building, Union Venue, Alon Township in Rangoon. Other classrooms are located in Kyimyintdine Township. The cost for the Computer Technical Institute is \$66(training fee), \$474 (hostel), \$474 (up-keep), \$53 (stationary) and \$142 (ferry) for one year. The fees total \$1209, which prohibits most students from attending the school because they cannot afford the tuition. (Source: ABFSU-FAC)

Quality Higher Education Lost for a Generation of Students

The erratic nature of civilian higher education in Burma since 1988 has led to a generation that has lost the opportunity to receive a quality education. Many students have been forced to abandon their studies altogether either for economic reasons or because they have fled their homes or been imprisoned for political activities. In order to support their families

some students have quit school to take jobs that don't require a high education level, such as taxi drivers, or have migrated to other countries where there are more employment opportunities. Those students who have attempted to continue, or begin, their studies, have faced numerous school closings and low standards for materials, facilities, and educators. The current backlog of students who had their studies interrupted has meant that the authorities are currently trying to push students quickly through the university system. The school year has been cut down to 3 months and the education students receive is mostly cramming and memorizing answers to exam questions. The result is that the value of a degree has been downgraded and there is danger that the current generation of graduates will be disregarded by employers.

Disparity Between Civilian and Military Education

The hallmark of the current education system in Burma is the discrepancy between education received by the military and their families and the civilian population. Following the 1988 pro-democracy movement, the military authorities decided it was vital to strengthen the armed forces and began to set up military institutions for education. As a result the military regime has put most of the resources allocated for education into military institutions of education while neglecting and oppressing civilian education. While the civilian population has to struggle to pay education expenses for their children as a result of the ongoing financial crisis, the children of the military get higher quality education with the financial support of the military regime. Although SPDC manages all basic education schools in the state, it has also founded and operates 15 basic education schools for the children of military elite. During summer holidays, the military runs computer training and English courses and field trips for students from military families. Upon completion of high school these students are usually easily accepted into any military Institute and are eligible for scholarships and scholastic awards. These students are required to be full members of the USDA (for information on primary level education see chapter on children)

Although civilian universities were only allowed to be open for 40 months from 1988-2000, military institutions did not face the same restrictions. One of the results of this has been that military school graduates have been trained to run the civilian education system. One third of graduates of military schools enter civilian universities as lecturers and tutors. Those loyal to the military are rewarded with educational and employment opportunities not open to the rest of the population. The military government provides well for its army students, and gives them stipends, scholarships, and for the very elite, chances to study abroad. Military institutes do not suffer from lack of facilities or materials. The opportunities afforded are miniscule in comparison with world standards, yet many youth in Burma are drawn into the military circle through promises of status and opportunities that are otherwise unattainable in the harsh economic environment of the country.

Civilian students have therefore become interested in some military institutes due to the high cost lack of opportunities in civilian institutions. Civilian students may be accepted into military institutes, however, the government has created a strict system of application, which includes mandatory recommendations from various government officials, including military officials. This system ensures that the applicants, or the applicants' relatives, have had no history with opposition political parties and no criminal history. The applicants

must also promise not to be involved in politics, and pledge to serve in the army for a number of years upon graduating. In some universities, which are affiliated with but not directly under the auspices of the military government, students are screened for such things as USDA membership and political affiliations before they are allowed to take entrance exams. Students who attend these universities are also required to go into military or government service upon graduating. Students who are related to the military elite are favored above civilian applicants and in many cases military students do not have to pay tuition unlike civilian students.

9.3 Situation of Health

"The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social conditions."

-World Health Organization Constitution (Preamble) -

The ongoing civil war in Burma has meant that non-military expenditures, including those for health care, are given a low priority in government spending. The result of this is a health care system with insufficient facilities, too few health care workers, inadequate health education programs and lack of rural services. At the same time the health problems of many are exacerbated by the ongoing armed conflict which disproportionately affects ethnic minorities. The populace is affected directly by things such as landmines and military violence, while migration and forced relocations are the cause of malnutrition and other conditions that lead to the spread of disease.

According to the WHO World Health Report 2000, Burma is ranked 139th out of 191 countries in terms of the overall level of health of the population and 190th for fairness in financial contribution. Regardless of gender, people in all groups can expect to live 51.6 years in full health. On average women can expect to live 7.1 years with disability and men 7.4 years. Life expectancy for men is 58.4 years, for women 59.2 years. In the ASEAN Region only Cambodia and Laos have lower life expectancies. The government is estimated to spend US \$9 per person per year on all health care even though US \$12 is considered the minimum expenditure for basic health care requirements. Many of the countries ranked lower than Burma are suffering from the ravages of AIDS which has yet to come to a head in Burma. Burma's health care system has been found to be the most discriminatory country in the ASEAN region in terms of responsiveness. The differences are most likely between ethnic groups, income levels and civilians and the military.

Lt. Gen Khin Nyunt condemned the report saying that *"The WHO report, based on false information from antigovernment sources aimed at tarnished the image of the country is unjust and unacceptable...The ministry totally rejects the assessment."* Khin Nyunt claimed the military had made progress in the health sector since it came to power — spending 3.09 billion kyats in 1999 as of March 31 against 464 million on the same date in 1988. At the free market exchange rate of about 350 kyats to the dollar, government health expenditure for that year, in a country of 47 million, totaled just \$880,000. At the official rate of six to the dollar it was about \$51 million. The kyat traded at five to the dollar officially in 1988 and at about 88 on the black market. According to a World Bank report, health spending in 1999 represented just two percent of government spending, while military spending was 32%. (See chapter on women and children for more information on health).

Performance of ASEAN Health Care Systems, given the level of resources from WHO World Health Report 2000

Overall Performance (out of 191 countries)	
Rank	Country
6	Singapore
40	Brunei
47	Thailand
49	Malaysia
60	Philippines
92	Indonesia
160	Vietnam
165	Laos
174	Cambodia
190	Burma

In rural areas only 36% of the population have access to sanitation, and 56% in urban areas. Most people in conflict areas have no access to sanitation, which includes hygienic toilets, rubbish disposal, and control of stagnant water and rodents. This leads to the spread of diseases such as diarrheas, dysentery and hepatitis. Lack of basic health education as to the cause of disease contributes to this problem.

According to a 1998 survey, Burma has the 6th highest rate of leprosy in the world, with 10,005 sufferers.

HIV/AIDS

UNAIDS estimates 440,000 cases of HIV in Burma, however, most experts suspect the number is much higher since most parts of the country are closed to outsiders and the military junta controls the flow of information, concealing the real picture. Over the past several years the SPDC has denied that Burma faces any kind of HIV/AIDs problem. On January 20, 2000, Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt told the opening session of the annual conference of the Myanmar Medical Association that only 23,669 HIV infections and 3,195 cases of AIDS had been detected in Myanmar between 1988 and June 1999. This denial of the facts affects not only Burmese citizens, but also neighboring countries. As drugs, migrant workers and prostitutes leave the country, Burma has become an AIDS exporter. In neighboring China, India and Thailand, the provinces with the highest HIV rates are those that border Burma. A report released by Johns Hopkins School of Public Health have connected outbreaks of HIV and injection drug use with overland heroin trafficking routes originating in Laos and Burma and spreading throughout the region.

According to the Director of UNICEF, The SPDC is sending out confusing and conflicting messages about the HIV crisis while not allocating resources to the problem and unnecessarily politicizing the problem. Dr. Peter Piot, UNAIDS’s executive director, has said that Burma has the second worst AIDS epidemic in Asia after Cambodia. Estimates suggest that 60% of teenage drug users are HIV positive. Intravenous drug use in on the rise and Burmese official statistics have rates of injecting drug use among adults from 1.7% to 25%. The government claims that there are 66,463 drug addicts in Burma but the UNDCP and NGOs estimate that it is between 400-500,000. HIV infection rates among Burma’s addicts are among the highest in the world, and as there is a shortage of syringes along with other medical supplies, the spread is facilitated by widespread needle sharing.

Internal migration for the purpose of employment is also a cause of the spread of HIV. Hundreds of thousands of people work seasonally in the jade and ruby mines in Shan and Kachin states and it has been found that most young adults who are HIV positive in central Burma have worked in the mines, most likely bringing HIV with them when they return home.

The health infrastructure is not equipped to deal with HIV; counseling is nonexistent, condoms are too expensive for most people and only made legal in 1993; and HIV tests are rarely free and people cannot afford the \$10 it costs to take one. According to two prominent doctors in Burma, once a patient is diagnosed he or she usually dies within 3 months. There are no anti-HIV drugs in the country and a shortage of antibiotics for tuberculosis, which kills most HIV infected people in Burma. The virus is also spreading in prisons where needles are often re-used several times, and in monasteries where young men shunned by their families move to die. One doctor said that he has treated a number of monks, including elderly monks, who have AIDS.

SPDC Ministry of Health Data on HIV (also see chapter on Women)

HIV Prevalence Rates Among Injecting Drug Users

Site	3/98 (%)	9/98 (%)	3/99 (%)	9/99 (%)
Lashio	36.0	70.4	56.0	74.0
Mandalay	80.6	85.0	83.5	87.8
Muse	100.0	NAD	27.3	92.3
Myintkyeena	75.0	84.3	64.6	77.0
Taunggyi	28.0	22.0	11.0	13.0
Rangoon	47.4	60.8	53.0	39.0
AVERAGE	56.2	61.9	50.9	56.8

Tuberculosis is the second leading cause of mortality at 12.1% and along with HIV/AIDS is on the increase in Burma.

Malaria is the biggest cause of illness and death in Burma. It is the most prevalent in Chin State, Arakan State, Irrawaddy division, and the Thai border area, 22% of all deaths in hospitals are caused by malaria.

HIV Prevalence Rates Among Army Recruits

Site	3/98 (%)	9/98 (%)	3/99 (%)	9/99 (%)
Mandalay	3.7	2.3	2.2	4.7
Rangoon	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.7
AVERAGE	2.5	1.8	1.8	2.7

Mental Health

Mental health is an often overlooked aspect of health care in many societies and the situation is exacerbated in Burma by the lack of resources allocated to health care in general. Ongoing civil war and violence is accompanied by an increase in mental health disorders. Studies of refugees on the Thailand-Cambodia border found that 55% suffered from some form of depression and 15% from post-traumatic stress disorder. The literature on the subject indicates that because mental trauma is a concern for a sizeable portion of war-affected populations, it should be addressed as a major public health issue.

Prisoners' Health

The general health situation in prisons is terrible as there is not enough medicine, doctors or timely assistance. After a prisoner enters prison their health situation generally deteriorates as the result of torture, malnutrition, improper sanitation, and inadequate accommodation. If medicine is provided it is usually temporary pain relievers or the like, such as Paracetamol, Sodamit and Burspro. Doctors neither examine patients nor prescribe medicine for them; these tasks are carried out by prisoners jailed for criminal offences. Prisons have also become distributing centers of communicable diseases, such as AIDS, because the same needle is

used on between 5 and 20 prisoners when they need to be given an injection. In some instances a prisoner may request that a family member bring in a clean needle from outside if they need to receive an injection. In addition, sometimes prisoners can obtain food (such as a single egg) for a blood donation and the equipment is reused without being cleaned.

See interview excerpts at the end of this chapter KHRG interview with "Myo Myint", age 30, a former prisoner in Moulmein Prison, Mon state. He suffers from asthma and needs regular medication but was taken a porter for the military regardless. He was interviewed after escaping from portering in Doooplaya District.

Q: How many days did you have to go for treatment [for your condition] when you were in prison?

A: I had to get treatment in the hospital for over three months when I stayed in prison. We had to buy the medicine ourselves and treat it. People from my house brought it. The prison gives us a ticket, but they don't give medicine. If we go and ask for medicine for 5 days, they give us one tablet of Para [Paracetamol]. I got only one tablet of Amino [Aminophaline]. The one tablet of Amino didn't cure my disease. I got better when I got an intravenous injection. I got a ticket from them and the people in my house bought the injection and gave it to me. When I came to porter, I had 8 more phials of Amino intravenous injection [to take]. To get the injection, we had to buy food for them [the prison officials].

Q: How much money did you spend on Medicine?

A: The price for medicine was over 3,000 kyat for the three months.

Q: Who gave you the injection?

A: The doctor from the hospital gave it to me. I only had to buy the medicine and the needle. We used our needle only one at a time. They used their needle for a month. They didn't boil it after giving the injections.

Q: Did they continue using it?

A: Now, for scabies, they gave one phial of 200,000 units [I.U. International Units] to 6 people. For 8 people, they used only one needle. They injected them one by one.

Q: Did the disease get better?

A: The disease didn't get better, it got worse. The prisoners who were almost dead were taken outside the hospital. They couldn't walk. They had only skin and bone left and their eyes were shrunken. The wounds got worse and the scabies became like leprosy. There were both children and older people [suffering from this]. [The symptoms described here are also those of the final stages of AIDS. With the reuse of needles and the high rate of HIV infection in Burma it is very likely that many of the prisoners are infected.]

Q: How many prisoners died?

A: When I was in prison [6 ½ yrs], about 50 prisoners died. They died from that disease.

Q: Did the prisoners get diarrhea?

A: Yes, because they didn't get enough food. Water was boiled and then cut spinach was put in the water. They fed us like that.

Health Related INGOs Working in Burma

INGOs began re-entering Burma in 1991, the majority of them in the health field, a controversial move because many people felt that an INGO presence in Burma would provide legitimacy to the military regime. However, the INGOs that decided to work in Burma felt that some issues, such as the spread of HIV, could not wait for a change in the political situation and affected the entire Asian region not only Burma. When the INGOs entered Burma they found that the most immediate needs were in the health sector. The health care system was extensive but not adequate for the size of the population, the budget was small in comparison to needs and propaganda took the place of actual services. From the start SPDC has shown a preference for working with intergovernmental organization such as the United Nations. U.N. bodies, such as UNICEF, UNDP and WHO, play a larger role in funding than INGOs and have taken a lead in development, especially in the areas of management and assessment and are often the only buttresses against the collapse of government health and education programs. INGOs have been more active in implementing development projects at the community level and have focused their efforts on training rather than providing hard resources or cash. In 1994, the SPDC decided to accept offers of assistance from international agencies and NGO's in areas covered by the Border Areas Development Program "as long as they do not threaten national security and solidarity." As a result, some organizations have established their own programs and some have funded projects through local community group but they have not used a common structure, system or method.

In order to work in Burma, INGOs have to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which state the conditions under which they are allowed to work. To be granted a MOU, INGOs first must approach the relevant ministry, such as the Ministry of Health and then have their case presented by a ministry representative to the Foreign Affairs Committee. After this, if all goes well, final permission to operate is granted by the Cabinet.

Problems faced by INGOs working in Burma: lack of accurate information; lack of access to all parts of the country; cannot address the underlying problems that affect health such as such as forced labor, forced relocations, and armed conflict remain; shortage of trained personnel in ethnic areas; in the field local military commanders usually have the last say about decisions; are vulnerable to the whims of SPDC officials regarding their status; face political restrictions on who they associate with.

Health related INGO's working in Burma

Alction Contre la Faim

The Association of Medical Doctors of Asia for Better Quality of Life for a Better Future

Medecins du Monde

Medecins Sans Frontiers (Holland)

World Concern

World Vision Myanmar

Association Francois Xavier Bagnoud

Adventist Development and Relief Agency

CARE Myanmar

Marie Stopes International

Populations Services International

Health Situation in Border/Conflict Areas

In 1992, The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs (MPBANDRA) initiated a number of projects for the development of border areas while giving priority to health and education activities. The National Health Plan for 1996-2001 of the Ministry of Health included the following objectives for border areas:

- to improve the quality of health care by providing sufficient amounts of essential drugs and health services not only at hospitals and dispensaries but also at homes
- to promote the health status of national races of the border areas especially to reduce the mortality and morbidity of diseases among women and children
- to provide primary health care, especially maternal and child health care.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that these goals have not been met. Despite government statistics that show an increase in the construction of health facilities and number of health staff in border areas, this does not reflect the true situation. The poor state of infrastructure development in conflict areas has meant that physical access to health facilities is limited. Health staff is often poorly trained, cannot speak the local languages, concentrated in cities and towns where they may draw government salaries but work in the private sector and there is chronic understaffing. Although money may be allocated to build a clinic, in many cases it is siphoned off by various officials and replaced with forced donations from villagers, or not replaced at all. Adequate medicine is rarely found in border area hospitals or clinics and in some cases medics have to buy medicine with their own money and then sell it to the villagers. There are incidents of medical personnel selling medicine, including UNICEF donations, at black market prices. Traditional medicine or Paracetamol may be the only medicine available in rural clinics if there is any at all.

In areas under SPDC control, villagers are not allowed to build their own clinics or create independent organizations that work on issues such as health or education. Their participation in government projects is generally limited to providing labor or financing for the construction of facilities which does not allow them to gain organizational or other experience and limits outreach.

Health situation in relocation sites

Internally Displaced People, or IDPs, have little access to medicine or health care while at the same time living in conditions of poor sanitation and food scarcity. The large number of people relocated to one site makes proper sanitation difficult and people don't know which sources of water are good and which ones are contaminated. In some sites wells have been dug in addition to streams and lakes. Yet in some sites, such as the Shadaw relocation site in Karenni State, the lack of drinkable water has resulted in several problems, including sickness and death that was caused when chemicals were added to the water in an attempt to clean it. Elderly people are especially at risk for disease because of food scarcity and malnutrition and those who are relocated from mountain areas have no immunity to tropical diseases.

Health situation for villagers in hiding villages

Health is a predominant problem for people in hiding. Life in the tropics without norms of shelter or food supply leads to high sickness and mortality rates from malnutrition,

diarrhea, and malaria. Malnutrition is exacerbated by irregular supply of food as SPDC troops regularly destroy their crops and fields. They are unable to grow vegetables or raise animals and have

to rely in large part on plants scavenged from the jungle. With a complete absence of health care facilities, people mainly rely on herbs and traditional medicine. Although there are some healthcare teams, the medicine and care they are able to provide is insufficient for the numbers of IDPs in hiding across many border areas. The mortality rate is rising at an alarming rate for these displaced people, and many villagers are dying from sicknesses easy to treat or prevent, and from minor wounds. In 1999 20 displaced people in Ha Toh Per died from diarrhea due to lack of basic medicine.

An additional problem for villagers living in conflict areas is their use as forced porters by the military. Porters often sustain injuries while performing their duties, such as through beatings or landmines and have increased susceptibility to diseases because of malnutrition and exhaustion. Porters do not receive medical treatment while under the command of SPDC and what medicine is available is first given to soldiers. For porters that sustain serious injuries, they often cannot afford to pay for the medical treatment they may require when they return home.

Health Situation in Toungoo District, Karen State

According to the 2000 KHRG report, *'Peace Villages and Hiding Villages, Roads, Relocations and the campaign for Control in Toungoo District (Karen State),'* villagers living in Toungoo District, Karen State, including IDPs, have little access to medicine or health care while at the same time living in conditions of poor sanitation and food scarcity. For those villagers living in Peace Villages, there are no clinics so ill persons have to go to the hospitals in Kler Lah or Toungoo, which are staffed but do not have enough medicine. In some cases the villagers are asked to give a "donation" and are then allowed to buy medicine. However, in most cases medicine has to be brought from outside and then administered in the hospital. According to one villager,

"There is no medicine in the hospital. The soldiers prohibit the people to go to buy medicine from outside the village, we have to buy it secretly. We haven't gone to the hospital now for a long time, because there is no medicine. When people get serious diseases we must send them to [Toungoo] town." - "Saw Ghay Hser" (M, xx), Kler Lah village (KHRG Interview #12, 11/99)

A prohibition on carrying medicine in some areas means that villagers caught secretly carrying medicine will be accused of aiding the resistance and possibly executed. The large number of people relocated to one site makes proper sanitation difficult and people don't know which sources of water are good and which ones are contaminated. Elderly people are especially at risk for disease because of food scarcity and malnutrition and those who are relocated from mountain areas have no immunity to tropical diseases.

Epidemic Kills thousands in Maung Yawn

As of September 2000, an epidemic than began in mid-July, of malaria, anthrax and typhoid had killed an estimated 10,000 residents of Maung Yawn province, the headquarters of the United Wa State Army (UWSA), one of the world's leading drug producers. Most of the dead were civilians because what little medication existed was first given to UWSA

soldiers. Clinics in Maung Yawn are basic and lack most essential drugs. It was reported that Chinese doctors were brought in to help deal with the epidemic, as Thailand refused to provide much assistance or let in migrants and tightly sealed the border, at one point turning back residents who attempted to enter Thailand to seek medical assistance. Among those infected with anthrax reportedly is Wei Hsueh-kang, one of the top leaders of the UWSA and perhaps the most powerful drug warlord in Southeast Asia.

Villagers forced to pay for UNICEF provisions

In early 2000, two UNICEF representatives from the Rangoon office accompanied by doctors from the Pruso Township Malaria Department visited and studied malaria in Hteepawso village tract, Pruso Township, Karenni State. The UNICEF mission provided some medicine to the local clinic and distributed mosquito nets to the locals, one net for two children and one for each adult. After the UNICEF delegation left, the township doctors collected 200 kyat per mosquito net from those who received them from UNICEF. They also said that the medicine and other assistance from UNICEF would be continued and distributed to each village. However, all patients had to buy the medicine and cover the cost of medical treatment on their own. (Source: KNAHR)

Families forced to buy health care cards for mothers and children to support military fund

It has been reported that in the beginning of May 2000, SPDC's LIBs 406, 407, 408, 409, and 410 were forcibly selling health care cards for mothers and children in Yebyu township, Tavoy District, Tenasserim Division. Every family was forced to buy a card, which cost 100 kyat. They were ordered to do this by Operation Command HQ No. 8 based in Kanbauk village and the profits went to support their military fund. (Source: KNU Mergui-Tavoy District Information Department)

Bribes demanded to attend Nurse Training

In March 2000, Dr Maung Maung Myint and his assistant Dr Myo Lwin Myint, chiefs of the Nursing Department in Loikaw, Karenni State, announced that they were offering Nurse Training to locals aligned to cease-fire groups. Locals not aligned to cease-fire armed groups had to offer a bribe of 300,000 kyat to the local health authorities. Some people could only afford to pay 30 - 40,000 kyat. The chiefs of the Department accepted the money but later told those applicants they could not attend. (Source: KNAHR)

Lack of medicine among SPDC soldiers

Shadaw based SPDC military strategy No. 1, under command of Maj. San Aung did not have enough medicine or medical facilities to treat injured soldiers. Due to lack of medicine and treatment, their injuries worsened. Therefore, not only the injured soldiers, but all soldiers in the army were discouraged because of the unbalanced medical treatment between top brass commanders and those at the lower levels. (Source: KNAHR)

Shortage of Medicine and Importation of Counterfeit Medicine in Karenni State

As of early 2000, all drug stores in the Karenni capital were relying more and more on Chinese medicine imported by brokers since they could not buy enough from the domestic state factory. The Chinese medicine was cheaper than medicine produced by the state. It has been reported that fake medicine made with rice flour was found among the imported medicine from China. Due to the scarcity of medicine and this counterfeit problem, there seems to be no way for people to ensure recovery of the sick. (Source: KNAHR)

9.4 Personal Accounts

Name: "Naung Soe"

Sex: Male

Age: 21

Ethnicity: Burman

Religion: Buddhist

Occupation: Rural Worker

Marital Status: Married, one child 9 months old

Address: xxxx village, Meiktila township, Mandalay Division

Date of Interview: June 2000

Source: KHRG

Q: How did you earn a living in your village?

A: I climbed toddy palms to get the juice. [*The juice from the toddy palm fruit is mildly alcoholic.*] For climbing the toddy palms I got 150 or 200 kyat a day, but the owners of the toddy can make 400 or 500 kyat as profit. Because we hire ourselves we only get 150 or 200 kyat and it is just enough to eat for one day, but no way to get rich or better our family's situation.

Q: What do your brother and sister do?

A: My younger sister works as a field worker digging the ground with her mattock when other people who have fields asked her to work. My younger brother is breeding and taking care of cows and goats for other people. My younger brother is 16 years old and my younger sister is only 13 years old. My father and mother are already dead.

Q: Do they have time to go to school?

A: When my mother and father were alive they could go to school, but my father died and only our mother was left. My younger sister was called by someone to their house [*to take care of her*], but then we tried to stay together again. After my mother died, they didn't want to go to school, but I would like them to continue going to school. My sister doesn't want to go. She has only completed three standards and my brother has finished four standards. I have never gone to school. I am the eldest so I tried to find work to feed them and pay for them to go to school. My mother asked me to go to school, but I didn't want to. I only stayed in the monastery to learn.

Q: Are there many people in your village who can't go to school?

A: Yes, we have a lot of people who can't go to school. The people who have money can send their children to school, but for the poor families, they can't send them because the school fees are very expensive. Each student has to give 1,000 kyat to go to school per year. For food fees like oil and a 'bowl' of rice it is 200 or 300 kyat to buy food to live, so we do not have extra money and it is not easy to send somebody to school. A lot of children can not be sent to school and over 1/3 of the children don't go to school. Most of the people can't send their children to school, but some people can afford it.

Q: Is there a school in your village?

A: Yes, we have a school there. It is only a middle school. To go to high school we have to pass an entrance examination in the big town of xxxx.

Q: Is there a clinic in your village?

A: We do not have a clinic in our village, but we do have a clinic in xxxx town.

Q: What is the distance between xxxx village and zzzz town?

A: They are quite close to each other, but my village is in a rural place. We have a clinic for the whole town, but we do not have a clinic for our village or for each section.

Q: What do people usually do if they get sick?

A: People go to the hospital, they say it is a private hospital. A lot of people have died there if they did not have money [*to pay for the treatment*], but the people who do have money can live. It is because they do not really treat them, they just go here and there and do not take care of the people until they are near to death and then they just inject some medicine. A lot of people who do not have money have died.

Q: How much is a big tin of rice in your village?

A: A bowl of rice is about 200 kyat [*a bowl of rice is 1.562 kgs / 3.445 lbs, there are 8 bowls in a big tin*]. A viss [*1.633 kgs / 3.6 lbs*] of chicken is 500 kyat, a viss of pork is 500 kyat and a viss of beef is over 400 kyat.

Q: Will you go back or stay in a refugee camp?

A: I would like to go back and I'd dare to go back to my own village.

Q: What do think of the SPDC?

A: I can say I don't like them, because according to our situation they should be people we can rely on. But really they oppress and abuse the civilians who do not have many ways to improve their standard of living. If they keep doing this, I don't think it will benefit our situation, so if they would change some things, I think it would be better. I say this because some people have property and some don't, and also some people have food and some don't. We don't need to divide the muscles on our backs and chests [*we don't need to divide our strength*], we just have to help each other and be sympathetic to each other. If we deal with this problem and solve this problem, I believe that all our Buddhist people will be fine. But if we keep going like this, I don't think that it will be easy, and there will be a lot of fighting and arguments.

10. The Freedom of Belief and Religion

10.1 Background

The military junta shows no sign of diverting from a long trend of discriminating against religious minorities. The most recent Constitution, promulgated in 1974, permitted both legislative and administrative restrictions on religious freedom, stating that "*the national races shall enjoy the freedom to profess their religion provided that the enjoyment of any such freedom does not offend the laws or the public interest.*" Most adherents of all religions duly registered with the authorities generally enjoyed freedom to worship as they chose; however, the Government imposed some restrictions on certain religious minorities.

The Government imposed some restrictions on the religious freedom of both Christian and Islamic groups, and individual Christians and Muslims experienced some discrimination by the State. The Government monitored the activities of members of all religions, including Buddhism, in part because clergy and congregation members in the past have become active politically.

Christians and Muslims experienced difficulties in obtaining permission to build places of worship and in importing indigenous-language translations of traditional sacred texts. Through the 1990's, the Government increasingly has made special efforts to link itself with Buddhism as a means of asserting its own popular legitimacy. State-controlled news media continued frequently to depict or describe junta members paying homage to Buddhist monks, making donations at pagodas throughout the country, officiating at ceremonies to open, improve, restore or maintain pagodas, and organizing ostensibly voluntary "people's donations" of money, food, and uncompensated labor to build or refurbish Buddhist religious shrines throughout the country. State-owned newspapers routinely featured, as front-page banner slogans, quotations from the Buddhist scriptures. Buddhist doctrine remained part of the state-mandated curriculum in all elementary schools; however, individual children may opt out of instruction in Buddhism, and sometimes do so in practice. The Government has published books of Buddhist religious instruction. The USDA has organized courses in Buddhist culture attended by millions of persons, according to state-owned media reports.

In addition, in practice, the Government systematically restricted efforts by Buddhist clergy to promote human rights and political freedom, and, according to numerous credible reports, government authorities in some ethnic minority areas coercively promoted Buddhism over other religions, particularly among members of the minority ethnic groups. There is no official state religion; however, the Government continued to show a preference for Theravada Buddhism in practice. Successive Governments, civilian and military, have supported and associated themselves conspicuously with Buddhism.

Virtually all organizations must be registered with the Government. Although there is a government directive exempting "genuine" religious organizations from registration, in practice only registered organizations can buy or sell property or open bank accounts, which induces most religious organizations to register. Religious organizations register with the Ministry of Home Affairs with the endorsement of the Ministry for Religious Affairs. However, at least one religiously-affiliated organization was allowed to open a bank account with the endorsement of the Myanmar Council of Churches instead of the Ministry of

Religious Affairs. The State also provides some utilities, such as electricity, at preferential rates to recognized religious organizations.

The great majority of the country's population at least nominally follows Theravada Buddhism, although in practice popular Burmese Buddhism includes veneration of many indigenous pre-Buddhist deities called "nats" and coexists with astrology, numerology, and fortune-telling. Buddhist monks, including novices, number more than 300,000, roughly 2 percent of the male Buddhist population, and depend for their material needs entirely on alms donated by the laity, including daily donations of food. The clergy also includes a much smaller number of nuns.

There are minorities of Christians (mostly Baptists as well as some Catholics and Anglicans), Muslims (mostly Sunni), Hindus, and practitioners of traditional Chinese and indigenous religions. According to government statistics, almost 90 percent of the population practice Buddhism, 4 percent practice Christianity, and 4 percent practice Islam; however, these statistics may understate the non-Buddhist proportion of the population.

The country is ethnically diverse, and there is some correlation between ethnicity and religion. Theravada Buddhism is the dominant religion among the majority Burman ethnic group, and among the Shan and Mon ethnic minorities of the eastern region. In much of the country there also is some correlation between religion and social class, in that non-Buddhists tend to be better educated in secular matters, more urbanized, and more commercially oriented than the Buddhist majority. Christianity is the dominant religion among the Kachin ethnic group of the northern region and the Chin and Naga ethnic groups of the western region (some of which practice traditional indigenous religions); it also is widely practiced among the Karen and Karenni ethnic groups of the southern and eastern regions. Many other Karen and Karenni are Theravada Buddhists. Hinduism is practiced chiefly by Indians, mostly Tamils and Bengalis, who are concentrated in major cities and in the south-central region (although many Tamils are Catholic). Islam is practiced widely in Arakan Division on the west coast, where it is the dominant religion of the Rohingya minority, and among Indians and Bengalis and their descendants. The small Chinese ethnic minorities practice traditional Chinese religions. Traditional indigenous religions are practiced widely among smaller ethnic groups in the northern regions and persist widely in popular Buddhist practice, especially in rural areas. There are no reliable statistics on religious affiliation and ethnicity. Since independence in 1948, many of the ethnic minority areas have been bases for armed resistance to the State. Although most armed ethnic groups have negotiated cease-fire agreements with the Government since 1989, active Shan, Karen and Karenni insurgencies continue, and a Chin insurgency has developed since the late 1980's. Successive civilian and military governments have tended to view religious freedom in the context of threats to national unity.

(Source: 2000 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom: Burma, Released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor - U.S. Department of State, September 5, 2000)

Religious Minorities and National Registration Cards

Since January 27 2000, Christian and Muslim students in Karen state have been denied access to the colleges and universities by being refused National Registration Cards (NRC). Under military rule in Burma, those who do not possess an NRC neither qualifies

as citizens of Burma nor are eligible to enjoy other rights in Burma. According to a student, Saw Aung Shwe (not his real name), the immigration chief officer of Karen state, U Myo Khant Kyu had ordered that NRCs should not be issued to Christian and Muslim students so that they would be disqualified from sitting for the entrance examination of the college and university. However, the chief officer allowed some Christian and Muslim traders to rent or purchase shops in the markets of the main towns in Karen state when he received 400,000 kyat as gifts from them. (Source: MICB)

On May 20 2000, one Christian and two Muslims were fined Ks. 18,000 and were sentenced to 5 days imprisonment each in Karen state of Burma by the SPDC authorities. The three were traveling by a bus with other passengers. The authorities stopped the bus at a "Kay ka lay" check-point on the Kawkareik-Pa-an road and checked the NRC of the passengers. When the three victims showed their NRC respectively, which indicated that they were non-Buddhists, the authorities led by U Shwe Maung and an army sergeant, Kyaw Han arrested them and brought them to their camps where the three were charged under the immigration acts. The three victims were, (1) U Kho Chee, 35, Tha Ya Goon village, Thaton township, Mon stte; (2) U Sow Naing, 8 and (3) U Khain Oo, 30 from Pa-an district, Karen state. (Source: MICB)

10.2 Religious Discrimination against Christians

On January 1, 2000, a church in Naung-ta-loon, Pa-an township, Karen State was demolished by SPDC and DKBA officers, led by Lt.(Bo) Soe and Lt. (Bo) Kya of DKBA. The officers had entered the town with a group of forced laborers and then ordered the group to destroy the church. (Source: MICB)

On March 28 2000 a column of troops from LIB 428, came to Yawtakar village, Lopwakoe Province, Karenni State and forced the pastor's daughter (xxxxxx) 26, to guide the troops to Kabwedo village. Before leaving from the village, the Burmese troops confiscated 2 gold bracelets, 2 gold rings, one cassette tape and the pastor's robes along with his service license. (Source: KNAHR)

Junta Orders Burning Of 16,000 Bibles, Halts Church Construction

In June 2000, the SPDC officials in Tamu ordered 16,000 copies of the Bible to be burned in Tamu, Sagaing Division. These Bibles, which were seized last year (1999) by the Burmese Army, are in Chin, Karen and other ethnic languages. Leaders of the Council of Churches in Tamu area appealed to the regime, and an appeal was also made in early July of this year by the Myanmar Baptist Convention, the organization that represents all Baptist Churches in Burma, to the top SPDC officials in Rangoon. As of December 2000, they had received no reply from the Army.

Early in 1999, the Burmese Army also seized 30,000 copies of Bible written in Chinese language and which had been kept in the military store rooms in Kaley Wa, Sagaing Division. Every church member was afraid to claim these Bibles. In May and June, 2000, the Military Intelligence of the Burmese Army ordered all church building construction in Tiddim area of Chin State to stop. The buildings included the Evangelical Baptist Church in Myoma Quarter, Faith Bible Theological Seminary in Lawibual Quarter, Sakollam Baptist Church, and Lawibual Baptist Church.

During the first week of July 2000, worship services at the Lai Baptist Church at No. 41 U Aung Min Street, Ward 2, in Mayangone, Rangoon was prohibited by the authorities. Most of the Chin people in the Rangoon area attend worship services here. At present, the congregation is worshipping at Myanmar Institute of Theology at Seminar Hill, Insein near Rangoon. The church has been closed since June 2000 in spite of church leaders requests for reopening. (Source: CHRO)

Christians threatened, tortured, Christian schools ordered closed in Sagaing Division

On July 7, 2000, Chairman of the Tamu township authority, Captain Khin Maung Myint and his associates went to the Seventh Day Adventist Church in the village of Tin-ka-ya which is about 6 miles from Tamu, Sagaing Division. He summoned the village chairman U Htaung Kho Yan and other leaders including U Htan Lein (Mission School teacher) to a meeting. After that Captain Khin Maung Myint stepped up on to the pulpit with his army boots, a place that is regarded with great reverence by the Christians in this area who normally take their shoes off as a mark of respect. He shouted "With whose permission was this school opened. Where is the permit?" The church elders explained that in 1976, together with the school for religious teaching, a school to teach the basic reading and writing skills was opened.

Captain Khin Maung Myint did not accept this explanation and ordered U Htaung Kho Yan and U Htan Lein to stand up in front of him and beat them both on their backs and faces with the special offertory bags used by the church. He then drew his revolver out and pointed it at their heads one after the other. Then he took two bullets out and said " These bullets are for you Chins". He went on punching and kicking them. He smashed the chairs and tables and other paraphernalia (bibles and sound system) on the pulpit and said expletives against the Chin people and the Christians. He then had both U Htaung Kho Yan and U Htan Lein arrested and locked up at the Tamu police station. On July 10, 2000 he ordered the closure of all the Christian schools in the township. News of this was published in the foreign media on July 15. This angered him and U Pa Jya Kin, the pastor of the church was arrested and locked up in the police station where he was tortured and persecuted. In addition, as punishment, all the villagers of Tin-ka-ya were made to plough ten acres of his private property. (Source: NLD)

Pastor Expelled by army in Tenasserim Division

In the beginning of September 2000, Battalion Commander Khin Maung Aye from SPDC IB 280, based in Palawt village, ordered the local villagers in northern Palaw township and southern Theyetcahung township areas in Tenasserim Division, not to give any support to resistance groups. The commander threatened the villagers that, if the army learned of or knew about the villagers supporting the resistance groups, that their village pastor would be expelled from his/her service. After that order, on September 5, 2000 Ta Lay Hko village pastor Rev. San Hlaing was driven out of his service as a pastor by the army. The army accused Ta LayHko villagers of supporting an armed resistance group. (Source: TIR)

Christian school destroyed, Christian teachers expelled in Karen State

On September 15, 2000, troops from SPDC No. 663 Tactical Command, led by Bo Tin Aung, under control of Division 66, destroyed a Christian mission school at Po-hket-hta village, Waw Mu village tract, Pu-pun District, Karen State and forced the teachers to return to their homes. The teachers driven out were:

1. Naw K' Pru Htoo, 8 standard graduate
2. Naw Esther, B.A. from Pa-an
3. Naw Nona, B.A. from Maulmein
4. Naw Aye Htoo. B.A
5. Naw Naw P' Saw Wah. B.A.
6. Saw Thura Htun, B.A.

Of the teachers, Naw Sai Ree, who was a Buddhist, was allowed to remain and teach. (Source: KIC)

On October 25 2000, a Christian church in Kan Dee Township, part of the Naga Hill land area of Sagaing Division, planned to held a religious meeting, but the meeting was banned by the local tactical commander. (Source: Inside Source)

SPDC Orders Christians In Chin State Not To Celebrate Christmas

In December 2000, SPDC frontline troops summoned people from Haka and Thangtlang Townships in Chin State and told them they were not allowed to hold any Christmas ceremonies or prayer meetings. They went from village to village and told them if they wanted to hold any ceremonies they were required to hold them in simple and discrete manners at their homes. Although the chairmen of the village PDCs and pastors argued that Christmas is a very auspicious feast for Christians and requested them to allow Christmas celebrations, the column commander of the SPDC forces refused. He explained if they held any such ceremonies rebels from the CNF could infiltrate and that was the reason such ceremonies were not allowed.

He went on to say if the chairmen and pastors deliberately held any such Christmas feast in defiance of the order, the village chairmen and pastors would all be arrested and recruited as porters - with people from southern Chin State forced to carry things north and people from northern Chin State carrying things south. The SPDC ordered only low key celebrations ward-wise in Haka, Falam, and Tiddim in Chin State. (Source: DVB)

10.3 Religious Discrimination against Muslims

Persecution of Muslim Populations

On April 5 2000, in the middle of the night, 25 soldiers under the command of Major Kyaw Naing of Western Area Command No.5 went to the village of Dudan, about 13 miles north of Maungdaw town, Arakan State and intruded into the village madrassa (religious school). The Western Area command forces dragged the teachers and students out and lined them up in queue in front of the school. The students were severely kicked and beaten with boots and gun butts, the beards of some teachers were plucked out, and the nearby mosque was vandalized without reason. The troops then ordered the teachers to close the school, threatening that they would be shot dead if the school was reopened. The Chairman of the Village PDC, Noor Alam, Secretary Sultan and a member named Nagu were all then hunted by the soldiers. (Source: ARNO)

On April 10 2000, Major Kyaw Naing arrested a group of religious leaders from Dudan village, Arakan State. They forced them to labor 4 days, constructing an army camp and building a road. The names of the victims are: (1) Jafar Islam (2) Abdul Rahman (3) Abdul Karim (4) Jamal Ahmed (5) Abdu Salam (6) Noor Hashim (7) Syed Ahmed (8) Abul Hussain. (Source: ARNO)

On April 23 and 26, 2000, two Muslim cemeteries were destroyed by SPDC Western Area Command forces in Maungdaw township, Arakan State. The brick walls of the cemetery of Godusara village, a place about 6 miles south of Maungdaw town, and Dongkala village (Pattama Yunbangyi), a place about 7 miles south of Maungdaw town, were demolished. The matter was reported to the Chairman of the Township PDC, but no action has been taken. (Source: ARNO)

On April 28 2000, three Muslims (two men and one woman) were forced to eat pork and worship Buddhist statues in Karen State by SPDC and DKBA officers. When the authorities found the three villagers going from Patta village to La-dawei village, they were forced to eat pieces of dried pork and worship statues the officers had brought with them. According to a Karen teacher, the ruling authorities in Pa-an and Hlaing Bwe township, have been distributing anti-Muslim pamphlets to the Buddhist community since early this year. (Source: MICB)

On April 28 2000, a Major, the commander of the NaSaKa Area No. 5, in collaboration with Aung Than Che and Saw Myint Aung, confiscated 73 acres of land belonging to Maulvi Mohammed and Akthar Hussain, both of them from the village of Auk Pruma (Kasarbil), a place about 12 miles north of Maungdaw town. The two collaborators are Buddhist Rakhines of the village. Then Major ordered the Rohingya villagers to 'contribute' for the building of a pagoda on the confiscated land. He warned that if anybody refused to provide money for the pagoda he would be seriously dealt with. For the purpose of funding, he divided the Rohingya families of the 12 village tracts of the Area into three categories. The families in first category were required to pay Kyats 5000, the second Kyats 4000 and third exempted from payment. Major Kyaw Naing started collecting this so-called contribution on May 7, 2000. (Source: RSO)

On June 20 2000, SPDC and DKBA officers urged the old villagers of The Khwet Poe village, Hlaing Bwe township of Karen state to convert to Buddhism. Their land and property were confiscated. They were then informed that if they did convert they would be allowed to resettle in their villages and all their property and land would be returned to them. According to a villager, Tha Khwet Poe village mosque was shelled and destroyed on April 16 2000 and villagers fled. (Source: MICB)

On August 19 2000, SPDC authorities forced Burmese Muslim community to donate money for Buddhism in Mon state of Burma. Apong township SPDC authorities ordered every Muslim family to donate Kyats 1,000 to the Buddhist religious work for building pagodas. One Muslim elder, U Ibrahim from Monktama village of Apong township who appealed to work, was arrested and put into Insein jail since then. (Source: MICB)

On August 28 2000, SPDC authorities squeezed money from a Burmese Muslim shopkeeper in Mon state of Burma. According to a neighbor, USDA village chairman U Soe Win and party went to the shopkeeper, U Ahamad and forced him to give them Kyats 5,000, or they would not give him permission to open the shop in the village. U Ahamad had to comply with the demand. U Ahamad (46 years) was from Mu-Pon village, Moulmein Myo. (Source: MICB)

On October 10, 2000, as the result of a trick by SPDC intelligence, a conflict occurred between Muslims and Buddhists in Mwe-dwin, Mone town, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State. At a demonstration, in which Buddhist Monks and others participated, people destroyed the house of Than Tin, who was a Muslim, and looted all his household belongings. In addition, the authorities arrested and put him in a cell in Mone Town. (Source: KIC)

On November 24, 2000, junta's authorities arrested two Burmese Muslims at a check point in South East Karen state of Burma. One of the Muslims was an Imam of a mosque. The authorities led by Kawkareik township immigration officer U Tin Tun and police sergeant Hla Myint arrested the two Muslims at a check point in Kawkareik (Myo) town, seized Kyats 200,000, the ID cards, and other documents from them. Then they were brought to a nearby bush where they were separated by the authorities. A 3 man-group of the authorities tore out all their documents, beat and kicked the Imam for about one hour and then released him with a warning that he would not disclose the looting and brutalities of the authorities. The Imam's friend was not released and the whereabouts of him was unknown since then. The Imam, Saya U Than Myint (37years) and his friend U Ar Dwan (32 years) were from Yammethin Myo, Mandalay division. (Source: MICB)

Muslim Students Forced to learn Buddhism in Mon State

Since the opening of Burmese junta primary schools in June, 2000, SPDC teachers have forced Burmese Muslim students to learn Buddhism in Mon State. Muslim students who refused to learn Buddhism were dismissed from the schools. On September,1, 2000, four Muslim elders of Daing Win Gwan Block village, Moulmein township where a primary school was situated, put up an application requesting the high authorities to spare the Muslim students from learning Buddhism in the school , were arrested. (see chapter on arrest) (Source: MICB, ARNO)

On June 5, 2000, Maj. Gen. Aung Htwe, the commander of the Western Command in Akyab (Sittwe), ordered further restrictions on Muslim students particularly in their pursuit of higher education. (Source: ARNO)

On August 11 2000, four Burmese Muslim students were denied University entrance by the SPDC authorities in Rangoon. The four students from government High School (2), Thingan Nyunt township, Rangoon, passed their matriculation examination. However, their University entrance applications were rejected by the authorities with the reason that they did not have ID cards. To attain the ID cards, to have free movement and to join the universities, the four Muslim families converted to Buddhism. The students were Tha Han (20 years) Cho Cho Naing (18 years) and Win Tut (19 years) and Eusoof (18 years) of Thingan Nyunt, Rangoon. (Source: MICB)

Muslim prayers prohibited

Since April, 10 2000, Muslims in block No.114 of Dagon township in Rangoon Division have not been allowed to pray in the mosque by the members of the USDA. The members of USDA also instigated anti- Muslim agitation there. Many Muslims have therefore been leaving for other new places. (Source: MICB)

On June 8 2000, SPDC military intelligence officers with a group of military officers locked the mosque in Man Aung (village) block, Pa-an township of Karen state. On this day, the

officers came to the village and called all trustee committed members of the mosque together, and ordered them to sign a document prohibiting the villagers to pray in the mosque. (Source: MICB)

On June 8 2000, some SPDC and DKBA officers locked the mosque of Thayagone (village) block, Kyondo township, Karen state of Burma. A Muslim known as U Kasim (25 years) of the same village, requested the authorities not to lock the mosque and not to prohibit them from praying in the mosque. He was then beaten up by the authorities and was seriously injured. (Source: MICB)

Closure and destruction of Mosques

In early 2000, DKBA authorities ordered villagers from Kaw Kyaik to destroy their mosque. Kaw Kyaik village, in Pa-an township of Karen state consists of about 80 Muslim houses, a mosque and about 300 non-Muslim houses. Moreover, the authorities in that area have been seizing most of the Muslim land and selling it off. (Source: MICB)

In early 2000, the Area Commander of the NaSaKa (Western Area Command) Area 7 ordered the villagers of Tharekumbow (Sarkumbow village), a place about 8 miles from Maungdaw town, Arakan State to demolish the village mosque. When the villagers did not comply with the order, insisting that it was against their religious teachings, the commander sent a contingent of 250 NaSaKa forces who tortured and terrified the villagers and forced them destroy the mosque under gun point. The first floor of the mosque was demolished and the mosque was closed down and as such no Muslims were allowed to pray in it. (Source: ARNO)

On March 1 2000, some SPDC and DKBA soldier led by Lt. Saw Hla of DKBA, entered Ali not village in Hlaing Bwe township and arrested three Muslim village. elders (1) U Soe Naing (2) U Tun Win and (3) U Nu Tin. The authorities demanded that they destroy the village mosque or give them Ks. 300, 000 as extortion money. Later, the villagers had to settle the problems by giving the said money to the authorities to spare their mosque from destruction. (Source: MICB)

On April 16 2000, at about 6:30 PM. (BST), the SPDC and DKBA soldiers shelled Tha khwet poe village continuously, as a result of which the village mosque was destroyed and two women (1) Daw Bok, 50 and (2) Daw Shawid, 42 were killed and five people were wounded. At about 10:00 PM the same day, the authorities entered the compound of the mosque and took away the things they liked. (eg, Yamaha fire generator). Now, a Buddhist pagoda has been built on the site of the mosque. Poor tha Khawet Poe villagers were unable to provide the extortion money "to save the mosque or pay Ks. 15 million" demanded by the authorities. Tha kahwet poe village is in Hlaing Bwe township, Karen state of Burma. (Source: MICB)

On May 1 2000, SPDC military officers called the elders (the trustee committee) of the mosque of Min Hla Myo (town), Pe Gu division and ordered them to close their mosque. According to a Buddhist sympathizer from Min Hla, the order to close down the mosque was given by divisional military commander who is a deeply religious Buddhist. (Source: MICB)

On May 3 2000 the main mosque of Shuja para (Shweza village) adjacent to Maungdaw town was destroyed by a group of NaSaKa (Western Area Command) forces headed by Major Kyaw Naing of camp No. 14 under NaSaKa Area No.6. It was one of the old mosques with permanent structures established by villager Hakim Ali. (Source: ARNO)

On May 22 2000, approximately 30 SPDC officers in civilian dress destroyed a mosque and killed two Muslims in Rangoon, the capital of Burma. At approximately 10:30 PM, around 30 military officers in civilian dress arrived on two military trucks at 11th street in Anawar Block (1), Thaketa township. They stopped beside the village mosque and started to throw stones at it. They then struck, at the building with wood and metal rods until the mosque had been destroyed. Two young men who later reported the event to the police station were arrested and were accused to trying to incite a riot. The two young men were then tortured until they died The victims were (1) Ki Maung Shwe (26 years) and (2)Ko Pauk Sa (aka) Ko Iqbal (25 years) and were from the locality of the mosque. (Source: MICB)

On May 25 2000, a Muslim housing quarter with an old mosque was bulldozed by the SPDC authorities in the Mon state of Burma. The Muslim quarter, in the heart of Moulmein city facing the main jail, consisted of about 500 houses with a more than three hundred years old mosque, known as "Rakhiang mosque" was bulldozed by the authorities under the pretext of building a new market, according to a Mon trader, who requested anonymity. Two Muslim elders of the same quarter who protested the destruction of the mosque and the village were arrested by the authorities and their whereabouts are still unknown. The two elders were U Par Si, 55 and u Si Do, 42. (Source: MICB)

On May, 25, 2000, the SPDC ordered troops to destroy " Shwe Gwin mosque" or to pay a five million Kyats bribe, before June, 25, 2000 to the authorities in Karen state of Burma. According to an officer, Bo Win Aung of DKBA, the order was given by the commander of LIB 338. Shwe Gwin village is in Hlaing Bwe township of KarenSstate. (Source: MICB)

On June 1 2000, SPDC officers locked an Islamic Religious Institute in Apoung township of Mon state. According to a Mon teacher, on the day mentioned above, the officers led by village chairman, U Aung Gu said that the military commander of Infantry Battalion (102) under Brigade No.44, ordered the chairman to lock the institute. No further reason was given for the closure of the institute. (Source: MICB)

On June 28, 2000, SPDC Kawkareik township officers and the officers of Battalion No.67, jointly seized the Islamic Religious Institute in the heart of Kawkareik, in Karen state of Burma. The authorities the sold off the building and its site to a contractor, U Myint Shwe of the same town, who destroyed the institute to build a market on the site of the Islamic institute.(Source: MICB)

On October 10, 2000, a SPDC military officer ordered the destruction of a mosque in order to build a Buddhist pagoda on its site. According to a Karen trader, a group of Burmese army led by Col. Kan Nyunt of Kachin Battalion No.2 entered a Muslim village, the colonel called the village elders and personally said that the government would destroy the village mosque in order to build a pagoda there. The village is known as Patta Yaw, in Hlaing Bwe township, Karen state. (Source: MICB)

On October 10, 2000, SPDC authorities destroyed a mosque drove all the Muslims from their birth place in Arakan State. After destroying the mosque of Gwa (Myo) town by the supporters, of SPDC junta, the township SPDC authorities of Gwa Myo, Sandoway district, ordered all Muslim dwellers there to vacate Gwe township immediately. There were about 60 families in Gwa Myo. The Muslims, left Gwa and tried to enter and settle down in Sandoway town, were also prevented by the Sandoway district SPSC authorities. The Muslim families were scattered all over Sandoway in search of shelters. The people of Sandoway, Muslims and Buddhists alike, were worried for the fates of the Muslims driven out of their birth place by the authorities. (Source: MICB)

On November 13 2000, SPDC authorities ordered the destruction of "Ja-May" mosque in ByinKayine town, Ngapudo Township, Irawaddy Division. The town is close to HiGyi Island near the beach. The SPDC had prohibited the repairing of the mosque, but the Muslim villagers didn't listen and so some of them were arrested by Captain Myo Myint Htun, the chairman of the township PDC, including U Ah Say and 4 Muslim villagers.(Source: DVB)

SPDC Prohibits construction, reconstruction or repairs of Mosques

The military prohibits building or repair of any mosque or Muslim institution, particularly in Arakan State. Yet the military forces Muslim Rohingya villagers to provide compulsory forced labor for the erection, building, and rebuilding of Buddhist pagodas and monasteries There are many mosques and religious institutes, which have been either locked up or are standing in ruin without repair in the whole of Arakan State.

On February 25 2000, the commanding officer of the Western Area Command # 4 arrested 14 Ulema (religious leaders) from Ziban Chaung (Ziban Khali) village, Bawlibazar township, Arakan State for alleged reconstruction by the villagers of their age-old village mosque. The arrested persons include Moulvi Khaled son of Moulvi Sayed and Moulvi Rashid. (Source: ARNO)

On April 5 2000, Muktama township PDC chairman, U Ann Ku ordered that maintenance of the mosque in Si Swon block No. (2), Muktama, Apoung township of Mon state be completely stopped. According to a villager, some parts of tin-roofing of the mosque were damaged and water leaked inside the mosque while prayers were performed. The Si Swon village-elders earlier received permission from the authorities of Apoung township and started to repair the damages to the mosque. However, the Muktama township SPDC president U AnnKu noticed the mosque trustees and ordered them to stop further maintenance until the trustees receive permission from the chairman, U Ann Ku. Similarly, the SPDC officials also banned the maintenance of the following mosques; (1) Main mosque, Maung Ngan Block (2), Moulmein, Mon state, since November 7 1999. (2) Gwan Dae Block (4) mosque, Moulmein, Mon state, since January 10 2000. (Source: MICB)

On April 10 2000 a mosque and a madrassa (religious school) attached to it, in Sonkala Para, Ziban Chaung village tract, about 15 miles north of Maungdaw, Arakan State were closed down by the commander of the Western Area Command No.4 for the alleged crime of repairing the mosque. The Head of the Mosque Trust, Maulvi Hussain Ahmed, and three other teachers of the madarassa fled away to escape arrest. In fact, the Ulema (religious leaders) and villagers had obtained prior permission from the concerned authorities such as the District PDC, Commander of the Western Area Command No.4 (stationed in Laikra

village), and U Sein Tha Zan, Head of the Department of Religious Affairs, Maungdaw Township. Yet in spite of the prior permission, the Western Area Command closed these sacred places reasoning that the repairs were done in the form of permanent structure. (Source: ARNO)

Muslims restricted from travel

There were several instances in which Muslim people were restricted in their travel, or prevented from traveling. This is covered under the chapter on the freedom of movement.

10.4 SPDC control over Buddhism

The SPDC continued both to show preference for Theravada Buddhism, the majority religion, and to control the organization and restrict the activities and expression of its clergy ("sangha"). The SPDC prohibits any organizations of Buddhist clergy other than nine state-recognized monastic orders, which submit to the authority of a state-sponsored State Clergy Coordination Committee ("Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee"—SMNC) elected indirectly by monks. The SPDC provides guidance and enforcement for the committee at the national level and for its subordinate bodies at local levels. The SPDC continued to fund two State Sangha Universities in Rangoon and Mandalay to train Buddhist clergy under the control of the SMNC. The State's relations with the Buddhist clergy and Buddhist schools are handled chiefly by the Department for the Perpetuation and Propagation of the Sasana (DPPS—"Sasana" means Buddhist doctrine) in the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

In October 1990, the military junta promulgated Order 6/90, which bans any organization of Buddhist clergy other than the nine orders constituting the SMNC; Order 7/90, which authorizes military commanders to try Buddhist clergy before military tribunals for "activities inconsistent with and detrimental to Buddhism;" and Decree 20/90, "Law Concerning Sangha Organizations," which imposes on Buddhist clergy a code of conduct enforced by criminal penalties. These edicts remain in effect.

The Government monitored the activities of members of all religions, including Buddhism, in part because clergy and congregation members in the past have become active politically. In 1995 the military Government prohibited the ordination as clergy of any member of a political party. This measure remains in effect. On July 9, 2000, the state-run Kyemon newspaper reported that the military told leaders of the Buddhist clergy to expel "undisciplined" monks from temples nationwide. The Minister for Religious Affairs, U Aung Khin had told senior Buddhist monks undisciplined monks were tarnishing the dignity of the clergy.

Partial List of Incidents from 2000

On July 21, 2000, a Buddhist monk, the abbot of Loi Noi monastery in Murng-Pan township, was forced to leave his monastery, which was then dismantled by SPDC troops. A force of about 80-90 SPDC troops from LIB520, led by Capt. Than Nyunt, went to the monastery three days prior and told the abbot that they had received an order from higher authorities to build a pagoda on the same spot. The construction of the monastery had just been completed on April 8, 1998 at a cost of 24 million kyat. The lumber of the dismantled monastery were taken to the military base and used for building houses and barracks in the base. (Source: SHRF)

SPDC control of Religious Institutions, and foreign donations to these institutions

BOC U Maung Gyi had bought shares in the BOC company in England some 70 years ago and the profits obtained from those shares have been donated to religious and other institutions such as the Mandalay Pa-ri-yat-ti Tha-tha-na-hi-ta Institution (Religious Institution for the study of the Pali Scriptures), Young Men Buddhist Association, and other Buddhist monasteries where 200 or more monks can study the scriptures.

In regard to the money for the year 2000, sent from England to Burma, the authorities concerned invited representatives to decide how this money would be distributed. The authorities invited representatives from the Mandalay Pariyatti Religious Institution and the YMBA and warned them not to invite to the event the sayadaws from the Kyakhatwaing Monastery in Pegu township, Pegu Division, and Mahagandayone Monastery in Mandalay-Amarapura. They further instructed that even if they happened to be invited they would not be allowed to preach on the occasion celebrating the event. (Source: NLD)

Forced Donation for religious offering

VPDC

Sa-Kan-Gi group, Ka-Lay Township

Date: October 6 2000

To: The Quarter headmen

Subject: Collection of monetary donations for Thadingyut, to present a gift in respect and gratitude

For the 4 auspicious weeks of Thadingyut, in which the monks are meditating and receiving alms and food at the monastery, we are collecting money to give in respect and worship. Every family must send 25 Kyats to the Chairman of Gaw Pagah village, his name is U Aye Mu. The donations must be received on the 12th day of Thadingyut.

The quarter headmen:

Signature

(1 – 37) names of quarter headmen

(SD)

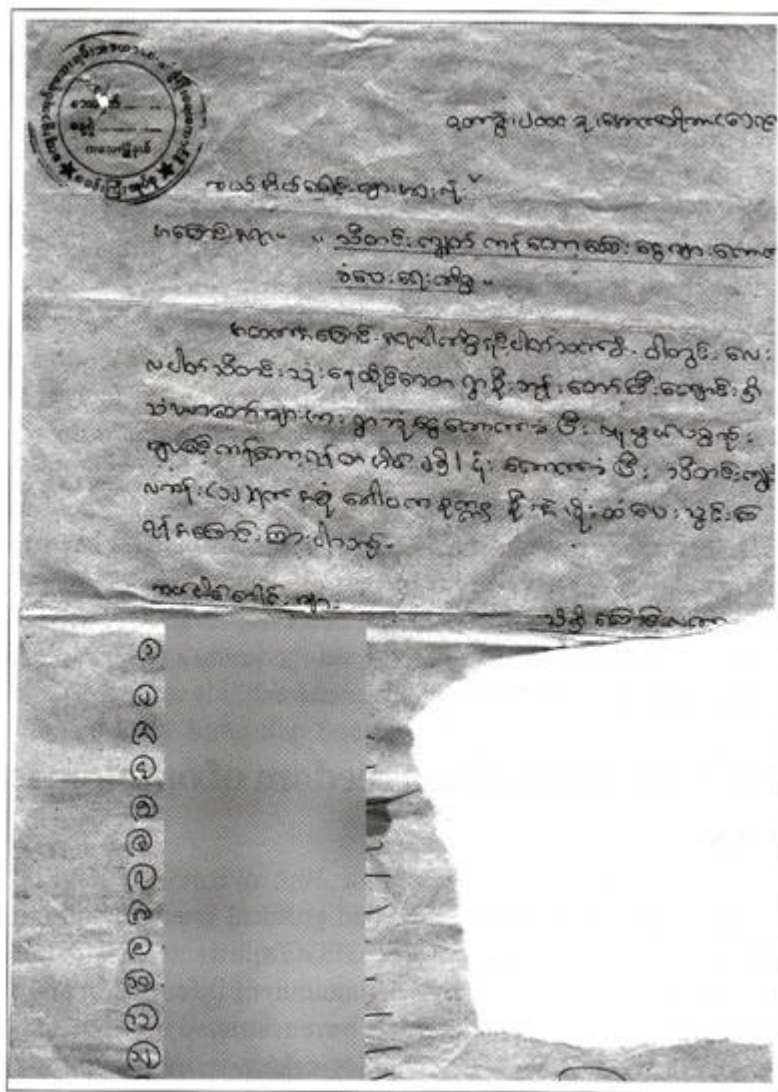
On behalf of the Chairman

VPDC

Sa-Kan-Gi group, Ka-Lay Township

(Source: Inside Burma)

(HRDU Note: 'Thandingyut' is a traditional Buddhist festival)



The original order concerning the forced donations for the 'Thadingyut' Ceremony.

11. Freedom of Opinion, Expression and the Press

11.1 Background

The freedoms of opinion, expression, and the press are little known in Burma, where any criticism, direct or indirect of the government or government policy is taken as a direct attack against the "stability of the State." Burma continues to be a country where the people know little of the freedom of press. In the year 2000, Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF) again issued a release condemning the junta for depriving the Burmese people of any objective news and violating the rights of Burmese and foreign journalists to practice their profession freely. It said Burma is still the country which is keeping the most journalists in prison. Four journalists have died in prison in the last ten years and more than 20 journalists are still imprisoned. *"No criticism of the army or the junta is tolerated. The government aims to control journalists right down to the words they write"*, said RSF. On November 28 2000, San San Nweh and U Win Tin, 2 prominent journalists currently in prison, were awarded the Golden Pen of Freedom award for their devotion to press freedom and democracy.

There is only one main government-run news agency in Burma. The three newspapers, and the two radio and television stations feed off the news agency, and together, act as mouthpieces for the junta. Foreign radio broadcasts such as BBC, VOA and DVB are monitored by the MI and some portions of the news are scrambled. The arts also suffer from the heavy-handed and pervasive censorship of the junta, as every image and sentence produced has to be passed by the government's censorship board.

11.2 SPDC laws restricting freedom of opinion, expression and the press

The SPDC has enforced laws curtailing civil and political freedom and utilized laws that allow it to crush any political opposition. The SPDC's laws and regulations hamper and even criminalize freedom of thought, the dissemination of information and the freedom of expression and the press. These laws and orders have restricted the civil and political rights of Burmese citizens for years; now, with technological advances available across the globe, new laws have been enacted in order to provide the SPDC authorities additional legal bases to curtail freedom of expression and the exchange of information.

1950 Emergency Provisions Act

Perhaps the most notorious and certainly the most frequently used law limiting freedom of expression is the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act, which is broadly written and allows up to seven years imprisonment for any person who *"infringes upon the integrity, health, conduct, and respect of State military organizations and government employees, spreads false news about the government, or disrupts the morality or the behavior of a group of people."* The law also makes it an offense, punishable by life imprisonment, to *"intend to or to cause sabotage or hinder the successful functioning of the State military*

organizations and criminal investigative organizations." This law is commonly used by the regime to carry out indiscriminate and arbitrary arrest and detention of political opponents.

Burma Penal Code, section 109

The Burma Penal Code, section 109, allows for the arrest for up to 7 years for people who, *"spread false information injurious to the State."* The similarity of the wording between this law and the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act has meant that the SPDC has been able to use this law to sometimes hide the political nature of arrests under this law, or else to lengthen sentences of dissidents by applying both laws.

Official Secrets Act

The Official Secrets Act (1948) allows for the detention of between three and ten years for anyone *"handing over classified state documents of national interest to unauthorized persons,"* but has been used to detain those merely sharing information which would by international norms not be classified information.

1975 Law to Safeguard the State against the Dangers of those desiring to cause Subversive Acts

Under the 1975 Law to Safeguard the State against the Dangers of those desiring to cause Subversive Acts (amended in 1991), the Council of Ministers is authorized under section 7 of the law to *"pass an order, as may be necessary, restricting any fundamental right of a person if there are reasons to believe that any citizen has committed or is about to commit any act which infringes upon the sovereignty and security of the State or public peace and tranquility."* The law also stipulates in sections 13 and 14, the possibility to continue imposing restraint for *"a period not exceeding one year at a time up to a total of five years."* This State protection law has been applied extensively to suppress peaceful political dissidents; it was used to detain Daw Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest between July 1989 and July 1995.

Law No. 5/96

A law issued on June 7, 1996, No. 5/96, allows prison sentences up to 20 years for anyone who expresses political views publicly. This law, entitled *"The Protection of the Stable, Peaceful, and Systematical Transfer of State Responsibility and the Successful Implementation of National Convention Tasks, Free from Disruption and Opposition,"* prohibits, inter alia, the preparation or dissemination of speeches or statements that undermine the stability of the State or are critical of the SPDC, and prescribes up to 20 years imprisonment for persons violating the law; organizations taking part in such activities can be banned and have their funds and property confiscated.

Section 3, article (a) states that, *"No person or organization is allowed directly or indirectly to violate either (sic) of the following provisions.*

- Instigating, protesting, preaching, saying (things) or writing and distributing materials to disrupt and deteriorate the stability of the state....."

Harassment of NLD members and supporters has been stepped up under this law.

1980 Video Law

Under the 1980 Video Law, all video cassettes must be submitted to the Video Censorship Board, controlled by the SPDC, for scrutiny. Any person involved in the production, duplication, or distribution of videos is threatened with a prison term of up to three years under this law.

Television and Video Act

The new Television and Video Act, issued on July 31, 1996, requires that: a) foreign diplomatic missions and United Nations agencies obtain permission to show imported videos at "public exhibitions" and gives Government video censorship boards the right to ban, censor, or restrict their showing; b) private video operators have to obtain licenses from the Video Business Supervisory Committees formed in all States and Divisions in the Union of Myanmar; and c) all videos, both imported and locally-produced, have to be approved by the Video Censorship Board. Violators of these provisions are subject up to three years in prison and/or a fine of up to 100,000 *kyat*. The new law also forbids private transmitters that are not authorized by the government, prescribing up to five-year prison terms for offenders.

Computer Science Development Law

Another law entitled "The Computer Science Development Law," issued on September 27, 1996, makes the unauthorized import, possession, and use of computers with networking capacities, modems, or any other means of transmitting information electronically punishable with seven to fifteen years of prison and/or a fine. For example, the unauthorized use of computers with networking capability is punishable with a sentence of between seven and 15 years in prison and/or a fine. A "Myanmar Computer Science Council" is to be established to decide which computer equipment should be restricted or banned. According to the government-controlled newspaper, *The New Light of Myanmar*, the punishment will be prescribed for anyone establishing links with a computer network without prior permission or who uses computer networks or information technology for undermining State security, law and order, national unity, the national economy, national culture, or who obtains or transmits State secrets. Members of unauthorized computer clubs may, according to reports, be sentenced to a minimum prison term of three years. A punishment of between five and 10 years in prison is prescribed for anyone who imports or exports computer software or information banned by the Myanmar Computer Science Council.

The 1962 Printers' and Publishers' Registration Law

The 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Law was brought in soon after the 1962 coup to limit and control what was at the time one of the most free and prolific media industries in Asia. The law established the Press Scrutiny Board (PSB) which must censor all books, films, magazines and songs before publication. It also limits the number of copies which can be published. In June 1989 the law was amended to increase the punishments for non-compliance to imprisonment for up to 10 years and fines of up to 30,000 *kyats*.

11.3 State of the 'Freedom of Press' in Burma

SPDC increases surveillance of writers

In February 2000, some writers, poets and novelists met in Rangoon and secretly formed the Litterateurs Association to resist the junta's persecution of the intellectuals in the country. This association released a statement in May 2000. According to the statement, in the first week of May 2000, Major Aye Tun, a director in the Home Ministry, summoned editors and publishers of magazines and journals and threatened that those periodicals which publish materials that violate the policies of the military junta would be closed and the author, editor and the publisher would be sentenced minimum one year and maximum seven years of prison term. Major Aye Tun is also the Chairman of Press Scrutiny Board (PSB). The editors and publishers were forced to fill up the forms in the meeting itself giving their bio-data in details, undertaking not to print or publish articles, poems, and cartoons critical to the military government and even pledging to disclose the bio-data and activities of those authors wanted by the military intelligence. The statement further said that since after news of the formation of their organization is leaked out, the publishing industry in the country has been facing ever-increasing surveillance from the powerful military intelligence.

It has to secure clearance not only from Press Scrutiny Board but also from the military intelligence causing heavy expenditure, harassment and delays. Even after obtaining clearance from the censor board, books and magazines are subjected to cuts of entire paragraphs by the military intelligence if they feel that they contain materials critical to the government. In many cases, the printing of the book has to be repeated and clearance again sought from the military intelligence as the cuts were so badly made that the books cannot appear without torn pages and pasting. This process results in delays by weeks and months. The Litterateurs Association asserted that the Burmese literature fraternity is in the worst era in history, struggling hard for survival "*against the ruthless aggression, strict and draconian rules laid down and the verbal or written decrees issued by the junta.....*" (Source: Mizzima News Group)

SPDC control of the only privately owned English newspaper

Launched on March 6 2000, the full-colour weekly 'Myanmar Times' promised "independence, authority, and integrity" in reporting. However, even this paper is accused of being tightly controlled by the regime. Sonny Swe, 30-year-old son of Colonel Thein Swe of the Ministry of Defense's Office of Strategic Studies (OSS), is a partner in the Times. Critics of the paper believe the regime is using the Myanmar Times to improve international acceptance of the country, and that the high price of US 2\$ is prohibitive to most of Burma's population. There have been no articles published since the opening of the weekly which have been critical of the SPDC, instead most articles openly praise SPDC policies, reminiscent of the SPDC own State-controlled media.

Plan for new SPDC controlled English TV channel

At the end of 2000, SPDC announced an ambitious plan for a new English-language television channel, MRTV3, which would be beamed around the globe via satellite to present news and documentaries about life in Myanmar to a world audience. U Khin Maung Htay, Director-General of the Myanmar Radio and Television Department said that, "The project has been aimed at giving an objective response to certain western media's reports about Myanmar."

SPDC bans news of national football team's loss

In October 2000, the Burmese national football team failed to reach the semi-finals in the 2000 Asian 'Tiger Cup'. The news of the loss was not reported in Burma, although football fans inside Burma were disappointed when they heard the news on short-wave radio. The Burmese press had been effectively banned from reporting the loss. Shortly after the team lost all hope for the semi-finals after the Indonesia match, the official censorship board in Rangoon quietly issued an order that insisted, "News about the Burmese national football team must be written in constructive ways." Journalists working for local sports journals simply avoided writing about the Tiger Cup matches. "We know we could be shut down," said an editor from one such journal. It was speculated that the SPDC secretly hoped the team would reach the semi-finals to boost national morale. Weeks before the tournament, Colonel Thaung Htike, the head of the Burmese team, received the blessings of Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt in Rangoon. (Source: Irawaddy)

Prominent writer Tin Maung Than flees to Thailand due to SPDC pressure



In November 2000, writer, noted intellectual and social commentator Tin Maung Than, age 46, fled with his family to Thailand. Tin Maing Than was the editor of a private magazine called "Thinbawa", or "Your Life". Since starting work with the magazine in 1992, he had avoided political subjects and submitted everything to the official Press Scrutiny Board for censoring before publication. The magazine concentrated on health and family issues, writing about the HIV/Aids epidemic and other

social problems while steering clear of discussing government policies. His writings also include several books, novels and educational works.

Tin Maung Than is a medical doctor by training and a journalist by choice, he also earned an MBA from Harvard University in 1998. He was involved in the 1988 popular uprisings and he admits to having once been a member of NLD, which he left in 1990.

In August 2000 he was detained and interrogated, along with another publisher, for five days by MIS agents in Rangoon because he made a handful of photocopies of a speech by the former deputy minister for economic development, Brig-Gen Zaw Tun, that was highly critical of the government's economic policies. The speech, which was eventually picked up by news agencies abroad, led to Zaw Tun's removal from office and was a major embarrassment for the junta. After five days of continuous questioning, Tin Maung Than admitted to having copied the speech and signed a "confession". As part of the confession he had to state that he knew he would be prosecuted if intelligence agents later concluded that the speech and its release abroad was part of a "political plot". The confession was an open invitation for the military to arrest him at any time.

Fearing arrest was imminent, he left his work at the magazine and planned his escape. Shortly after his arrival in Thailand, his magazine was denied the re-issuing of its yearly license. (see below) Tin Maung Than is now living in exile.

'Thintbawa' monthly journal stopped from publishing

Following the departure of 'Thint Bawa' editor, Tin Maung Than, state-owned newspapers in Burma attacked the journal and Tin Maung Than. Members of the journal's editorial team were interrogated, and the office closed. The journal was able to publish 2 issues following the incident, under editor Kyaw Win. Yet this proved to be short-lived as there have been no further publications of the 'Thint Bawa' journal. The publishing license,

which is granted on a yearly basis, was not renewed for the journal for 2001, and the journal was, in essence, terminated. The journal's first issue was in 1953 and was considered to be one of Burma's most respected. The 'Thint Bawa' had been previously put under scrutiny in 1995 when 58 out of 160 pages had been torn out of a cover story about the education system in Burma, and in 1996, when 72 pages were ripped out of a story about the history of press freedom.

Shan group threatened by MI over a statement

On July 27, 2000, the Shan State (Rights) Committee, an affiliated group under the Shan State Peacekeeping Council (SSPC) issued a statement accusing the SPDC of systematically engaging in an ethnic cleansing programme. This statement was in response to the 2 massacres that occurred in Shan State in May 2000 committed by troops from SPDC LIB 246 and 524 in Kunhing Township. The statement urged the immediate action against those responsible for the two killings. The leaders of the SSPC were then summoned by Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, deputy director of the DDSI. On September 19 2000, he received Sao Shwe Kyi and Sao Kun Yit, chairman and secretary, respectively, of the SSPC and ordered them not to publish any statement that could cause misunderstanding between the army and the people. He also threatened them that if it happened again, the next time it would not be easy. Chairman Sao Shwe Kyi replied that the SSPC could not stand idly by while its own people in the Shan State were being massacred, and that the statement was issued by the popular demand of the people.

The SSPC was formed with a faction of the Shan State Army SSA and the Shan State National Army SSNA in 1996. Due to the threat by the SPDC MI, as of November 30 2000, it was not known whether the SSPC would withdraw its statement or not. (Source: DVB)

11.4 Arrest of Journalists

In the year 2000 the junta continued to strictly censor the media and punish severely those not in alignment with their censorship boards. This is contrary to a document dated 18 January 2000, in which the United Nations Special Rapporteur for the promotion and protection of the freedom of expression and opinion emphasised that *"imprisonment as a punishment for the peaceful expression of an opinion constitutes a serious violation of human rights."*

In 2000, RSF asked General Maung Aye to secure the release of the twelve journalists and editors they list as currently being detained. Several of these prisoners, among them Win Tin, San San Nweh, Soe Thein and Sein Hla Oo, are in a very poor health condition.

The arrest and long-term imprisonment of Aung Myint (a) Phya Pon Ni Loan Oo

On September 14 2000, PyarPhone NiLone Oo, or Aung Myint was arrested along with 5 other members of the NLD, including his assistant Kyaw Sein Oo, (see below) following a NLD member's statement of 12 September regarding the military's prevention of Aung San Suu Kyi's travel at Dala. The 6 were arrested by MI Unit 14 and detained in Insein Jail. The military court accused the journalist and his assistant of distributing information regarding repression of the NLD to international press agencies and to Western diplomats. On December 14 2000, they were tried in a closed session military tribunal in Insein Jail. PyarPhone NiLone Oo was sentenced to a 21-year prison term for violations of the 1975 State Protection and 1950 5-J Emergency Provision Acts.

Aung Myint, now in his fifties, started his career at the official newspaper "Botahtaung" in the 1980s writing satirical articles and poems. From 1983 to 1988, he worked for "Pay-ful-lwa" (The Message) magazine directed by Tim Moe, a journalist who spent several years in jail and now lives in exile. The monthly was banned in 1990 by the army. In 1988, Aung Myint joined "Cherry" magazine. In 1997, the journalist was arrested by the military and sentenced to two years in jail. After his release, the authorities prohibited him from working for "Cherry" magazine. In 1999, he became the head of the NLD's information department in Rangoon. His name is banned from all Burmese publications. Recently, he wrote an article entitled "Where are the freedom of movement and freedom of expression in the Golden Land?" that had an underground distribution among NLD members.

The arrest and imprisonment of Kyaw Sein Oo

Kyaw Sein Oo, an NLD member who had assisted in printing a statement about the 9-day stand-off between the junta and Aung San Suu Kyi was sentenced to a 7-year prison term under the Printers and Publishers Registration Act. He had been arrested along with PyarPhone NiLone Oo and 4 other NLD members on September 14, 2000 and was sentenced on December 14, 2000.

11.5 Control of Computer Technology and Communications in Burma

Under existing regulations, only Myanmar Post and Telecommunications (MPT), a state agency, is allowed to provide post, telecommunications and e-mail services. SPDC released a revised set of its 1996 Computer Science Development Law in early 2000 in an attempt to remind people of the penalties associated with uses the junta deems illegal. The regulations stipulate that all computers, fax machines, and modems must be registered with the government, with prison terms of between 7 and 15 years for offenders. On May 13 2000, Brig-Gen Win Tin, minister of communication, post and telegraphs, ordered a halt to unauthorised e-mail and telephone services. In the year 2000 the SPDC made attempts at improving its E-Technology image, yet it has failed to provide internet access to the general public. In 2000, RSF again described Myanmar as one of the world's "20 worst enemies of the Internet."

The Internet and Electronic Mail in Burma

In January 2000, the MPT installed an internet server and became the sole internet provider in the country, restoring service to the e-mail users cut off by the government in December 1999. (The SPDC had abruptly ordered 5 private e-mail providers to stop operations, their executives and technicians were questioned and equipment confiscated.) With the new MPT regulations, individuals will still have to obtain a license from the MPT and the government will monitor content for any "anti-nationalistic" sentiment. On January 20, 2000, the MPT issued regulations for the internet in which politics were explicitly banned.

(see Appendix #2)

The licenses granted by the MPT are still out of reach for the common citizens of the country. First priority is given to government officials and organizations, then to foreign embassies and foreign businesses and finally to certain local businesses. The cost of obtaining a license from the MPT is another encumbering factor. The new MPT rates see subscribers having to pay a total of US\$ 390 for hook-up fees. Installation does not include the price of a modem which retails for about US\$100 in the capital, or the Email connection charges, which have been set at US\$3 an hour.

There are currently no public places from where internet can be accessed. In mid-October 2000, 'iCafe' opened in Rangoon, yet another internet café without access to the internet. If an individual wants to send an e-mail, they must take the information on a floppy disk to an office that has an e-mail server and then pay \$1 per page. All the data has to be text only. Access to the World Wide Web beyond e-mail will remain restricted. Currently only the government, 10 state firms and a few select government insiders are allowed Internet access.

On November 24, 2000, the SPDC signed an accord with the other leaders of ASEAN countries, an e-ASEAN Framework Agreement, to promote electronic commerce. Brigadier General David Abel, when questioned by reporters on what would be the requirements to have Internet access in his country, said that Myanmar was in the process of drawing up new laws covering the Internet. He said, "*We have the Net set up in Myanmar but we don't have the law yet.....*" He also added that the use of the telephone and fax machines would have to be worked out according to the law.

Lt. Col. Hla Min commented on internet censorship by stating, "*Why would we want to collect garbage, as it were, in our own homes? We want to use the Internet for constructive purposes to improve the knowledge of our people, not as a platform for troublemakers to create problems.*" The regime is not oblivious to the importance of having a Net presence, however, and has their own "official" web-site for Myanmar, at www.myanmar.com.

Fax and other Communications

The SPDC has made international calls too expensive to afford on a regular basis. The average income of a government employee in Burma is \$25 a month; applying for an international calling facility costs \$1,000 and calls to the United States are as steep as \$50 for five minutes.

SPDC restrictions of cordless phones

In June 2000, MPT announced that all users of non-registered cordless phones in the country would face three years imprisonment or a fine of 30,000 kyats or both. On June 19 the department ordered all illegal users of the cordless phones to surrender the devices within 30 days.

Radio Broadcasts

On January 19, 2000, U Than Chaun of No 3 Saing-kone quarters, Shwe-goo township, Kachin State was charged sentenced to suffer two years rigorous imprisonment under Section 505 (b) of the Penal Code. U Than Chaun had been a proprietor of a coffee shop, and on December 18, 1999 the Shwe-goo Police arrested him and seized the radio in the coffee shop because the radio had been tuned in to Voice of America (VOA) (Burmese Section). While in prison, his distraught wife who suffered from heart ailment and high blood pressure passed away. U Than Chaun who is 70 years old suffers from medical problems. (Source: NLD)

On April 19, 2000, Maj. Aung Min from Brigade 66 and officers from LIB 10 under control of LID 663 entered Wah Mu Mah Lay Leh and May Cho villages, Papun District, Karen State and seized the villager's radios and banned them from listening to BBC and VOA broadcasting services. (Source: KWO)

On June 2, 2000, SPDC and DKBA officers led by Bo MoJo arrested U Tin Tun of Papun Town, Papun Township, Karen State for listening to a VOA radio broadcast in his home. He was fined 12,000 kyats and sentenced to 5 days in jail. (Source: MICB)

On July 27, 2000, 3 Muslim villagers, U Hla Myint, age 42, U Noor Islam, age 28, and U Khin Win, age 25 from Latpun village, Kyauk So Township, Mandalay Division were arrested while listening to a RFA broadcast by the police and USDA officials led by U Myint Aung. They were accused of having contact with the NLD and handed over to MI officers who put them in Kyauk Se jail. (Source: MICB)

On August 20, 2000, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin Latt and party visited the 104th Light Infantry Battalion based at Tawgye village in Tavoy District and met with junior officers and soldiers. The deputy commander blamed broadcasts from the foreign radio stations for the restiveness within the defence services and strictly forbade all dependents and rank and file in the battalions and units from listening to foreign radio stations such as the BBC, VOA, DVB, and RFA. The deputy commander issued an order saying that those who listen to these radio stations will be severely punished.

11.6 State of the Freedom of Speech in Burma

As there are laws which clearly prohibit people from saying anything in opposition to the government, the freedom of speech is a definite void in the civil and political rights of the people of Burma. The prevalence of MI has caused people to be cautious in what they say, and open verbal support of groups such as the NLD can, and has led to imprisonment. (See the chapter on the freedom of association and assembly for a report on an SPDC officer's wife who was imprisoned for vocally supporting the NLD in June 2000)

Brig-Gen Zaw Tun dismissed after criticizing SPDC economic policies

On July 7, 2000, Brig-Gen Zaw Tun, deputy minister of national planning and economic development, in a discussion meeting with businessmen, criticized the existing economic policies and admitted the shortcomings. He openly spoke about the exaggerated growth indicators of the country and the collusion between some entrepreneurs and Defence Ministry personnel to monopolize the market. He said the military's policies "lacked transparency and consistency" and were aimed primarily at cementing its iron grip on the nation. Brig-Gen Zaw Tun has the reputation of being frank in his meetings with Sr Gen Than Shwe and Gen Maung Aye. Brig-Gen Zaw Tun was summoned and interrogated by the military intelligence after the discussion meeting. Details of his discussions were leaked to the outside, and on August 9 2000, an officer from the MI delivered a retirement letter to Brig-Gen Zaw Tun. Brig-Gen Zaw Tun cheerfully told the military intelligence officer who delivered the retirement letter, "I am prepared to resign and had expected this. I spoke the truth and spoke constructively." According to his close associates, he gathered his personal effects and bade farewell to the departmental personnel with a parting shot: I am the poorest among the generals. In addition to his dismissal, he was also stripped of his

home and other benefits that came with his job and military rank of Brigadier General. The sacking had not been officially announced as of September 2000. (Source: DVB)

11.7 State of the arts and freedom of expression in Burma

Writers, poets, film-makers, actors, musicians, painters and other artists in Burma are subjected to numerous restrictions which seriously inhibit their freedom of expression. The paranoid censorship of the PSB censorship has stilted a creativity and variety of art that at one time was famous in southeastern Asia. The censorship board ensures that nothing produced in Burma or imported from outside the country can be interpreted as "anti-military" or "western-influenced" which could be detrimental to "national security" or "culture." Such censorship is in direct opposition to the very nature of art and artistic expression, as any change to the original piece can potentially ruin a masterpiece. The SPDC lavishes awards, luxuries, and chances to go abroad to artists who choose to be pro-military and who stay away from expressing any ideas deemed political, and those who refuse are isolated and unable to get their artistic work in the public eye.

Censorship of Film and Television and restrictions on actors/actresses

Film-makers in Burma are required to submit the script to the PSB, and the censorship boards are notoriously sensitive to what might be interpreted as "anti-regime." The filmmakers are then restricted in how much film they can buy, and after the shooting, the completed film is again presented to the censors before it is released. Film-makers are required to occasionally produce government propaganda films, and likewise actors and actresses who work in these propaganda films receive benefits and recognition. It has been the case that actors who have participated in pro-military films have won the Burmese academy awards. It is common also for actors and actresses to be seen in posters or TV specials, which promote the army, for beautiful young actresses to be dressed in military uniform on calendars saying, "We're with you!" Such actors and actresses are given opportunity for great popularity and wealth.

The 2 Television stations in Burma are known for their propaganda, and most of the programming is dedicated to showing the "achievements" of the military. There are a limited number of Chinese TV programs and foreign cartoons which make their way onto the airtime. Foreign films are also subject to censorship:

Destruction of videotapes and other items

On April 7, 2000, authorities destroyed thousands of videotapes, videodiscs and frowned-on fashions ahead of the traditional New Year. The military government's official newspapers reported that 14,305 videotapes, 36,132 videodiscs, and other items, including flags and masks, were put to the torch in a police compound while high level officials of the military regime looked on. Youths in recent years have taken to wearing Halloween masks and wrapping themselves in U.S. and British flags during the holiday. Col. Than Tun, head of the Office of Strategic Studies, part of military intelligence, said that illegally imported tapes and disks might inspire youths to copy bad behavior and harm Myanmar's culture. Over the past week, newspapers have carried warnings to preserve "national culture" and avoid "decadent culture." (Source: AP)

Censorship of Music and Musicians

Musicians face many difficulties in finding ways to express themselves through their music in Burma. The economic situation has made music a formidable occupation as instruments and music lessons are prohibitively expensive for all but the people belonging to the wealthy military elite, and finding venues at which to play is a rarity. Lyrics to music are put through the same censorship as other writings, and even the musical style itself is often censored. Rock and Roll music is now common in Burma, and other western influenced styles, such as rap, are making their way in, but most western music is not available in Burma. Instead, Burma has an active "copy" industry, where original western melodies are converted into Burmese lyrics deemed un-harmful to the regime or the "national culture." The regime continues to monitor dress styles of musicians, and forbids them to dance on stage. The regime encourages (through the offering of privileges) musicians to sing government and pro-military songs and sing at government sponsored events, and those who try and refuse are threatened with not being able to have their music produced.

U2's newest album banned in Burma

In mid 2000, U2's new album, 'All That You Can't Leave Behind', was banned in Burma by the authorities because of a song entitled "Walk On", which is dedicated to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Censorship of Painting, photography, sculpture, other visual arts, and performance art

Painters, photographers, sculptures, and other visual artists are also subjected to military scrutiny. As visual art played an important role in the 1988 uprisings, along with the other arts, the regime has aimed to put an end to art in the revolution. After the military re-took power in 1988, the fine-arts building at Rangoon University was destroyed and the fine arts program discontinued. Today it is only possible to study visual arts under private tutorship, or at the Cultural University in Rangoon. The Cultural University (CU), a military institute, is a prime example of the situation of artistic expression in Burma. According to the ABFSU 2000 report, 'The Current Education System in Burma', the CU only accepts 100-150 students per year, who are required to be USDA members. The authorities at the Cultural University admit students to CU according to such requirements, without first learning of the applicants' artistic qualities. In addition, the Minister of Culture of the SPDC has told CU students that if they do not participate in any student strikes or demonstration, the regime will ensure them positions as gazettes officer in government administration. In the 1998-99 academic year, 27 students were enrolled for the Arts (Music), 48 Students were enrolled for the Arts (Performance), 29 students were enrolled for the Arts (Painting), and 5 students were enrolled for the Arts (Sculpture). At the CU, students of Music and the Dramatic Arts are denied the chance to study international music and western plays, according to the prohibitions of the military regime. The professors, lecturers and schoolmasters of the university are academics from the elite military society and military servicemen.

According to research done by Christina Fink for her book, 'Living in Silence', art exhibition organizers are required to submit a detailed written description of each of the art items to the Information Ministry prior to any art exhibition in Burma. Then, before the exhibition opens, the authorities come to do a final inspection. If any of the art pieces are considered to be "subversive", the art is not only taken down or away, but also stamped "censored" on the art work itself.

Performance art in Burma has also been restricted. The SPDC has promoted dance as part of its campaign to retain "national culture", yet dancers are only given career opportunities in such government sponsored campaigns or events. Comedy also suffers under the military eye, and comedians who make jokes, however innocent, that are considered to be "disruptive" are often threatened, interrogated, or even detained.

Other acts infringing on the freedom of expression

Ban on displaying foreign flags

On March 24, 2000, Nine 10th standard students were arrested and sentenced to three months in jail. They were arrested as a result of an incident on March 13, in which they had led a group of motorcyclists around Mergui, Tenasserim Division, with US flags tied to their motorcycles. The authorities took the incident as an act of political defiance aimed at disparaging the image of the military government through nonviolent means. The SPDC then issued a decree banning the display of foreign flags on festival pavilions and cars and prohibiting the wearing of flags as headbands during the Thingyan [Water] Festival. The SPDC also put its Union Solidarity and Development Association members and military intelligence units on alert to watch foreign revelers participating in the Water Festival. (Source: DVB)

Appendix # 1

On January 20 2000, Myanmar Post and Telecommunications [MPT] issued regulations for users of its Internet service. They are:

- **Any writings detrimental to the interests of the Union of Myanmar are not to be posted;**
- **Any writings directly or indirectly detrimental to the current policies and secret security affairs of the government of the Union of Burma are not to be posted;**
- **Writings related to politics are not to be posted;**
- Only the person who is given Internet account is to use the Internet; no other persons is allowed to use the Internet;
- The person who is granted an Internet account is held responsible for all Internet use on that account;
- A person with an Internet account is prohibited from hacking the web and entering and destroying the security system of MPT;
- Hacking the web and entering and destroying the security system of other Internet users is prohibited;
- Persons who hold an Internet account are forbidden to misuse the account of other Internet users;
- Internet users are to inform MPT of any threat on the Internet;
- **Internet users are to obtain prior permission from the organization designated by the state to create web pages;**

Freedom of Opinion, Expression and the Press

- Applicants for an internet account are held accountable for the veracity of facts contained in the application form;
- MPT has the right to amend and change regulations on the use of the Internet without prior notice;
- Application can be filed for compensation for any damage or loss;
- Internet use will be terminated and legal action will be taken for violation of any of these regulations.



12. Freedom of Assembly and Association

12.1 Background

There has been a notable absence of the freedoms of assembly and association during the time of military rule in Burma, especially since the 1988 coup and formation of the SLORC. Under the SPDC these freedoms have been further restricted. The International Labor Organization (ILO) Committee of Experts has criticized the lack of freedom of association in Burma for over 40 years. This was brought to the forefront in 2000, during the time of the ILO's investigation into the forced labor situation of Burma, when the ILO Conference Committee on the Application of Standards again denounced Burma's violation of Convention No. 87, which deals with the freedom of association. Labor unions, student unions and private civic associations are banned. No elections are scheduled; none seem likely.

Laws restricting the freedoms of assembly and association (See Appendix #s 3-7)

The most far-reaching law prohibiting free association and assembly is **Order 2/88**, which SLORC issued on the day it assumed power. This law outlaws strike centers and the gathering of more than 5 people in one place. While this law has not often been enforced, there are many other laws which have. The most frequently used law is the 1907 (1957) **Unlawful Association Act** which allows for the detention of up to five years of anyone who is a member of or assists in any way an unlawful association. A number of organizations, including political parties, student unions, profession groups, religious associations, as well as armed opposition groups, have been declared unlawful under this Act. This Act falls far short of international human rights standards; its incompatibility with international standards is underlined by the arbitrary, indiscriminate, and heavy-handed manner in which it is applied, usually to suppress peaceful dissent.

Order 1/90 was issued on May 22 1990 to remind people that *"action will be taken against all those who fail to report people illegally residing in their homes."* Noting that under existing laws any person not normally residing in a house who stays for one night or more must be registered at the local township office, it threatens to charge persons failing to do so under section 124 of the criminal code *"for failing to disclose to the authorities concerned either an act or a conspiracy that amounts to high treason."* The order states that it was issued after 2 members of the ABSDF were arrested after hiding in Rangoon for some time. SLORC Order 1/91, pronounced on April 30, 1991, prohibits public servants from engaging in party politics.

Since July 1998, the SPDC has used the 1961 Habitual Criminal Offenders Act against NLD MPs in order to restrict the activities of the NLD. This puts repeat offenders on permanent bail, forcing them to sign up with local authorities on daily basis. Many NLD MPs refused to sign, and as a result by mid-July 1998, some 79 MPs had been detained. This 1961 Act was intended to be applied only to restrict habitual offenders of the law. Since section 5/1(g) applies to those habitual lawbreakers and offenders only, the assumptions and accusations of the SPDC concerning the NLD MPs is not applicable. The restraining order issued under this Act that all MPs to remain within certain areas and not

to be allowed to travel outside specific areas is a violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Restrictions on political parties

Following the SLORC take over of power in 1988, political parties were allowed to form for the first time in decades. Over 200 such parties were formed, yet as of 1993, following the 1990 elections which were never honored (see below), only 7 remained legal. Notably, among the first parties to be de-registered were those which represented ethnic minorities and those which had collectively called for a federal constitution in their party manifestos. Even of the parties which were formed by the ethnic minority groups that made cease-fire agreements with the SLORC between 1989 and 1993, some were not removed from the list of "unlawful associations."

12.2 Prohibition of Free and Independent Trade Unions

Burma ratified the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87) in 1955 and is bound as an ILO member to apply the principles of freedom of association. However, the Government of Myanmar has been criticized for not bringing its laws into compliance with the Convention No. 87, refusing to recognize independent trade unions, and harassing workers who attempt to organize.

Several Burmese laws relate to freedom of association and union organizing, but each is inconsistent with international standards and ignored in practice. The ruling regime does not recognize any independent labor unions in Burma. Rather, civil servants, who form the majority of the blue and white collar working force, are compelled, through various coercive means, to join the Union Solidarity and Development Organization. (see below) The Burmese government actively suppresses attempts by workers to organize, and workers who try to form or join such unions are liable to be harassed, arrested, and tortured. They are also under constant surveillance by the police and the military intelligence agency.

12.3 Pressure on the National League for Democracy and the CRPP

Brief Background of the NLD and the CRPP

On May 27, 1990 a national election called by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) was held to constitute a new Parliament (Pyithu Hluttaw). In this election, the National League for Democracy (NLD) won 392 of the 485 seats (about 81% of total seats). Yet despite the fact that MPs had been elected and were ready to convene the Pyithu Hluttaw, SLORC refused to transfer power as it had pledged before the election. Instead, SLORC ruled in Declaration 1/90 that the duties of the elected representatives were merely to draft a State Constitution and convene a "National Convention," which would lay down the fundamental principles of a new democratic Constitution. Under severe pressure from SLORC, the National League of Democracy participated in the Convention's work but withdrew in November 1995, severing whatever link there may have been between the convention and the popular will as expressed in the 1990 elections.

Since 1990, the military regime has not only systematically impeded the functioning of the

National League for Democracy, in particular, but eliminated from the political process the MPs elected in 1990. They have done this by first invalidating election results, then dismissing the MP elects from Parliament and banning them from future elections, by forcing them to resign and finally by arresting, detaining and sentencing them on the basis of laws.

Some of the numerous laws the MP elects have been imprisoned under include the Emergency Provision Act, State Protection Act, Official Secrets Act, Printers and Publishers Registration Act, and the Unlawful Associations Act.

As a result of such measures, out of the 392 NLD MPs-elect, over 160 have been deprived of their status as MPs-elect. Of the 485 elected representatives - 392 of them from the NLD- only 169 are considered by the SPDC as valid members. Thirty-four have died, 97 have resigned and 185 have been 'disqualified'. The remaining 169 include 110 members of the NLD - of which 69 are being detained at guest houses - and 39 independent candidates and 20 from other parties.

On May 27, 1998 the NLD leadership demanded that the SPDC convene the Parliament elected in 1990 within three months. In view of the impossibility of doing this, a Committee was constituted on September 16, 1998, "to act for and on behalf of the 1990 Multiparty General Elections People's Parliament". Thus the CRPP (Committee Representing the People's Parliament) was formed, composed of 10 MP-elects belonging to different political parties and regions. The CRPP was authorized by more than 50% of the elected MPs to act on the behalf of the People's Parliament until actual parliament is convened, and was initially endorsed by 4 ethnic political parties. Other ethnic political parties later voiced their support, and the CRPP also has gained support from several Burmese groups in exile, and numerous International bodies.

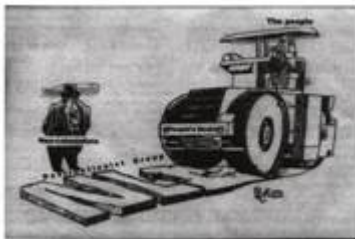
As a result of the NLD demand to convene Parliament and the establishment of the CRPP, the SPDC increased its pressure on the NLD and its party members, and began to crackdown on the Members of Parliament. They called in NLD MPs-elect outside Rangoon demanding that they sign a declaration not to leave their hometowns in the foreseeable future. In fact, restraining orders were issued against all NLD MPs-elect, who were required to stay within the confines of their respective municipalities for a year. Those who refused have either been arrested or are subject to judicial prosecution. Since September 1998, over 150 MPs-elect have been arrested and are still in detention. According to the SPDC, these MPs-elect have merely been "called in temporarily at guest houses for the purpose of exchanging views on the consequences of the actions of the party (the NLD) for the peace and stability of the State". Sixty-three NLD MPs-elect and 321 party members who agreed not to participate in such "illegal activities", were returned to their homes after over 800 MPs and party members were detained in September 1998. In addition to the illegal arrests of the elected members of parliament, NLD organizing committee members at all levels (State, Division, Township, Ward, Village), ordinary members, and members of working groups formed by the central executive committee have also been arrested.

A number of NLD working committees throughout the country have been demolished by the authorities, numerous offices forcibly shut down, and the SPDC has forced hundreds of people, some of whom are not even NLD members, to sign documents of resignations from the party. Some have been forced to resign from their positions and from the party by

threats, intimidation and illegal forceful pressure from members of the military intelligence units. Ethnic political parties who had voiced support for the CRPP have also been increasingly oppressed, and many such groups forced to revoke their support. In addition, the SPDC introduced a new strategy in the fall of 1998 of forcing people to attend "no-confidence" rallies, intended to show a public loss of trust in the NLD and its MPs elect. These have become increasingly frequent.

The SPDC campaign to crush the NLD has been repeatedly condemned by the International community. In April 2001 a resolution was written at the 58th session of the UN Commission for Human Rights which expressed its grave concern, *"At the systematic policy of the Government of Myanmar of persecuting the democratic opposition, National League for Democracy members and their families, as well as ethnic opposition parties, and at the use by the Government of intimidatory methods such as arbitrary arrest and detention, abuse of the legal system, including harsh long-term prison sentences, which has forced many to refrain from exercising their legitimate political rights;"* On April 7 2001, the Inter-Parliamentary Union adopted a resolution which specified that the SPDC actions towards the NLD and the CRPP were, *"...considered by the appropriate United Nations human rights bodies to be in breach of international civil and political rights standards."* In addition, the IPU again rated Burma as one of the world's worst countries for Members of Parliament.

This military backlash against the NLD, the CRPP and its members and supporters is further notable by the fact that it indicates that the junta sees the CRPP as a significant threat, and a constant reminder of their own illegitimacy. Also, by suppressing the MP's elect, and organizing no-confidence motions against them, the SPDC inadvertently lends them their legitimacy as elected Members of Parliament. Previously the junta has refused to acknowledge that the MP's elected in 1990 were in fact elected MP's for the people.



2000 Campaign to Destroy the NLD

The year 2000 witnessed the most severe and focused SPDC crackdown on the NLD and CRPP of recent years. The SPDC government called openly for the destruction of the political party, both through State Run media and through orders to the police force and the USDA. At the beginning of March 2000, at a USDA mass conference held in Taung Thar, Mandalay Division, the USDA called for the abolishment of the NLD and the CRPP, and demanded that the members of these organizations be given exile, life, or death sentences. In the Mandalay Division alone similar USDA conferences were held in Pyi Gyi Ta Khun and Thin Pan Kone on April 23, and in Ohn Chaw village in Pa Thein Gyi on April 25.

On April 20 2000, at a secret meeting held by the Ministry of Home Affairs, SPDC Home Minister Col Tin Hlaing issued a directive to the attendees, including all SPDC departments, and the State and Division Police Chiefs, to "annihilate" the NLD within the year 2000. (see

below) Throughout the year, the SPDC, often through its sycophant organization, the USDA, and/or through the MIS, the Military Strategies Studying Department and the police force, continued and indeed, stepped up its campaigns against the NLD, using Declaration 5/96 as one of their persuasion methods. (See appendix #5) They continued to pressure NLD members to resign. Some NLD members in charge at the Township level were told they would be given 1,500,000 kyats and a house if they resigned. Others were menaced into resignations.

No confidence and Anti-NLD motions and rallies continued with increased occurrence. In addition, the SPDC state-controlled media issued myriad stories linking Aung San Suu Kyi, the NLD and the CRPP to armed "terrorist" groups and numerous alleged conspiracies, including the 1999 seizure of the Myanmar embassy in Bangkok. The media used these allegations as a backing for the attacks on NLD members as "traitors". Numerous times throughout the year the media reported that the NLD had lost the support of the people, and must be banned.

Arrests of NLD MP's and members also continued in 2000. On April 24 2000, Aye Tha Aung, the chairman of the Committee for Ethnic Nationalities Affairs of the CRPP was arrested at his home without reason and subsequently sentenced to 21 years in prison. Prior to the 10th anniversary of the NLD election victory on May 27 2000, NLD members were arrested en masse, and several offices were forced to close.

Things came to a head on August 24 2000, when Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and party members attempted to travel to Kungyangon Township to organize the NLD youth wing there, but were forced off the road in the town of Dala on the outskirts of Rangoon. After a nine day standoff, the group was physically forced back to the capital. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo, the Vice chair-person of the NLD were both handcuffed and taken to their homes and put under virtual house arrest. NLD youth members who were present were beaten by security guards, 9 were injured but were not given any medical treatment. They were taken directly to Insein prison together with U Soe Myint, chairman of the NLD Rangoon Division Organizing Committee, and Dr. Myo Aung. NLD members from Dala Township were also arrested on that day. All phone links to the 10 senior NLD executives were cut and all of them were under house arrest. No one was allowed to go in or out of their homes. The military authorities kept a ring of high security riot police around the NLD headquarters, and the homes of Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo, prohibited civilians or diplomats from entering the area or contacting NLD members, and cut off the phone lines connecting the NLD to the outside. Phone lines to some elected NLD representatives were still functioning but were tapped. The authorities also raided the NLD headquarters office, searching party materials, and detained another 11 senior NLD officers without warrant on September 13 and 14. Locks on all rooms and cabinets inside the NLD headquarters were destroyed, and SPDC forces occupied the premise for days, barring anyone from entering. Furthermore, NLD members from various states and divisions were also prevented from going to Rangoon. (See more in the chapters on arbitrary arrest and the freedom of movement) The restrictions on the top 2 NLD leaders were removed September 14, following an international outcry, but the military authorities continued to arrest other prominent NLD members, raid offices throughout the country, and restated that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was banned from travel outside Rangoon. The NLD leaders, upon emerging from their homes and re-opening the headquarters, held a meeting in which they vowed to draft the national constitution. At the meeting, Suu Kyi announced she would take over as

CRPP secretary and its representative for ethnic affairs, taking over from Aye Tha Aung (*According to a 1996 SPDC law, drafting a charter without the government's approval could result in a prison sentence of up to 20 years*) The following week, on September 21, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Tin Oo, party members and several supporters again attempted to travel outside Rangoon, to investigate reports of NLD oppression in Mandalay. However, the group was told that the tickets were "sold out", and in the early morning hours of September 22, authorities forcibly removed the group from the Rangoon Railway Station. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was placed again under house arrest, U Tin Oo and the 8 NLD youth members were taken to a "government guesthouse", and nearly 100 supporters of the NLD were arrested and detained.

On September 25, 2000 the NLD received another blow when they received the order of eviction from the landlords of the NLD main headquarters building. (see following section) However, as the responsible persons for the NLD headquarters were all detained by the SPDC, the order was temporarily withdrawn.

With the key members of the NLD under house arrest, the SPDC continued its campaign to destroy the party throughout late 2000. Yet due, in part, to the International pressure created by the ILO accusations of forced labor, the junta began secret talks with the detained NLD members, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. These talks began to surface in December 2000, around the same time that pressure was hot on the regime because of its forced labor record. Yet as of May 2001, these talks had still not been made open to the public, and there had been no tangible results.

Police force ordered to crush the NLD

On April 20, 2000, at a meeting, the SPDC Home Ministry issued a directive to the police force to completely crush the NLD within the year 2000. SPDC Home Minister Col Tin Hlaing directed all the regional police chiefs and the commandants of riot control police battalions to employ all administrative techniques to completely crush the NLD within the year. The meeting was also attended by Col Soe Win, director general of Myanmar Police Force.

The minister also ordered the respective police chiefs from the states and divisions to relay the directive to their subordinates and to supervise the strict implementation of the directive.

Since the government has increased the salaries of the state employees, the minister said, they should show loyalty to the government and firmly follow orders. He also ordered them to take action against those who do not fulfill their duties.

The Home Ministry had issued a directive to the police force May 23, 1999 that the SPDC regard the NLD as the enemy and the police should begin eliminating the party. The present directive is to completely crush the NLD. The names of NLD members who have refused to resign are gathered by the police force. Although the directive was to employ all administrative techniques to completely crush the NLD, it was not clearly known what kind of administrative techniques they were going to implement. (Source: DVB)

SPDC Media attacks against the NLD

Prior to the May 27 anniversary of the NLD election victory, Col. Than Tun, a senior military intelligence officer, gave a news conference warning Buddhist clergy and ordinary people against falling prey to incitement by Suu Kyi and other anti-government forces to

cause unrest in the country. The conference intended to present what it called evidence of how the NLD was communicating with armed "splinter groups". Recent commentaries in state-run newspapers have suggested that Suu Kyi and her supporters are committing treason for such alleged ties and that the death penalty should be used against them. (Source: AP) On July 5 2000, State-run newspapers called for the banning of the NLD, saying the party was colluding with terrorists to undermine the country. These newspapers accused the NLD, of *"inciting unrest to cause disintegration of the Union."*

The commentary, entitled "It is time NLD was dissolved," was carried in two of Myanmar's official newspapers, the sole English language daily, "The New Light of Myanmar," and the Myanmar language "Myanma Alin."

"An objective study will show that the NLD party is not in a position to carry out political activities in the Union," the commentary said. *"Hence, the NLD should be outlawed in the interest of the people."*

The newspaper commentary said the NLD was a defunct party with dwindling members and the entire Myanmar people wanted the government to dissolve it. (Source: Reuters)

On September 16, 2000, The New Light of Myanmar newspaper called on the ruling military junta to "wipe out" the NLD, which it accused of colluding with Britain and the US to destroy the nation. *"It is time for the government, which has been very patient over the years, to bow to the will of the people who are calling nationwide for the NLD to be completely wiped out..."* *"...If we continue to take the matter lightly, Daw Suu Kyi, together with her American and British aggressor allies will become more daring to the detriment of the nation."* (Source: AFP)

On September 26, 2000, a commentary in the Myanma-alin newspaper accused Suu Kyi of trying to disintegrate the country. *"Not realizing the unpopularity among the public, Suu Kyi and her NLD members continue to disrupt stability, infringe the existing laws and create various problems,"* the government newspaper wrote. *"Wandering round the city and disrupting the stability is one of Suu Kyi's tactics. Knowing that unrest is not democracy, the public do not accept Suu Kyi anymore,"* it said. (Source: AP)

SPDC response to NLD vow to draft a constitution

On September 21, 2000, in response to the NLD resolution that the CRPP would draft a new constitution, Lieutenant General Tin Oo, second secretary of the SPDC threatened the NLD through the English-language New Light of Myanmar newspaper. *"Anyone who tries to draft a new constitution in line with the colonialists is the nation's common enemy and will be crushed without mercy."* Tin Oo's comment was the first official reaction. (Source: AP)

12. 4 Harassment of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

In 2000 the military stepped up its endeavors to destroy the NLD, including its leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. In the first half of the year, her movements continued to be restricted and monitored by the military intelligence, and as usual they attempted to prohibit her from having regular media contact. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who had been awarded the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize during her 1989-1995 period of house arrest was co-awarded the City of Dublin award on March 18, 2000 along with the Irish rock band, U2. U2's latest album

was then banned in Burma, due to the song on the album, 'Walk On', which the band had dedicated to Aung San Suu Kyi.

On December 6 2000, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded, in absentia, the highest U.S. civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, for her peaceful struggle for democracy and human rights in Burma.

Media attacks against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Throughout the year, SPDC controlled media brought numerous attacks against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. In a commentary in the (Burmese-language) Mirror daily on May 2, she was accused of being "power crazy" and of having contact with armed terrorist groups, a crime of "high treason", for which she and *"her accomplices could face the death penalty or life imprisonment."* The Mirror also lashed out at her for smuggling videotapes out of the country, and stated that the people were losing confidence in her, and wanted the government to take concrete action. On September 18, the Myanmar Alin called her the *"Satan of Destruction."*

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi banned from travel outside Rangoon, put again under house arrest

On August 24 Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, along with U Tin Oo, Vice-Chairman of the NLD and 14 other party members, attempted to travel outside Rangoon to meet with party members and were stopped by the authorities in Dala Township, on the outskirts of Rangoon. Aung San Suu Kyi refused to turn back and a 9-day stand-off ensued. While the government stated that they were taking care of her during her "rest" in Dala, there were concerns for her health during the 9-day period. It was her first attempt to leave the capital since 1998, when she had a similar standoff with the government for 13 days. On September 1 women police handcuffed Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and forcefully took her back to her home in Rangoon. Her phone line was cut, the gate to her residence padlocked and she was denied access to visitors. These restrictions were eased on September 14, and diplomats who visited following her release reported that she was noticeably thinner. Her period of relative freedom was short-lived, as on September 21, following a 2nd attempt to leave Rangoon, she was again captured by the authorities and put under house arrest.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had been put under house arrest for the first time in 1989, and was held in her home for 6 year until her release in 1995. During this time, she was guarded inside her Rangoon home, and barred from contact with the outside world. This time, even her place of detainment was at stake.

Lawsuit brought against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's residence

On November 14, 2000, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's brother, Aung San Oo, a citizen of the United States of America, posted a subpoena on the gate of her house. She was summoned to appear before the Yangon District Court concerning a lawsuit her brother had filed for half-ownership of the house, which had belonged to their late mother, Daw Khin Khin Kyi. However, under Myanmar law, her brother, as a United States citizen, would be forced to hand over his half of the property to the military government if he won the suit. This led critics to speculate that the authorities were attempting to further harass Daw Suu Kyi by leaving her homeless. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was given permission by the military authorities to leave her residence for the hearing, but she declined to appear. The trial was therefore set to proceed without representation by Suu Kyi. However, her lawyers attempted to gain representation and, in a written statement to the court, questioned the legality of the lawsuit. The law prohibits foreigners from purchasing or transferring property, but the

government granted Aung San Oo an exemption. The Judge of the case, U Soe Thein, called for a proper hearing of the argument for January 5. The lawsuit was dismissed on January 22 2001, but was brought to the courts again two months later. As of May 2001, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was still being held under house arrest, but had been allowed occasional visitors. The treatment of Aung San Suu Kyi sparked international condemnation and threw into doubt a planned meeting in Laos in December 2000 between the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and foreign ministers of the European Union.

In December 2000 it was revealed to the world that top leaders of the SPDC had been meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The dialogue between Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the generals of the SPDC has drawn varied responses. Initially the reception of the talks was welcoming, yet as of the time of this book's final edit in May 2001, the talks had still not produced any notable progress, and were being criticized for their continuing lack of transparency and the fact that the involvement of the people, especially the lack of involvement from the political parties representing the ethnic minorities.

12.5 NLD Lawsuit against SPDC oppression

The NLD filed a lawsuit in September 1999 against the director-general of the National Intelligence Bureau, Home Minister Colonel Tin Hlaing, Information Minister Major-General Kyi Aung and Ba Htay, the election commission chairman. Listing its complaints in a statement, the NLD said its activities had been, "*continuously disrupted, prevented, and destroyed by the authorities concerned.*" It accused the authorities of illegally detaining its members and organizing mass rallies to denounce elected representatives. The authorities had dismissed the complaints as invalid in October 1999, and in February 2000 the NLD had gone on to appeal the decision. The authorities responded by threatening a ban on lawsuits against them, and on May 4 2000 the Burmese Supreme Court dismissed the appeal by the NLD. On July 4 2000, the NLD notified the authorities of their intent to bring another lawsuit against them. The suit was to be filed against the chairman of Burma's Election Commission, Ba Htay, and the chief of the ruling military council, Senior Gen. Than Shwe, accusing them of failing to keep "election promises" and violating electoral law. The military government again rejected the NLD lawsuit intent, citing it as, "*whimsical and symbolic.*"

12.6 Forceful Removal of NLD signboards

On January 3, 2000, the Monywa township NLD signboard was ruined at 12:38 midnight by a gang of thugs who threw acid on it and fled on motorcycles. This was witnessed by the owner of the house. (Source: NLD)

In March 2000, local police and authorities forced villagers to pull down the NLD signboard in Sin Inn village of Shwe Bo Township. (Source: DVB)

On April 17, 2000, No (1) Industry Minister U Aung Thaung persuaded Zagyan villagers in TahungTha Township to pull down the NLD signboard. (Source: DVB)

On the night of the May 28, 2000, a group of unknown persons entered the compound of the NLD office situated on Min Road, Min Ward, Sagaing town, in Sagaing Division and destroyed the NLD, Sagaing Division and Sagaing Township signboards. U Kyi Htay, owner of the said premises is the Deputy chairman of the Township Organising Committee. At about 5:30 a.m. the next morning he noticed that the signboards were missing and discovered the posts and planks to which the signboards had been attached strewn on the main road in front. The zinc sheets were stolen. It had rained that night and military boot prints were left on the wet soil in the signboard area.

U Kyi Htay went to the office of the local PDC and reported the matter. U Aung Sway (Chairman, NLD township committee) and U Maung Maung (Joint Secretary) went to the police station and lodged a complaint. The Deputy Superintendent of the Security forces and one constable visited the scene of crime, took five photographs, paid for by the NLD, and made a record of the matter, but did nothing further. When the township members were arranging to replace the signboard, the authorities forbade them from doing so and banned all signboard writers from doing the job. (Source: NLD)

SPDC agents have been forcefully dismantling NLD offices and NLD signboards following signed petitions and mass rallies declaring loss of support for the NLD, which has been forced upon the populace by the authorities.,, (Source: DVB)

On May 20, 2000, the Magwe Division, Taungdwingyi township NLD flag and signboard were brought down and seized by several local township officials, including police officials, teachers, and led by the Township Electoral Commission staff. (Source: NLD)

12.7 Illegal Seizure of NLD documents

On March 28, 2000, following a peaceful celebration of resistance day by 6 members of the NLD organizing committee of Magwe Division, Aunglan Township Branch and other ordinary members, local authorities arrived at the NLD township branch office in three cars and claimed that they had to do some interrogation. They took pictures of the building (inside and outside), seized office papers and conducted interrogations from early afternoon to midnight. The following day (the 29th) the authorities again searched the premise, after forcibly breaking the lock, and everything except two pictures of Bogyoke Aung San was taken away. Then, later that evening, the authorities arrested the 6 members of the organizing committee, who were subsequently sentenced to 6 months imprisonment. (See chapter on arrest) The NLD office premise was then broken into again after their arrest and everything was removed and taken away including the signboard and flag. (Source: NLD)

On September 2, 2000, SPDC riot police and MIS raided the NLD party headquarters in Rangoon, citing that they had to investigate NLD alleged links with terrorists and with foreigners. Locks on all rooms and cabinets inside the NLD headquarters were destroyed when security forces searched for documents. The headquarters continued to be occupied and guarded. There were about 10 police at the main gate and no one, including NLD members, was allowed to enter the premise. On September 4 2000, it was reported that over 30 SPDC riot police were still occupying the NLD headquarters and Military Intelligence personnel continued to search for documents and other evidence.(Source: NLD)

12.8 Threatened evacuation from NLD main office

On September 25, 2000, the NLD was asked by landlords to vacate the building housing the NLD party headquarters in Rangoon. The letter required the NLD to remove all party property and its party sign the letter by the eviction date of October 25 2000, or face legal action. The NLD has occupied the property on Shwegondaing Road in central Yangon since 1989, one year after it was founded. The building's owners, Daw Khin Nu, 70, and Daw Chaw had been arrested after the NLD marked the 10th anniversary of its victory at the polls on May 27 2000. Daw Chaw and Daw Khin Nu were apparently accused of and held responsible for causing public disturbance due o NLD use of loudspeakers. They were released from detention. In their letter telling the NLD to leave, the sisters said neighbors were complaining of the disruption caused by the government frequently closing off the street. The letter said the decision was not due to any outside pressure. However, the order was temporarily withdrawn in late October because party officials were unable to pass the eviction letter on to Aung San Suu Kyi or chairman Aung Shwe, who with other senior members remained under house arrest.

12.9 Arrest of NLD MP's, members and supporters

The arrest of NLD members and supporters continued throughout the year 2000. A partial list of NLD members arrested in 2000 is included in the chapter on Arbitrary Arrest and Detention.

12.10 Harassment due to NLD association

Action taken against people with NLD calendars

On January 4, 2000, the NLD began distributing calendars for the year 2000 as a record of Burma's Independence Day. Some had the picture of the General Secretary of the National League for Democracy, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and others had her picture with that of her father, national leader General Aung San. Local authorities under the military dictators harassed and took action against individuals who displayed these calendars in their homes, offices, workplaces and elsewhere. (Source: NLD)

Shops fined for importing magazine articles on Daw Suu Kyi and the NLD

Personnel from No. 7 Military Intelligence [MI] Unit from Rangoon Division inspected the Foreign Goods Inspection Department at Mingaladon International Airport on 4th September and examined some magazines and journals sent from Bangkok, Thailand to five bookstores/publishing houses that have import licenses for foreign magazines and journals. They discovered that two magazines and one journal contained articles, news reports and photos on the stand-off in Dala with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and NLD leaders, and their forced return to Rangoon. The magazines and journal were confiscated by the MI.

The bookstores that ordered the books were Aryonethit bookshop from Pabedan Township, Pyinnya Alinpya and Parami bookstores from Latha Township, Myo Myanmar bookstore from Kyauktada Township, and Nawat Book and Stories bookstore on Merchant Street. The owners of these bookstores were summoned by Maj. Thura Lwin, secretary of South Yangon [Rangoon] District PDC, on September 5 2000. Maj Thura Lwin advised them not to import such magazines and journal in the future and to scrutinize carefully whether the

books contain articles relating to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD party before importing.

The five bookstore owners were fined 30,000 kyat each and they had to sign an undertaking not to import such books in the future. (Source:DVB)

Female SPDC officer jailed for supporting Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

In June 2000 there was a meeting, 'Child Birth and Child Education' given by LIB 530 and the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association. All the women who attended the meeting were the wives of SPDC officers based in Loikhaw, Karenni State. At the close of the meeting, all the women attendees expressed their desire to help each other, and then their wish for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all NLD members to be healthy, achieve their hopes, and to love the truth. At 8 AM the next morning, MI # 27, based in Loikhaw, summoned all the women who arrived in the meeting and asked who had expressed their support for Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD. Ma Thein Htwe Oo, in an attempt to protect the other women, told the MI that it had been only her who had voiced support for the NLD. The MI asked her why she had wished health on Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD, and she replied that Aung San Suu Kyi was the Army's Father's daughter and works restlessly for the good of Burma. (*Aung San, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's father, is often referred to as the Army's Father*) As a result of what she said, the Loikhaw authorities arrested Ma Thein Htwe Oo and sentenced her to 6 months in prison with hard labor. (Source: PD Burma)

NLD member kicked out of his home

Since May 21, 2000, the NLD Rangoon Division, Bahan Township organizing committee chairman and his family have been denied the right to live as tenants in the quarters they had rented from May 1999. Of all the tenants in the ward, only this family of 7 members was denied the legal right to live in their home. This is a clear penalization of a man and his family for his political association. (Source: NLD)

Grand-daughter of NLD member detained

In June 2000, in Thayetmyo township, Kyauk-oh-kya-gan village, the granddaughter of U Hla Maung, an NLD organizing committee member, was captured and detained by the authorities while U Hla Maung was gone on a journey. The tenth standard student was released when U Hla Maung returned home. (Source: NLD)

Wife of NLD MP forced into early retirement

On June 22, 2000, the Deputy Manager of Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries, U Tin Myint, pressured Daw Mya Than, who was holding a proficiency level 3 position, to apply for pension or transfer to another region. Daw Mya Than is the wife of U Hla Htun, NLD MP for Kye-myin-dine constituency, Yangon Division. In December 1998, following her husband's release from prison, she had been summoned by U Tin Myint and told that she must present her husband's NLD resignation papers, or else be at risk for her and her daughters' jobs at the company. According to his conscience, U Hla Htun refused to resign, and in late December 1998, their daughter Ma Nwe Ne Htun, was dismissed from service, and in January Daw Mya Than was pressured for the first time to apply for pension. However, when the matter was put before the manager, U Zaw Win, she was informed that she could continue to work. This time, in June 2000, when she again approached U Zaw Win and explained that she was the sole breadwinner for the family and could not yet apply

for pension, he replied that it was not his business. He further explained that due to her husband's stubborn refusal to resign from the NLD, he could do nothing. Daw Mya Than therefore had no choice, and against her inclination she applied for "voluntary retirement". (Source: NLD)

NLD members not reissued national identity cards

NLD members who have their identity cards lost or stolen are have not been re-issued new ones. In Burma it is a requirement that all persons carry identity cards, national registration cards, foreigner's registration cards, guest national registration cards etc. The identification card or the national registration card is the most important for residents of Burma because it is needed to deal with anyone in authority, with the bank, to travel, to report the household guest list to the authorities, or at death and for funeral arrangements. Should an identity card belonging to an NLD member be lost accidentally or through theft or otherwise and it is reported to the police or the ward, village or township authorities, the request is not processed and no replacement is given. The origins of this policy are not public knowledge. This treatment is given only to NLD members. (Source: NLD)

MP forced into exile

Due to political stalemate in the country, various restrictions and harassment by the military junta in power, U Mya Win, an elected Member of Parliament from Burma left the country and took shelter in India. In mid-May 2000, after a week-long journey from his home in Rangoon, the 50-year old parliamentarian crossed the Indo-Burma border by foot. U Mya Win was elected from Ingapu Township (No. 1) of Irrawaddy Division for the NLD. He won the election by securing more than 67% of the votes. He was jailed in December 1990 by the Burmese military government in connection with the formation of the exiled government and charged with high treason, and released in January 1999. He is also a NLD party organizer for the Irrawaddy Division. (Source: Mizzima)

Photos taken of NLD members and their homes

In late 2000, the #6 Police Corps in Kawthaung, Tenasserim Division, led by Sergeant Mya Win from the Special Police News Agency, took photos of NLD members and their homes in Kawthaung. (Source: ALD)

(HRDU note: This is only an example, this action is not uncommon)

12.11 Pressure to Resign



The SPDC continued in 2000 to pressure NLD members to resign, using various methods. Daily reports in state controlled media reported these supposed resignations, consistently attributing them to the reason that the members "no longer wished to participate in party politics." In mid 2000 the authorities reported that over 60,000 ordinary party members had resigned, a disputable figure considering that many resignations were forced, and many who were reported to have resigned were not in fact NLD party members.

In early 2000, authorities in Chin State summoned all NLD State and Township Organizing Committee members in Chin State and gave them notice to resign before the end of May 2000. Those who refused to comply were threatened with further restriction on their travel. The NLD members had already been forbidden to travel out of their hometowns and villages and their household census lists and national registration cards had been confiscated since August of 1998. (Source: NLD)

In May 2000 in Kalewa township, Sagaing division, administrative authorities, police and the elections commission collectively operated to dissolve the township NLD branch. There were five remaining NLD organizing members in the township, two of whom were Daw Thee Thee and Daw Khin Hnin Kyi. Daw Thee Thee and her husband U Htoon Kyi own two cargo carrying trucks No.KHA-KWE/454 and NA-NGE/9614. On May 1st, 2000, under instructions from U Hla Maung Gyi (Superintendent of Police), U Kyaw Zaw, (Police Station-in-charge) designated those two vehicles as " rules infringed" vehicles. They were seized and held at the police station. U Htoon Kyi and his son Maung Kyaw Thu were also arrested, confined at the police station and sent to court. The police station officer in charge went to Daw Thee Thee's house and assured her that if she resigned from the NLD the case against her husband and son would be dropped and the two vehicles would be returned to her. Consequently, Daw Thee Thee signed her resignation as a member of the NLD and as a member of the Kalewa township organizing committee on the May 9, 2000.

Pressure was also applied to Daw Khin Hnin Kyi to resign as an organizing committee member of the NLD. The promise held out was that her sister, a teacher, would be given a transfer from a remote village to the town.

The Kalembo Election Commission branch office then issued a letter stating that the Kalembo NLD branch was dissolved because its membership consisted of less than five people and ordered that the properties, signboard, seal and documents be surrendered at the branch office on May 13, 2000. These actions violate the Political Parties Registration Law and the guidelines (No. 245) issued by the Central Elections Commission. (Source: NLD)

On May 8, 2000, three middle school teachers related to members of Kawlin Township (Sagaing Division) NLD, (one the daughter of U Aung Khin, the second the daughter of U Kyi Yone, and the third the wife of U Ye Myint) were summoned by the Township Director of Education and instructed to see that their fathers and husband resigned from the NLD. (Source: NLD)

On June 29, 2000, U Aye Than (USDA chief organizer) summoned NLD members of Hlawga village, Rangoon Division, in writing to the SPDC office and ordered them to resign from the party. (Source: NLD)

On July 1, 2000, U She Aye, Ko Tin Ohn and Ko Min Naing (USDA members) ordered and forced NLD members to resign in Shwe-pyi-tha township, Ward Ta/15, Rangoon Division. (Source: NLD)

As of August 2000, in Ya-sauk township, South Shan State, senior and junior commanders from a variety of military training units and the USDA membership were working together to intimidate and coerce the people to obtain the resignation of legally constituted Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Dr. Hla Shein. A large number of military training centers have been established in Ya-sauk, including Ba Htoo military town. NLD organization committee members have had to resign out of fear intimidation and pressure by the military

commander of the region. (Source: CRPP/NLD)

From October 30 to November 3 2000, Police Major Zaw Win, Police-in-charge of Bokpyin Township, Tenasserim Division met with 50 members of the NLD. He explained that the NLD might be abolished and that action will be taken against members who have not resigned according to the Declaration 5/96. He urged them to apply for resignations and celebrate their resignation ceremonies as soon as possible. U Shwe Yee, age 64, one of the members who had been summoned, replied that even if the SPDC succeeded in abolishing the NLD that independent support and belief in the NLD would not be abolished, and that this was not a breach of the law. The police-in-charge said nothing, but all the NLD members were forced to give their fingerprints and have their photos taken before they were allowed to go home. (Source: ALD)

Partial list from Inside Source of NLD members forced to resign by SPDC

On January 6 2000, 20 NLD members from Ya Mel Tin township, Mandalay Division.

On January 6 2000, 12 NLD members from Ba Thein Gyi, Mandalay Division.

On January 19 2000, 30 NLD members from Khin Oo town, Sagaing Division

On February 1 2000, 27 NLD members from Min Mu town, Sagaing Division

On April 4 2000, 22 NLD members from Pa Lel township, Sagaing township.

On April 6 2000, 15 NLD members from Shwe Bo township, Sagaing Division.

On May 5 2000, 20 NLD members from Taung Twin Gyi township, Mergwe Division.

On May 11 2000, 34 NLD members from Min Bu township, Mergwe Division.

On June 2 2000, 28 NLD members from Duct Gon township, Mandalay Division.

On August 5 2000, 12 NLD members from Gha Bu Daw township, Irrawady Division.

On August 3 2000, 18 NLD members from Nar Rane village, Tan Da Lan township in Chin State.

Between October 6 and 20 2000, 23 NLD members from Lat Ban Than township, Pegu Division.

12.12 No-Confidence and Anti-NLD Motions and Rallies

In 2000 SPDC authorities continued to force people to sign petitions declaring no support for NLD and hold mass rallies to demand dissolution of NLD. The people were enticed with free rice, cooking oil, sugar, and soap to attend these rallies, and in most cases threatened with severe action or fines if they refused. These petitions against the NLD or NLD MP elects, gathered door to door as well as at the rallies were then accepted by township election offices, which by law should have become defunct after the 1990 election results. These offices were then responsible to declare closure of NLD offices after the NLD offices and signboards had been forcefully dismantled by SPDC agents.

Mandatory anti-NLD meetings within the army

In 2000 the SPDC held weekly mandatory anti- NLD meetings within the army. The main objectives of these meetings have been in condemning the NLD along with Daw Aung San

Suu Kyi. On April 4 2000, LIB 255 based at Salin in Magwe Division held an anti-NLD meeting led by Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Zaw Win. These anti-NLD meetings have been ongoing and dated as far as July of 1999 when LIB 326 at Tangyan in Northern Shan State held one. The meetings are conducted in a similar manner all throughout the country. Articles from SPDC's two newspapers "The Mirror" and "The New Light of Myanmar" are read and are forced to be supported by the attendants. Anti-NLD and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sentiment are also promoted through discussions led by Regiment Commanders and high-ranking officials. Such meetings have been taking place not only throughout the army but also with the army families. (Source: AVA)

Anti-NLD motions and signatures

Starting from June 23, 2000, authorities in Syrium township, Rangoon Division gathered signatures for the purpose of proclaiming loss of confidence in Dr. Win Naing, NLD Hluttaw representative for Constituency No 1, Syrium township. Signatures to call for the dissolution of the NLD were also gathered by various methods, including force and forgery, in the following villages: Tha-nat-pin village; Nga-bye-ma village; Pa-ya-gone village tract (Kanyinbin village); Pa-ya-gone village tract (Nat-sin-gone village); Pa-ya-gone village tract (Pa-done-san village); Pa-ya-gone village tract; Pa-ya-gone village tract (The-byu-chaung village); and Pha-gone village, all in Rangoon Division. (Source: NLD)

On July 1, 2000, every house in North Zaing-ga-naing ward (Pegu township, Pegu division) was visited by USDA organizer U Htay Win and members of the ward military authority. Intimidation, coercion and unlawful display of authority was used to force the householders to sign papers denouncing the NLD and calling for its dissolution.

On July 2 in a shopping area in the center of the town, USDA organizer U Soe Myint, other USDA members and the military authorities illegally forced people to sign papers indicating their loss of confidence in the NLD. When a woman at one store expressed her confidence in the NLD and refused to sign she was threatened with withdrawal of her shop's license. Also on July 2, at Myothit (d) ward the authorities prepared a list of everyone over 18 and applied pressure and threats to get their signatures. The next day the same process was conducted by SPDC ward authority chairman U Myint Lwin Soe and his associates in Myothit ward (19). On July 4 in Myothit Ward 1/6 every house was entered by SPDC authority representatives and USDA members for the same purpose. Those who refused were taken to the offices of the administrators and threatened and intimidated. Civil servants were given notice of dismissal. (Source: NLD)

On July 5, 2000 in Hlegu township (Aung-min-gala ward), Rangoon Division SPDC members Ko Kyaw Myint and Ko Kyaw Gaung and Maung Ni got intoxicated and went from house to house forcing people to sign letters against the NLD, threatening them with imprisonment for life and even execution. Ko Saw U of the SPDC village authority also visited every household in the villages copying names from householders' census lists and forcing them to sign. He threatened that if they did not sign they would be called upon to explain themselves. The authorities involved with collecting the signatures were instructed to make the numbers larger than those shown on the electoral roll of the last elections and to submit them to the township USDA. (Source: NLD)

On July 8, 2000, SPDC sent out their agent to villages in Mone Township, Karen State to

register the names of villagers, both men and women, who were 18 and over. They were required to sign their names promising that they would not support NLD if another election was made. The villagers were threatened that severe action would be taken to anyone who does not obey. (Source: KAWU)

In August 2000, the ward and village authorities in the townships of Pakokku and Myaing, Magwe division, went from house to house with papers printed with the words " We demonstrate our desire for the dissolution of the National League for Democracy". Everyone above 18 was forced to sign and were threatened and intimidated. In Myaing township, though the villagers of Hnin-se-kan, Kok-ko-su, Paungde, Kan-swe were opposed to putting their signatures on the papers, they did so out of fear for their lives.

The threats made were:

- 1. Their names would be listed and submitted to the higher authorities,
- 2. They would be arrested and imprisoned,
- 3. Students would not be permitted to continue their schooling,
- 4. Permission to cultivate the land would be revoked.

In the Paung-de village tract the military authorities led the groups that went from house to house collecting signatures. They threatened to accuse those who were reluctant to sign of being rebels and underground operators. (Source: NLD)

As of August 2000, the SPDC was compiling a list of every eligible voter in the Rangoon division in order to get them to sign their names on lists calling for the dissolution of the NLD Township branches in Rangoon Division. This was to be completed before the month of September. The particulars compiled were:

- Name
 - Father's name
 - Head of household
 - Age - date of birth
 - Occupation
 - Address
 - Constituency Number
- (Source: NLD)

Mass Rallies against the NLD

In March 2000, Official newspapers reported more than 111,000 people in Taungtha township rallied at separate sites to express their hostility to the pro-democracy NLD. The newspapers said all those attending the rallies had signed a petition against the party. They said the township, Taungtha, had 118,205 eligible voters.

In April 2000, state controlled media claimed that hundreds of thousands of people had turned out for mass rallies directed against NLD. There were reports that demonstrations in Upper Burma had been staged in Kyaukpadaung and Nahtogyi townships in Mandalay division as well as in neighbouring Ngazun township in Sagaing division. Over 300,000

people in the three townships were said to have attended dozens of meetings in village tracts throughout the area and they were calling for the dissolution of the NLD. Mass meetings in nine delta townships in Irrawaddy division seem to have taken a different tack. More than half a million voters there were reported to have called on their NLD MPs to resign.

From April 2, 2000, every household in the villages in Minhla Township, Pegu Division, was visited by the authorities and leaders of the USDA. All those over 18 were required to give their signatures. Students who had passed the 10th standard or had recently graduated from higher education were told if they refused to sign that job opportunities would be denied to them. Cultivators who arrived at Paddy Purchase Centers to sell their "duty lentils" were required to affix their signatures. Those who refused to do so were threatened with the confiscation of their farmlands. Monthly wages and pensions of civil servants were withheld if they made any objections, and they were further threatened with the loss of their jobs. The authorities and members of the USDA forged signatures of those who refused to sign. The signatures were gathered in preparation for the demonstration on May 10, 2000 against NLD legally elected representatives of constituencies in Pegu Division, Minhla township (both East and West), to denounce and destroy the NLD. (Source: NLD)

In June 2000 in the townships of Aung Lan and Sin-baung-we, Magwe division, shouting demonstrations were staged to dissolve the NLD. The first took place on June 20 in Sin-baung-we town. A similar event was held on June 24, 2000 in the playground in front of the No 1 High School. Prior to these events, the military authorities used the USDA to pressure people and forcefully get their signatures for the demonstration. To get these signatures as quickly as possible, a committee of five was formed in Aung Lan township to summon and talk to dissenters. Those who refused to sign were summoned to the township authorities. Orders were issued for the immediate arrest of dissidents. (Source: NLD)

On June 25, 2000 a function denouncing the NLD as a party with bad doctrines and calling for its dissolution because of a loss of confidence was held and signed petitions were presented in Seitkyi Khanaungtoe township, southern Rangoon Division. (Source: NLD)

On July 4, 2000, Maj-Gen Sit Maung, Commander of Coastal Region Command and chairman of Tenasserim Division PDC arrived in Kawthaung in Tenasserim Division and held talks on matters relating to the dissolution of the NLD among other things. At the meeting, Maj-Gen Sit Maung gave detailed instructions to acquire obligatory service from private coastal passenger vessels and road transport enterprise vehicles to transport villagers from along the coast and villages respectively so that the attendance at the rally to be held in Kawthaung to denounce the NLD would exceed the target of over 10,000 people. He also urged regional security officials to coordinate and work closely with ward administrative personnel and USDA members and form watchdog groups to monitor monasteries, schools and Kawthaung-Ranong [Thailand] border crossings in order to prevent anti-government subversive activities in Kawthaung District. (Source: DVB)

In the first week of July, 2000, the SPDC township authorities of Natmauk (Magwe Division) summoned all the villagers in the township and ordered that shouting demonstrations against the NLD be staged at 9 different locations. The USDA helped obtain signatures from the wards, towns and villages for the said demonstrations. (Source: NLD)

From July 26 to 29 2000, anti NLD rallies were held in Let Ban Chaung village, Mout Lin Township, and Nat Chaung, Tha Si, Kyung Dite, and Aung Tit Sar villages in Monywa

Township, Sagaing Division. The meeting was held by order and threat. Tactical Commander Hla Tun from SPDC also attended the meeting. Anti NLD rallies were staged in various town across Sagaing Division. (Source: Inside Burma)

On July 29, 2000 a demonstration to shout "no-confidence" slogans against the NLD and to demand its dissolution was held at the Phaungyi Central Public Service University and Hlegu A-Hta-Ka School Football field, Rangoon Division. These functions were chaired by Ko Ni, Chairman of the SPDC township authority, and Ko Kyi Aung, USDA Secretary. In the township of Thon-gwa the same kind of preparations were made to demonstrate against the NLD. Every house was visited to collect names and signatures of people over 18 years of age. (Source: NLD)

On August 12, 2000 at 5:00 a.m. a no-confidence rally against the NLD, attended by 300 USDA members, was staged at the Aung San Thuyira Aye Cho Hall. Constituencies 1 and 2 of Twante township, with 276 villages, has a population of over 200,000. Prior to that, on July 23, 2000, USDA ward and village authorities had begun collecting signatures of no-confidence against the NLD, under orders from Dr. Thein Zaw Myint, USDA Secretary, Twante township. Ward and village USDA members, Auxiliary Fire Brigade members and Red Cross members entered every house, asked for the household census list, took down the names of everyone 18 years and older and asked for their signatures. They gave various reasons for this exercise, such as distribution of rice, the Kyauktawgyi Pagoda festival and new elections. Those who were reluctant to sign were told that as this was an order from above and failure to do so would have dire consequences. However, the majority refused to sign. While some maintained that they supported the NLD, others took a neutral position and the rest were indifferent and didn't want to have anything to do with politics. So the task force were only able to get their names and not their signatures. (Source: NLD)

On August 15, 2000, a no-confidence shouting demonstration against the NLD was held in Kaw-hmu township, Rangoon division. Prior to this, on July 29, 2000, a plan was made at the annual general meeting of the USDA between the authorities and USDA members to hold the demonstration. It was decided that members of the USDA would not wear their uniforms while doing their rounds. The following day a meeting of the ward and village authorities was held. They were instructed to get the signatures of everyone 18 years old and above, make a list of those who refused to sign and to make it compulsory for one member of every household to attend the demonstration. Ten-house-headmen, hundred-house-headmen and USDA members in mufti then proceeded to forcibly enter every house and demand names of those over 18. The names were then entered on prepared forms under the title "*Signatures of Kaw-hmu voters who have lost confidence in the National League for Democracy (a party with bad doctrines) and ask for its dissolution*". The residents were then pressured to attend the shouting demonstration on August 2000.(Source: NLD)

Mass Rallies against NLD MP elects

U Kyaw Myint, NLD MP

On January 21, 2000 a no-confidence shouting demonstration was staged against U Kyaw Myint, NLD Member of Parliament for Constituency 1, Magwe township, Magwe Division. The demonstration was held at the Magwe Sports Field and in the Nyaung kan village tract to comply with the wishes of the authorities. (Source: NLD)

U Than Lwin, NLD MP

On March 29, 2000, a "No Confidence" rally was held against U Than Lwin, NLD MP, and Chairman of the NLD township organizing committee of Madaya Township, Mandalay Division. He is an active party member who had just been released from 18 months of imprisonment for his part in the call for convening parliament. At least one member from each household in the township was forced to attend the demonstration. Prior to the demonstration, USDA members and township authorities had obtained, by force or by forgery, signatures from all households in the township. The reason for obtaining signatures was not disclosed and those who refused to sign were told that their names would be listed and submitted to higher authorities. If they did not want to rebel against the SPDC, they were obliged to sign. The USDA members were sent to the villages where residents refused to sign and again threatened them. In the end, they resorted to criminal acts of forgery. U Thn Lwin sent a letter in very strong terms objecting to this demonstration against him to the Madaya administrative authorities, the Elections Commission, the USDA and the NLD. U Than Lwin was then arrested in early May 2000. (Source: NLD)

(See Appendix #2 at the end of this chapter)

Daw May Hnin Kyi and U Bo Hla Tint, NLD MPs

On May 7, 2000 the USDA organized a demonstration to denounce NLD Representatives U Bo Hla Tint and Daw May Hnin Kyi, (Constituency 1 and 2) and for the dissolution of the NLD in Aung-tha-ya Ward, Mogok, Mandalay division. Daw May Hnin Kyi is one of the 15 female members of parliament from NLD who won support in 1990 general elections. The SPDC had been pressuring Daw May Hnin Kyi to resign but when she refused, the SPDC's USDA organized the secession.

Prior to the incident, on May 3, 2000, residents were ordered by the ward authorities to assemble at the Primary School No.(87) at 10:00 a.m. with their household census lists. These lists were collected by members of the USDA, who then copied the particulars from these lists on to printed forms, which they brought with them. One member from each household was made to sign on the dotted line on behalf of all the members of the household. When people questioned why their signatures were required, U Khwa Lone, a member of the USDA, said it was to indicate a loss of confidence in NLD Pyithu Hlutaw, Representatives U Bo Hla Tint and Daw May Hnin Kyi. They were also told that those who did not sign would be listed for the records. Some individuals refused to sign and tore up the papers and their names were taken down by the authorities. USDA members, ward authorities, and others then visited every household, going from door to door, attempting to obtain signatures from everyone 18 years and older. (Source: NLD)

Dr. Win Naing, NLD MP

In May 2000, in Syrium township, Rangoon Division, U Kyin Aye, U Hoke Shwe (members of the administrative authority), U Aung Kyaw Myo (UBSDO member), Daw Myint Myint (Parent and Child Care) and others visited every house in the Township to obtain signatures on prepared forms indicating loss of confidence in Dr. Win Naing (*currently under arrest*) NLD MP elect from Constituency No 1, Syrium township. In order to obtain the signatures, intimidation and deception were used. At the homes of NLD members they visited, they alleged that the signatures were required for a petition on behalf of Dr. Win Naing. At other houses, they applied pressure and forced the people to sign threatening them with arrest and imprisonment. (Source: NLD)

U Tin U and U San Maung, NLD MPs

On May 13, 2000, at the Ah-Hta-Ka school football field and the Aye-mya-tha-ya playing field, there were organized demonstrations against two NLD MP's, U Tin U for Constituency No 1, and U San Maung for Constituency No 2, Pegu Division (West subdivision), Tharrawaddy District, Oak-po township. These demonstrations were organized following a "confidential" document, which U Tin Htwe, Secretary of Oke-po USDA had produced on May 6, 2000. This document called for the implementation of a plan to "demolish" the NLD, and called for negotiation between township authorities and all associations, including NGO associations, to get participation in the demonstrations. The central planning committee for the demonstrations comprised of public service personnel from different departments, administrations and authorities, and USDA members. These persons had been working to collect signatures and organize the event since April 25, 2000. The function cost an estimated 439, 200 kyats, which was taken from the people's own money. (Source:NLD)

U Nyi Pu, NLD MP in Arakan State

On May 31, 2000, the authorities staged a mass meeting in the Gwa town hall with a group of people who were forced and pressured to bring down U Nyi Pu, NLD MP elect of Gwa township, Arakan State. This meeting was organized and stage-managed by the Military Intelligence and the authorities at every level in the township administrative department, the police department, the Union Solidarity and Development Association, the Fire Brigade and the Red Cross Association. They visited every house in the wards and villages, threatening, coercing, cajoling and pressuring the people to put their signatures to papers. The outlying villages were visited ten days prior to the meeting while those households in the town were visited one day ahead. They were told that attendance at the meeting was compulsory. Failure to attend would result in punishment. Those who asked questions were treated like enemies. When Daw Win Kyi (U Nyi Pu's wife) refused to sign the paper, the Ward headman said "you will not be arrested now because your child is very young, but as soon as he is old enough we will immediately arrest and imprison you."

The speeches given at that meeting were unrestrained, void of embarrassment by feelings of respect or delicacy. Abusive, scathing and violent remarks to hurt the MP elect and the leaders of the NLD caused some of the audience to shudder and squirm. Attempts to walk out caused a disturbance because the doors were locked and guarded by the MI, the police, USDA , Fire Brigade and Red Cross members who hurled abuse at them. (Source: NLD)

U Myint Thein, NLD MP

On June 5, 2000 at Chauk township, Magwe division, a shouting demonstration was staged against NLD Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Myint Thein and for the closing down of the NLD. An organizing committee comprised of township USDA members, township SPDC authorities, and township election commission representatives had been formed for this specific purpose. (Source: NLD)

U Tha Aung, NLD MP

On June 15, 2000 a no-confidence shouting demonstration was staged against U Tha Aung, NLD MP for Constituency 1 of Myothit township, Magwe division. Prior to the event, during the months of March, April and May 2000, USDA members, administrative authorities, police, civil servants and members of other organizations collected signatures

on prepared forms by visiting every house in the wards and villages of Myothit township. There was compulsory attendance by 2 to 3 members of every family and the penalty for default was kyats 500/-. (Source: NLD)

12.13 Measures to restrict NLD gatherings

NLD prohibited from holding committee meeting

On March 6, 2000 members of the New Dagon Township, Rangoon Division NLD organizing committee were summoned by local authorities and prohibited from holding a committee meeting, using defunct laws. Following a written notice to the Chairman of the New Dagon township General Elections Commission and the Township PDC which informed them of the NLD meeting, U Thouny Nyunt (Chairman), Dr. Myo Aung (Secretary) and Daw Hla Hla (Treasurer and owner of the NLD office premises at New Dagon township) were summoned for discussions. The chairman of the General Elections Commission said that though the NLD was a duly registered political organization, since martial law was in force, permission for holding meetings had to be obtained. Evidently, the speaker and his party intended to instill fear or were ignorant of the fact that martial law had been withdrawn on 26 May 1990 by SLORC 's Order 12/90. The Chairman went on to say that of those members that were registered in 1991 only one remained on the list and that since the branch had not submitted the list of the remaining members, they were not valid. There is nothing in the Political Parties Registration Law regarding such matters. The authorities have acted unlawfully in denying the party the right to hold their meeting and threatening to take action against them should there be an assembly at the office on March 7th. (Source: NLD)

Shan Leaders "Invited" To Government Guesthouse On Election Anniversary

On May 27 2000, 3 Shan leaders were detained throughout the day during the 10th anniversary of the 1990 elections, and prevented from attending celebrations at the NLD compound. The three leaders were; Khun Htoon Oo, President of Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD), Sai Nood a.k.a. Sai Nyunt Lwin, General Secretary of the SNLD and Shwe Ohn, ex-Shan People's Freedom League leader and author of the popular political essay, "Towards the Third Union of Burma". They were "invited" to one of the government guesthouses in Rangoon, early in the morning of May 27 as they were preparing to participate in the 10th anniversary celebrations held at the compound of Aung San Suu Kyi. At the government guesthouses, the three were treated to lunch and dinner and a series of diatribes against Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD all day long. They were driven back home in the evening. (Source: SHAN)

Roadblocks around NLD Headquarters

On several occasions throughout the year 2000, the SPDC set up military intelligence and police manned roadblocks in front of the NLD headquarters in Rangoon. Such roadblocks occurred on all the days significant to the NLD, such as the 10th anniversary of the 1990 elections on May 27, and the 12th anniversary of the founding of the NLD on September 27 2000. These roadblocks were an attempt to hinder these NLD gatherings. (See chapter on the freedom of movement)

12.14 Guest Lists and Restrictions on Public gatherings enforced

On September 5, 2000, British Ambassador to Myanmar, John Jenkins, was told by a plainclothes police officer not to enter the office of the NLD. The government was irked by his attempt the same weekend to visit the house of NLD deputy chairman Tin Oo. A government statement issued on the 5th said Jenkins had overstepped "universal diplomatic norms." "It is difficult to understand why a foreign ambassador was so adamant to intrude into the internal affairs of an independent and sovereign nation," it said.

Enforcement of guest lists in Loikaw, Karenni State

The Loikaw city authorities, USDA, police and troops have been jointly making rounds to every house in the city when the news comes out that the SPDC Secretary 1, Lt.-Gen Khin Nyunt will visit the state. At this time, all families have to register their 3-4 year-old child at the ward office as a guest. If they fail to do so, they are asked to pay a fine of 500 kyat. Families that are unable afford this amount are put in jail by the authorities for seven days with hard labor. When the authorities and troops enter houses where they suspect someone is hiding, they say, "we heard there's some illegal properties here and we need to search" and kick open the door. They then shut the door and question about matters irrelevant to the people in the houses. If they don't find anything, they demand money for their work. In the second week of February a villager took her sick brother to a friend's house in the city for medical care at the Loikaw hospital. The two arrived in the city around 01:00 AM, and decided to report to the ward office the following morning, as it was too late at night to report then. Unexpectedly, the ward authorities and polices suddenly appeared and checked for guests. They asked the friend to go with them to the office, and demanded a fine of 1,500 kyat for failing to report the guests right away. The friend was released after paying the demand. This is very common in Loikaw City. (Source: KNAHR)

Villagers in Paung Township, Mon State restricted from gathering for Buddhist celebration

For the 2000 "Thadin-jyunt" full moon celebrations on October 12, which marks the end of the Buddhist lent and is culturally and religiously significant for the Buddhist majority community, there was an unusually few number of people able to attend the celebrations. This was due to an order which had been issued by the Paung township PDC to prevent the villagers from gathering and discussing with one another, and the presence of the township officials, who had been keeping an eye on the public. (Source: HURFOM)

12.15 Restrictions on political involvement and contact with opposition groups

Anti-Insurgency Public Rallies in Southern Shan State

On January 5, 2000, an anti-insurgency rally was held at Tonpheung Village, Poongpakhem Tract, Mongton Township, Monghsat District, Shan State. Among the speakers were government civil servants, retired military men and "hand picked" local villagers including Ms. Zingpwint, a Shan primary school teacher. The people at the

gathering were asked how they liked the rebels destroying everything the military in cooperation with the people had achieved. The people had no choice but to answer in unison that they did not, although few understood what was spoken. Each household in the surrounding area was forced to send one of its members to attend the event under threat of a 5,000 kyat fine for each absentee. Another rally was also decided upon at the 9 January meeting at Mongtaw, a town taken from Khun Sa after his surrender in early 1996. (Source: SHAN)

Villagers threatened against association with ethnic insurgency groups

On June 29, 2000, the commander of the 99th battalion assembled the headmen from every village for a meeting in Ham Ngai base, Murng Kerng township, Shan State. He ordered and forced every headman to sign their names on a document which read, "From now on, in the villages and everywhere in the area, there have to be no SSA troops. After signing this document, if a battle breaks out with SSA, without us first getting news of them or if they catch sight of SSA's mobile camps in the jungle and if that area is near to headman's village, that headman will be punished heavily and the villages will be burned down or relocated to other places." The village headmen from Ham Ngai, Wan Mong, Parng Neu, Murng Kerng township have no choice but to obey the order. (Source: SSA)

On August 26, 2000, LIB 563 led by 2nd Battalion Commander Maj. Htun Htun Oo entered Mazaw village, Mergui District, Tenasserim Division, and ordered the villagers to call back their relatives who work in resistance forces. The commander threatened the villagers that if no-one returned, that the villagers would face more restrictions. (Source: KNU Mergui-Tavoy)

On December 10, 2000, the village chairman of Kwan-Hla village in Mudon Township, Mon State, U Weak, was asked by LIB 62 to make the list of NMSP members residing in the area. The NMSP reached ceasefire agreement with the military junta a few years ago. LIB 62 gave no reason why it wanted to make the list. (Source: Yoma3)

Contact between army and politicians banned

On December 23, 2000, the SPDC War Office issued a special internal announcement intended for its military officers. The announcement prohibits currently serving military officers from having any contact with veteran politicians who once fought for Burma's independence, former military officers who belong to the NLD party, and any retired military officer who was once connected with politics one way or another. It stated any officer who violates the prohibition will be dismissed from his position and will also face severe consequences. The order also cited that contacts with veteran politicians and retired senior military officers could cause undesirable internal problems in the army. The order was signed by SPDC Chairman Sen Gen Than Shwe himself. The announcement also affirmed that no officer for any reason must contact the veteran politicians who participated in the struggle for Burma's independence in various capacities.

According to reports received by DVB, the special announcement was issued because some military officers came back with different views and opinions after knowing the true historical facts following meetings with the veteran politicians.

According to an unidentified police officer, this announcement was sent not only to the armed forces but also to the police, township Peace and Development Councils, and Customs and General Administration Departments. Current in-service civil officers are also

directed not to have any contact with persons who are directly or indirectly involved with politics. (Source: DVB)

People forced to attend pro-military events and rallies

On May 9, 2000, people in Tachilek township were forced to wear their traditional costumes and wait all morning along the main road from the airport to the town in order to greet General Maung Aye, Vice Chairman of the SPDC, and his entourage when they arrived from Rangoon that afternoon. Starting at 6:00 a.m. that day, people from villages along the road from town to the airport and all the townspeople of Ta-Khi-Laek town had to wear their different traditional costumes and stand in wait along the airport-town road through which Gen. Maung Aye would be coming. As the time went on and the day got hotter, people began to suffer from the heat and hunger as many had not eaten anything that morning, thinking that the General would arrive early. However, they were not allowed to leave their spots by the members of the USDA overseeing the event and were forced to stand in the sun until 1:00 p.m., when Gen. Maung Aye arrived. When the guests arrived, the people had to stand quietly with their hands in front of them, palms together in a position of respect, as they went by. (Source: SHRF)

On July 10, 2000, SPDC troops forced villagers to go to Kyawk Kyi Town, Kyaukkyi Township, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State in order to participate in a demonstration of the "people's desire". 20,000 people attend the demonstration. (Source: KIC, KAWU)

In the Annual meeting of the USDA on August 18, 2000, Major General Myo Hla, vice-commander in chief of South East Command, ordered that one person from each village in Mudon Township must attend a USDA training that was to be held on August 21 2000. Over 300 members of USDA attended the Annual USDA meeting in Mon State, a small number considering Major General Myo Hal claim that there are 990,000 members in Mon State. (Source: YOMA 3)

Villagers forced to form "Anti-Insurgency Forces"

Beginning in June 2000, LIB No. 273 and No. 282 went to many main villages in the Yebyu township area and called meetings with headmen from all villages in each village tract. The village headmen were then required to cooperate with the battalions in forming and an "Anti-Insurgency Force" (village militia) to fight any rebel forces and prevent them from entering the village areas.

On June 1, 2000, they officially formed a village tract militia force with 30 members in Kwe-tho-nyima village tract, which consists of 6 villages. (Kwe-tho-nyima, Chaung-phar, Thaung-kun, Chabon, Mae-taw and Chattaw) Then in July, LIB No. 282 moved to Mintha village tract and forced the village headmen to form a militia force with 30 members. In this village tract, there are about 7 villages, and army took only selected villagers who were under their firm control. At the beginning of August, LIB No. 282 went to Yapu village tract and formed a military force with 26 members. In this village tract, there are six villages. (Yapu, Yapu-ywathit, Law-thaing, Kwetalin, Kyaukadin and Aleskan)

When they formed the militia forces, they also equipped them with arms or weapons such as AK-47, M-16, G-3, G-4 and M-79 and additionally trained them how to use these guns and equipment. All these militia forces are under supervision of village tract chairmen and

all chairmen are also under the command of the concerned SPDC battalion commander. At the moment, all of these militia forces are under the command of LIB No. 282 commander forces are under the command of LIB No. 282 commander and open respective Anti-Insurgency Force in each main village of village tract. The commander also instructed to headmen and villagers that they must take responsibility to pay 10, 000 kyat salary to each militiaman for their service protecting the villages and the headmen need to collect from villagers every month. (Source: HURFOM)

Business men forced to search for rebel documents or prohibited from travel

In Kauthong, the combined task force of Military intelligence (19), SB, Custom, Immigration, police, and Border Security Group summoned all fishing- owners, boatmen, and merchants. The combined task force made those people required to find rebels' news paper, documents and handouts. The authorities insisted that any of those people who would go to Ranong to sell their products, were to find any of the above documents and if one failed to do so, he would be barred to go to Ranong again and even worse, he could be charged for illegal smuggling of Burmese goods.

U Myint Maung was the first in line. He couldn't bring the documents back to the Burmese authorities and therefore, his two fishing boats were barred to cross the border again. Even though U Myint Maung bribed 50,000 kyats to the authorities, his boats were still prohibited to go across for two months. The Burmese authorities' act made the business men to desperately search for rebels' papers. (Source: Yoma3)

Forced to attend military training

In mid 2000, ex-serviceman under control of the SPDC ordered 3 people from each township in Sagaing Division and Chin State to attend special military training courses in Monroa military camp, Sagaing Division. They divided into three groups for training. The first training was held from August 7 to August 30, 2000, the second from September 4 to September 22, and the third from October 2 to October 20. During the training, no-one was allowed to leave the camp, and the trainers also gave a speech in which they said, "we should kill Aung San Suu Kyi instead of condemn her." The trainers were Colonel Tun Nyo, Lt. Colonel Than Nynut and Lt. Colonel Khin Maung Than. (Source: Inside Burma)

12. 16 The Union Solidarity and Development Association

The Union Solidarity and Development Organization (USDA) was formed on September 15 1993, about 2 weeks after the announcement to hold a national convention to write a new constitution. The USDA is registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs, and although it is not a political party, some claim that it was created to rival the opposition National League for Democracy in terms of popular support. The USDA mandate is to support the activities and policies of the military, and as the junta has been trying to raise its profile as the true representative of the Burmese people. Membership in the USDA is virtually compulsory for school children, civil servants and anyone seeking the favor of the generals.

The organization claims that membership is voluntary, and that the purpose of the association is essentially social, yet even at the basic and middle school levels, students are pressured to become members. This pressure includes the incentive that if the students have fulfilled their "social" requirements, they receive extra marks on their final examination and

recommendations from their schoolteachers. One of the mandatory school fees in 2000 was the 50 kyat USDA membership fee. Members of all ages are given socially and economically desirable incentives for joining. USDA members have the privilege of attending vocational, language, management and other courses, and the organization has significant community development and educational offerings to attract membership.

The organization claims to be non-political, and members are required to stay away from party politics, yet since its formation the USDA has been directly involved in opposing the NLD, and recently has been involved in organizing events to call for the abolishment of the NLD. USDA members, along with the police and MIS forces have been actively involved in pressuring NLD members to resign, and in coercing or often forcing the populace to sign papers stating their "loss of trust" in the NLD, the CRPP, and/or certain elected MPs. In another disturbing trend, portraying how the USDA has become more openly tied to the military and its power, USDA members and leaders have been increasingly involved in the arbitrary arrests of those suspected to be in opposition to the regime, going along with SPDC and MIS agents, or even sometimes alone. The USDA has also achieved the power status which enables members and leaders to call upon the populace to "contribute" their labor for free. USDA involvement in forced labor has been especially notable over the last 2 years.

The USDA claims further to be fully supported by their own businesses, such as the Myan-Gon-Myint Group of Companies. Yet the organization does receive support, both direct and indirect from the military regime, the military is its patron. Its is fully backed by the regime, and in contrast to attacks on the NLD, the military's 'New Light of Myanmar' consistently praises the USDA. On September 16 2000, Senior General Than Shwe addressed the USDA annual general meeting and praised it as "*a reliable force, serving the historic duty of undertaking tasks in line with our three main national causes...*" When Lt.-Gen. Win Myint flew into Beijing on October 25, he was greeted not by his title as a senior member of the SPDC, but as vice-president of the USDA. China is the only country to have recognized and forged party-to-party ties with the USDA.

The close ties that the USDA shares with the regime, and its role as the only truly 'social organization' has led to the observation that the organization may have been modeled after Golkar, which had been a military sponsored social organization before it was converted into Indonesia's former ruling party under Suharto. Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt has said specifically that he admired Indonesian "stability."

The tight relationship between the SPDC and USDA can further be seen through the power sharing and privilege that comes to USDA members. In the past, former BSPP members were appointed by SPDC authorities as Township PDC authorities, a position of high power. This has now been changed as it is now, in large, people with USDA connections that are appointed to these prestigious posts.

The organization has state and division, district, township, and ward and village-tract branches. In the annual general USDA meeting in September 2000 the organization claimed to have more than 14 million members. This number was reported to be only 5 million, or 12% of the population in 1999.

Pressure to join the USDA

On February 2 2000, the USDA of No 4 Ward, South Okkalapa township of Rangoon division held a meeting in the office of the ward PDC, led by Secretary U Mya Naing. The aim of the meeting was to formulate strategy to annihilate the NLD, especially the NLD in Rangoon Division. It was decided that every single house must be visited and their membership to the USDA obtained, even those who may have gone to the districts. Following the meeting, South Okkalapa USDA members accompanied by PDC members began knocking on every door in the township and recruiting members to their organization through various means of seduction, induction and enticement. In many wards, they demanded to see the household list, and made notes or took the list away with them. In other wards, Immigration and Manpower Department personnel accompanied the USDA members and pretended to be preparing the census for the year 2000. In addition, pressure was applied to every adult individual listed in the household census to sign the USDA membership form and supply 3 copies of their photographs, which cost kyats 200. The cost for a family with more than one member is heavy and is causing great hardship at a time when the cost of living is so high. (Source: NLD)

USDA involved in a riot suppression training course

Beginning in mid 2000, a training course called 'Union Solidarity and Development Training' was held in several Rangoon Division townships, including Thakayta , South Okkalar , North Okkalar, Thingunyun , Dawpon, Latha , and Lammadaw. The training courses were conducted in part by the MIS from MI # 6 and other sponsors. The trainees from the Myanmar Red Cross, the Fire Brigade , USDA and the Rangoon area police force were taught methods with which to suppress riots. (Source: Inside Burma)

Census taken in Mon State to determine USDA members

On October 23, 2000, the USDA in Paung Township took a census of every village and then conscripted the families who hadn't yet become members of SPDC sub-associations. Moreover, the USDA in Paung village tract has been keeping an eye on illegal youth associations, and pressure on young people to join SPDC sponsored and approved social organizations. (Source: HURFOM)

12. 17 Other Social Organizations in Burma

People in Burma are only allowed to associate with social organizations approved by, and under the control of the SPDC. In addition to the USDA, the government backs the following organizations, and pressures the population to join them. The Myanmar Medical Association (MMA), Myanmar Red Cross (MRC), Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) , Myanmar Anti-Narcotic Association, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Parent Teacher Associations, Women's Welfare Association and the Myanmar Nurses Association (MNA) are included in this approved list of organizations. The extent to which these organizations, which are located at township levels across the country, are dominated by the SPDC varies. However, these organizations are generally led by senior officials with military backgrounds, or the wives of senior officials, military officers, or USDA members, as is often the case with the chairpersons of the local MMCWA. Members of these organizations are expected to participate in pro-military and USDA rallies, or anti-opposition rallies, and often the political agendas of the regime have more precedence in the organization than the actual social issues the organizations are supposed to address. A

select number of local NGOs, mostly religious and church-backed organizations, are able to operate limited social programs. However, SPDC laws confine them to religious activities. These organizations are not allowed to be registered as Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Burma, and are instead under the Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs. This non-NGO status limits overseas funding or ability to conduct in-country training with foreign experts. These programs are also under the constant surveillance of the SPDC and the SPDC backed social organizations. For the most part, individuals in SPDC controlled areas of Burma who desire to work for their communities have no alternative but to join government sanctioned organizations.

Even International Non-governmental Organization (INGOs) are subjected to the control of the SPDC and have their freedom of association infringed upon. In order for INGOs to operate programs inside Burma, they must obtain *Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)* from top generals in the SPDC (an exception is the INGOs which are in Arakan State under the UNHCR mandate for the Rohingya repatriation.) One of the items in these 'MOUs' is that "its (NGO) representatives and personnel shall not interfere with the political and religious affairs of Myanmar and shall abide by the laws and regulations of Myanmar." As most INGOs do not wish to jeopardize their programs, they instruct their staff to avoid activities that would put them in disfavor with the junta, including association with the NLD or INGOs working for Burmese people in other countries, which are often associated with the democratic opposition.

Appendix #1

Order 2/88

- (a) no one, without proper authorization, is permitted to travel on the street between 20.00 and 04.00 *
- (b) gathering, walking, marching in processions, chanting slogans, delivering speeches, agitating, and creating disturbances on the streets by a group of five or more people is banned regardless of whether the act is with the intention of creating disturbances or of something committing crime or not;
- (c) no one is permitted to open strike centers regardless of whether or not the intent is to cause disturbances or of committing a crime or not;
- (d) no one is permitted to block roads or to demonstrate en masse;
- (e) no one is to interfere with or to obstruct people carrying out security duties.

* Section (a) of this Order was repealed in April 1992, when General Than Shwe came to power. But the other sections remain in place.

Appendix #2

1908 (1957) Unlawful Association Act

"Unlawful association" means an association –

- a. which encourages or aids persons to commit acts of violence or intimidation or of which members habitually commit such acts, or
- b. which has been declared to be unlawful by the President of the Union under the powers hereby conferred.

17.1 Whoever is a member of an unlawful association or takes part in meetings of any such association or contributes or receives or solicits contributions for any such association, or in any way assists the operations of any such operation, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not less than two years and not more than three years.

Appendix #3

Order 1/90

"action will be taken against all those who fail to report people illegally residing in their homes..."

Appendix #4

Order 1/91

- 3a. ...public service personnel must not engage in any party politics. They must not provide financial assistance to or support by other means any political party
- 3b. They must not be a member of any political organization.
- 3c. They must prohibit their dependants or persons under their guardianship from taking direct or indirect part in activities that are aimed at opposing the government.
- 3d. They must not be party to any labor association, organization, union, and other like bodies not formed in accordance with the rules occasionally announced and prescribed by the government...

Appendix #5

Declaration 5/96

(This declaration has been used by the SPDC to persecute members of the NLD. It was drawn by the SPDC military strategic department to protect the drafting of the constitution by the National Convention. See further description of this law on p. in the Chapter on the Freedom of Opinion, Expression, and the Press)

Article (3), Section (2) of this declaration states that, " . . . if any people (or) any organization breach a restriction directly or indirectly, a 5-20 prison sentence may be sentenced . . ." and further that "if any organization be declared an outlaw organization, action will be taken against the members of that organization and possessions of the organization will be confiscated as state finance."

Appendix #6 - Sample of 'Withdrawal of Support for NLD' form

6 April 2000

Form

By signing this we are indicating our withdrawal of support for the aboveground insurgent organization (NLD) and desire its dissolution.

Mandalay division , township,ward/village tract, village.

Name of head of household, name, father's name, national registration number, date of birth, address, signature.

Appendix #7 New Light of Myanmar article concerning U Than Lwin

NLM: ACTION TAKEN AGAINST U THAN LWIN AND OTHER THREE OF NLD FOR MAKING CONCOCTED ACCUSATIONS, GIVING AGITATIVE TALKS

YANGON, 4 May-Authorities have taken action against U Than Lwin, an ex-representative-elect of National League for Democracy of Madaya Township, Mandalay Division, in accord with the law for writing and distributing letters of concocted accusations and giving agitative talks in some villages.

Voters of Madaya Township have already presented signed petitions expressing confidence in U Than Lwin on 30 March at Kyauksayit and Shinhla (North) villages in the township, openly declaring their withdrawal of support on him as a representative-elect. The ceremonies were attended by over 8,700 voters and the people of 39 villages. The delegates of the people and the voters had already presented the petitions signed by 41,390 voters or 99.01 per cent of the voters expressing no confidence in U Than Lwin to members of the Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commission.

Concerning the matter, U Than Lwin was not satisfied with the authorities and Union Solidarity and Development Association of the township and distributed letters of accusations, saying that the authorities had made threats that any villager who failed to sign the petition will be fined K 500 or be ordered to dig five pits of earth, to Madaya Township Peace and Development Council, Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission, Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commission and USDA offices. In addition to such acts, he toured Wayindok, Pwetainggeaw, Sinttaingkan, Kyauktada, Lekawgyi, Taungtanga, Panya and Shwetachaung villages in the township and gave instigative talks to the villagers. The authorities had had to call in U Than Lwin for inquiry as the villagers filed a complaint on him as they disliked his agitative talks.

U Than Lwin could not present firm evidence concerning his accusations and agitative talks; moreover, he confessed that he had made fabrications based on rumors as he was displeased with the ceremonies to express no confidence in him. Legal action is being taken against U Than Lwin, U Kyaw Shwe, U Nyein Maung and U Tin Aung Lay for breaching the existing laws, such as, launching fabricated accusations on township organizations, making instigation s to threaten peace and stability by spreading rumors in trying to mislead the people and illegally organizing villagers without seeking permission of the respective local authorities.

* * * * *

Appendix #8

<u>Permit for a guest to sleep</u>		Date: <u>xx-9-2000</u>
Name:	Pa aaaa	
Age:	xx years	
Address:	xxxx [village]	
Host house:	Maung bbbb	
		[Sd.]
		Chairperson
		yyyy village
<p><i>[In Burma no one is allowed to have a visitor without first clearing it with the authorities, or the host family and the guest can be summarily arrested and detained or sent away as porters. In this case, even though the guest is a known village head he needs a pass to stay in a friend's house when visiting another village.]</i></p>		

(Source: KHRG)

13. The Freedom of Movement

13.1 Background

Throughout the year 2000 the SPDC continued to interfere in and monitor the movement of people in Burma. Through its extensive intelligence network and administrative procedure, the SPDC systematically monitors the travel of all citizens, especially the movements of politically active people in the country. All residents in Burma are required to carry national identity cards, showing the citizenship status, normal place of residence, date of birth, name of father, and so on. In 1990 these cards were also required to describe the holders' ethnicity and religion. All residents and citizens of Burma are required to apply for these cards, with the exception of the Muslim Rohingya minority, who are not considered as citizens by the government. (see chapter on minority rights for further information) As possession of these national identity cards is mandatory in order to buy train or bus tickets, to register with a local council outside one's normal place of residence, to vote in any future election, or to enroll in institutions of higher learning, those without such cards face severe restrictions on their freedom of movement and liberty as human beings.

Citizens with proper identification are able to travel freely within the country except for limitations in areas of ethnic armed activity. However, there is the requirement that any person who spends the night at a place other than his registered domicile must inform the police in advance, and that any household that hosts a person not domiciled there must submit to the police a guest list. The name of the overnight guests must be reported to and registered with the local authorities. SPDC's Order 1/90 on May 22, 1990 said *"action will be taken against all those who fail to report people illegally residing in their home."* (See the chapter on freedom of assembly and association for more on this law) Authorities sometimes enter homes during night hours to check registration documents of occupants as a form of monitoring personal movements. Security forces also commonly search private premises and other property without warrants in other contexts. Curfews have also been enforced in parts of Burma.

For the general population, modes of long distance transport within Burma remained restricted to bus, train and boat. It was reported by the KNAHR that in Karenni State, air travel for civilians is not available as all air tickets are reserved for military and civil service officials only. Ten seats are reserved for military officials and all others are for civil service officials. KNAHR further reported that occasionally it is possible to buy a plane ticket by bribing a military official, although it is likely the price for the ticket will be double. This situation is not restricted to Karenni State, however, and it can be said that for financial, or other reasons, travel by air is not experienced by the majority of people in Burma.

Leaving the country (legally) requires the possession of specific government authorization, which it is extremely difficult to obtain. The SPDC carefully scrutinizes prospective travel abroad. This produces rampant corruption as many applicants are forced to pay large bribes to obtain passports to which they are otherwise entitled. The official board that reviews passport applications denies in some cases apparently on political ground. All college and higher education graduates who obtain passport (except for certain government employees) are required to pay a specific education clearance fee to reimburse the government. The authorities on occasion restrict the issuance of passports to young

women applicants seeking work abroad, reportedly to prevent young women from being enticed to travel abroad for jobs that are in fact in the commercial sex industry. Burmese citizens are required to return their passports to the authorities each time they re-enter the country; a passport application must be submitted each time they want to travel outside the country.

Government servants, in general, are required to obtain advance permission before meeting with foreigners. Military intelligence continues frequently to monitor the movements of foreigners and to question citizens about conversations with foreigners. Burmese embassies abroad issue tourist visas, valid for one month, however, select categories of applicants, such as foreign human rights advocates, journalists and political figures, continue to be denied entry visas unless traveling under the agency of a sponsor acceptable to the SPDC, and for purpose approved by the authorities. Although some areas of the country remain closed to foreigners for security reasons, the authorities permit travel to most other destinations. Rangoon-based diplomats generally must apply ten days in advance for travel outside the capital.

The SPDC, as part of its year 2000 campaign to destroy the NLD, stepped up its movement restrictions against the political party and its members. Most notable was the 9 day period during which Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her party were prevented from traveling to meet with party members, and the later date when Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and party members were prevented from travelling by train to Mandalay and subsequently arrested. The SPDC also continued to use the 1961 Habitual Offenders Restrictions Act, which precludes members of political parties from leaving their localities or their houses without prior permission from the authorities. If the politicians break this law, they risk arrest and interrogation by the police or military intelligence agents. A number of NLD elected representatives have been arrested or charged under this act, which was intended to be applied only to restrict the movement of habitual offenders of the law.

13.2 Roadblocks, curfews, and guest lists in SPDC controlled areas

Roadblocks and checkpoints in Conflict areas

Travel within the country, the majority of which is under SPDC control continues to be monitored and numerous checkpoints exist along all major travel-routes. In areas of conflict, the number of these checkpoints increases dramatically, and there have been incidents where checkpoint officials have forced passengers with torn or tattered ID cards to pay large fines. During military operations or times of military insecurity, more checkpoints are opened and roads are often blocked off.

Roadblocks around NLD headquarters and NLD residences in Rangoon

On May 27 2000, barricades were erected in front of the NLD headquarters in Rangoon to bar non NLD members from entering the building for the 10th anniversary of the 1990 NLD election victory. Riot police surrounded the party headquarters, and screened anyone approaching the barricades. Although diplomats and journalists were invited to the ceremonies, police were only allowing NLD members into party headquarters. The

authorities also illegally blocked access to nearby roads on that day thus denying the public the right to motor traffic and walking. Entry was allowed only to holders of NLD cards and national registration cards which was strictly checked by the authorities.

From September 2 to 14, 2000, following the return of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the other NLD members from the 9 day stand-off in Dala, (see below) about 10 policemen blocked the gate of the NLD headquarters in Yangon, maintained a cordon around the building, and prepared barriers for road blocks but did not seal off the road leading to the building. Other police forces were deployed in the area. They did not appear to be armed, but police with riot gear and shields were visible behind the scenes. During this time, the authorities also blocked access to the Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the other NLD leaders who were held under virtual house arrest.

On September 7 2000, residents reported that security forces had parked vans, cars and motorcycles on both ends of the street leading to Aung San Suu Kyi's house. Her neighborhood is typically blocked off to reporters and diplomats.

On September 16 2000, military authorities blocked the road to the NLD headquarters, two days after announcing the easing of tough restrictions against the party led by Aung San Suu Kyi. Traffic police and plainclothes intelligence officers manned road blocks marked by 'no entry' signs on the approaches to the two-story NLD office in downtown Yangon, where the party planned had planned to hold a meeting. Officials said the meeting would be allowed to go ahead, but only party members could attend. It commemorates the second anniversary of the CRPP. Diplomats, reporters and veteran politicians of the struggle for independence, who were all invited to the meeting, were not be allowed in.

On September 27 2000, MIS and police manned roadblocks closing off the road in front of NLD headquarters in Rangoon to prevent any celebrations marking the NLD's 12th anniversary, even though Aung San Suu Kyi and other NLD leaders were under de facto house arrest. They also patrolled the area and forced traffic entering and leaving the capital to detour around the street where NLD headquarters is located. NLD members were not allowed entry to their party headquarters.

Enforcement of Guest Lists

In late March and April 2000, additional security was enforced in Northern Shan State due to the SPDC Ministers' visit led by General Maung Aye and Lieutenant General Tin Oo which began on March 27 2000. Security was placed in all major townships and the towns along the Ministers' trip route, and surprise visitor checks were conducted in each household.. The delegation visited several cities in Northern Shan State such as Lashio, Nampawng, Muse, Kutkai, Lauhkai, Namkhan, Hsenwi, Namphakha, Kowngian and Tashwehtan. (Source: Ava News)

Curfews

In mid 2000 SPDC regional command issued a new curfew order in Loikaw City, the capital of Karenni State. The curfew dictated that no resident would be allowed on the streets between 21:00 – 04:00. It further clarified that those found violating the curfew would be shot on the spot without questions. The police and troops are guarding every street-corner and checking all travelers to insure they are not rebel supporters, robbers, rapists or drug traffickers. (Source: KNAHR)

On October 11 2000, SPDC local authorities in Paung town, Mon State issued an order that prohibited citizens from crossing the local railroad between 6 PM and 6 AM. Local authorities also reminded the people that if they were seen crossing the railway, that they would be shot to death without question. The majority inhabitants in that around area live off cultivation crops, and as their cultivation fields are located west of the railway, they have been encountering many difficulties to get to their farmlands. (Source: HURFOM)

13.3 Restrictions on the movement of villagers in border conflict areas

In areas of ethnic insurgency, there are often severe restrictions placed upon movement. In "brown" or "black" areas, people wishing to leave their village often must obtain a permission slip from local officials before they can go out to tend their farms, or travel. In These permission slips are usually only obtained if a "fee" is paid. In relocation sites, people are often not allowed to return to their land, as they have been warned that anyone moving about in their former fields and towns will be shot on site. In addition, it is common for the army to burn houses and place landmines in the former fields and towns of relocated people to further prevent them from returning.

Restrictions of Movement in Toungoo District, Karen State

Villagers in the "Nyein Chan Yay" ("*peace*") villages under SPDC control are required to get letters of recommendation whenever they want to go out of the village. These are usually written by the village headman who has been given a stamp by the local military unit, however in some places it is the soldiers who write the letters. Each letter costs 50 kyat. The money is collected by the village headman and sometimes put into a fund to be used for the village. In Kler Lah Relocation Site, the letters allow the villagers to go back to work in their fields; however, many of their fields are two or more hours away and the passes are usually only good for one day, or at best a few days. This has a direct effect on their crops, because the amount of time to plant large plots or to properly care for their crops is severely restricted. The time the villagers can spend in their fields is further limited by all the time they have to spend doing forced labour, or doing local wage labor just to raise money to pay all the SPDC extortion fees. However, the Kler Lah villagers are usually allowed to go to Pa Leh Wah and Toungoo to buy rice, trade goods and to go to the hospital. The permit for this is 250 kyat, exclusive of the car fare and any other 'fees' along the way. (Source: KHRG)

Passes required to travel outside of villages

On May 22, 2000, Company commander Sann Win from SPDC LIB 357, issued an order that any villager in Tha-ton Township, Tha-ton District, Karen State, going out of their village must get a pass from him. The fee for the pass for one day was 20 kyat. The fee for staying out one night outside of the village was 500 kyat. (Source: KIC)

At the end of October 2000, LIB No.299, based in southern part of Ye Township, ordered all villages in the area to build fences around their villages by the first week of November. About 10 villages, small and large, such as Khaw-za, Kha-pya, Yinye, Yin-dein, Hangan, Kalort and Kaw-hlaing, were affected by this order. The order was given to prevent Mon

armed groups from entering the villages at the end of the rainy season and asking for taxes and food. In addition to fencing the villages, the army made some restrictions against the villagers. They prohibited all villagers from staying at their farms at night and from keeping extra foods in their farms. They also commanded that the villagers would be required to take permission letters from their village headman whenever they went to their farms or fruit plantations. They were threatened that if they did not have the required letters of permission that they could be accused of being rebel-supporters. (Source: HURFOM)

Examples of villagers prohibited from leaving their villages in conflict areas

In April 2000 villagers in Yebyu Township, Mon State were prohibited from leaving their villages, even to work on their farms. This restriction came in retaliation to a Mon National Day celebration which had been held in Paun-Pin-Gwin village, Yebyu Township on February 20, 2000 and which had been attended by a Mon opposition group. Troops from LIB 410 , 273, and IB 25 were ordered to co-operate with each other to clear the area of rebels. As part of their operation, the troops from these battalions blocked all villages and imposed these new movement restrictions upon the villagers. About 20 villages in Yabu, Mintha and Kwethonyima village tracts were affected. There were 3 rules in the new movement restriction order imposed on the villagers. (1) The villagers were forced to stay at home and were prohibited from leaving to work in their rice-farms and fruit-plantations (2)The villagers would be executed if seen by the army outside of their villages, as the army would assume they were rebel soldiers. (3) The villagers were prohibited from keeping any type of food outside of the villages. As a result of these restrictions, the villagers lost the opportunity to work in their farms, and in addition, the soldiers looted their farms and sold the products in their absence (See chapter on livelihood). Because of this loss of livelihood, several farmers attempted to go to their farms and plantations in secret in order to harvest, and many of them were captured and tortured, some even killed. (See chapters on torture and killing) (Source: HURFOM)

On July 4 2000, a combined column of troops from LIB 530, led by Maj Thar Oo, and the KNPLF led by Maung Yun, marched to Phukraku village, west of Pruso town, Karenni State. The troops prohibited the villagers from leaving the village for cultivation for three days. (Source: KNAHR)

On September 18 2000, the commander of LIB 531 issued an order to the village chiefs of Moe Soe and Dopreh villages, Karenni State. The order stated that no villagers were allowed to go and work in their paddy fields, or else they would be killed by troops. (Source: KNAHR)

On October 7 2000, SPDC military strategy no.1, central military command no.7 issued an order which made a large area of land in Karenni State a temporary black zone. The order stated that from the mentioned date in the order onwards, the military authorities had defined the areas east of Pruso-Kadalah main road, south of Deemaw Soe-HteePoKlo, west of HteePoKlo-Daw Takleh, and Daw Takleh-MarKrawshe area as restricted areas. This meant that no villagers were allowed to leave the village to go to their paddy fields or look for firewood within such restricted areas. In addition, all cowherds were restricted from going to their grazing grounds in these areas. If they failed to comply with the order and therefore were in danger, it would be their own responsibility. As the order didn't state the end date of the restriction it was a big challenge for the farmers who rely only on their cultivation for their livelihood. This is the time for farmers to weed their fields and some needed to harvest their groundnuts. (Source: KNAHR)

Fences around villages and restrictions on village access

At the end of October 2000, LIB No.299, based in southern part of Ye Township, ordered all villages in the area to build fences around their villages by the first week of November. About 10 villages, small and large, such as Khaw-za, Kha-pya, Yin-ye, Yin-dein, Hangan, Kalort and Kaw-hlaing, were affected by this order. The order was given to prevent Mon armed groups from entering the villages at the end of the rainy season and asking for taxes and food. In addition to fencing the villages, the army made some restrictions against the villagers. They prohibited all villagers from staying at their farms at night and from keeping extra foods in their farms. They also commanded that the villagers would be required to take permission letters from their village headman whenever they went to their farms or fruit plantations. They were threatened that if they did not have the required letters of permission that they could be accused of being rebel-supporters. Due to the various restrictions, the villagers have not been able to work as they like at their farms or they have less time to work there. (Source: HURFOM)

Movement (caused by landmines)

The buildup of SPDC troop movements in Loo Thaw township, Karen State continues. SPDC troop activities usually occurs every two weeks in the areas of Pya Gaw, Ler Mu Plaw, Saw Mu Plaw, Maw Pu and Saw Hta. They lay land mines in places where they have reached, making it difficult for villagers to move. (Source: CIDKP)

13.4 Restriction on the movements of religious minorities

It is still virtually impossible for Muslim Rohingya people to move within Arakan State or to other parts of Burma from Arakan State. Only citizens carrying identity cards are free to travel within the country, which precludes movement by those unable to meet the restrictive provisions of the "citizen law". Rohingya (Bengali-speaking Muslims) who would like to travel outside the village must apply to the local SPDC authorities, which pass requests on to nearest administrative base. This was changed in June 2000.

On June 7 2000, a meeting was held by Maj. Gen. Aung Htwe, the commander of the Western Command in Arakan state capital Akyab (Sittwe). The meeting was attended by members of the all Township PDC, Districts PDCs, the Director of Immigration, the Head of the MI and Director of the NaSaKa (Western Area Command) Headquarters. The meeting discussed, among other things, about further restricting the movement of Rohingyas from place to place. Earlier the Rohingyas could travel from one place to another on the recommendations of village PDCs. But following this meeting they are not allowed to travel within their own localities unless they carry with them recommendations or Exit Passes from 4 quarters or departments such as, (1). Town-ship PDC (2) District PDC (3) Military Intelligence (4) Area Commander of NaSaKa. In addition, they need to fill-up "Form-4" issued by the Department of Immigration. It is a great problematic matter, even impossible, for a poor Rohingya traveler to obtain such documents as he is required to pay a sum of kyats 2,800 to concerned authorities to process Exit Passes which are usually valid only for 24 hours. If any Rohingya is found to have defaulted the new regulation, he is jailed for 3 years under false accusation of illegal immigration. (Source: ARNO)

In most cases, passes are only granted for a twelve-hour period; only on rare occasion are Muslims permitted to stay outside their village overnight. To travel further, for instance, to the Township capitals at Maungdaw or Buthidaung or the state capital at Sittwe is virtually impossible.

Examples of religious minorities facing harassment in travel

North Rohingya Arakanese not allowed to go to Mecca for the Haj

Only about 200 Muslims from the whole of Burma are allowed to go to the Haj every year, of which 10-20 are from the Arakan State. This year (2000) the frontier director of Na Sa Ka. (Western Border Administration) of Northern Arakan told the Muslims that the Government would accept Haj applications if they could deposit a sum of Kyat. 800,000/- for airfare and cash. A total of 30 Muslims applied for Haj, they were told they would be able to proceed to Akyab (Sittwe) for a ward journey to Rangoon where other necessary formalities would be completed. All the applications were issued with travel permits and necessary documentation by the Na Sa Ka director. However, on leaving Akyab (Sittwe) and approaching the immigration and airline authorities, they were told there was an instruction not to issue air tickets to them. As a result the Rohingya Arakanese were blocked at Akyab (Sittwe) from proceeding to Mecca via Rangoon. (Source: ARNO)

On April 3 2000, a Muslim man known as Jalal and his wife were fined 8,000 kyats for being Muslim by SPDC authorities, led by Captain Nyunt Maung. They had been traveling by bus along the Myawaddy-Pa-an Highway in Karen State, and when the bus was stopped at a checkpoint the authorities checked the National Registration Cards of the passengers . When this couple's ID indicated that they were Muslim, they were arrested and fined 8,000 kyats. (Source: MICB)

On May 20 2000, SPDC authorities led by U Shwe Maung and an army sergeant, Kyaw Han, stopped a bus at the Kya Kalay checkpoint on the Kawkereik-Pa-an Road and checked the passengers' National Registration Cards. The ID cards of (1) U Kho Chee, age 35 from Thaya Gone village, Thaton Township, Mon State, (2) Ko Soe Naing, age 28, and (3) Ko Khin Oo, age 30 from Pa-an District, Karen State indicated that the 3 were non-Buddhist. (2 were Muslim, and one Christian). As a result, the 3 were arrested, brought to the army camp, each fined 18,000 kyats, and sentenced to 5 days in jail under the immigration act. (Source: MICB)

The Rangoon-Akyab (Sittwe) Highway was opened in February 2000. Yet the Muslim Rohingya minority are prohibited to travel on it. 10 Rohingya Muslims traveling with identity cards from Akyab to Rangoon were arrested by the army at Taunggup checkpoint on June 1 2000. Their whereabouts remained unknown as of January 2001, and they were believed to have been killed. (Source: ARNO)

On June 23 2000, SPDC immigration officers checked the ID cards of passengers at the Myaing Kalay- Wa Poe Taw checkpoint gate on the Rangoon to Myawaddy highway. Officers led by U Kha Staw arrested 4 Burmese Muslims, despite the fact that they had their ID cards, and all was in order. Passengers (1) Ko Soe Thein, age 23, (2) Ko Win Lwin, age

31, (3) Ko Soe Naing, age 34, (all from Rangoon) and (4) U Ismail, age 33 from Kawkereik, Karen State were all arrested and made to pay a fine of 8,000 kyats. (Source: MICB)

On September 12 2000, SPDC immigration officers arrested and forced a Burmese Muslim to give them kyats 70,000/-as bribe money. The officers led by U Hla Tun arrested the Muslim at Ttaunggup Hill-top check point in Sandoway district, Arakan state of Burma. According to an Arakanese Buddhist trader, the Burmese Muslim, U Tun Aung (25 years), house No.220, Myo Thit 8th street, Gwa Myo, Sandoway district was going from Gwa to Nga Thaing Chaung Myo of Irrawaddy division near Arakan state. (Source: MICB)

On October 23 2000, junta's immigration officers arrested a Muslim man and extorted money from him in Arakan state of Burma. The junta's immigration officers led by Assistant immigration officer of Sandoway, U Hla Zaw stopped a bus with about 35 passengers and arrested the only Muslim among them at Andaw check point of Sandoway district. Then the officers demanded kyats 50,000 or they said they would send him to the jail because the Muslim tried to go from one town to another (in the same district). The Muslim (Rohingyas) are not allowed to go from one place to another in Arakan state. However, a settlement reached with what the Muslim had give them kyats 25,000 as extortion money and he was allowed to return home. According to a trader, name withheld, the Muslim, U Tun Win lived in house No.40, Yadana street, Kyauk NiMaw, Rambree township, Sanddoway district, Arakan state. (Source: MICB)

13.5 Restriction on the movements of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD

The military authorities have maintained strict controls on Aung San Suu Kyi's travel outside the capital since freeing her from six years of house arrest in 1995. In 2000 these restrictions were put to the test when Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and NLD party members twice attempted to travel outside of Rangoon.

Daw Suu Kyi and other NLD members prevented from travelling beyond Dala and resulting 9-day stand-off

On the morning of August 24 2000, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Tin Oo (Vice Chairman of NLD), U Soe Myint (chairman of Rangoon Division NLD Organizing Committee), Dr. Aung Myo, and 16 NLD youths, using two cars, arrived at Pansodan jetty on the morning of to cross over to Dala. The plan was to visit the townships of Kungyangon and Kawhmu to reorganize the Youth Wing. The authorities blocked their departure at the Pansodan jetty for one and a half hours after which they crossed to the town of Dala where they boarded two cars which were awaiting them to proceed to Kungyangon. About three miles outside of Dala at Kyansitha ward, the road was blocked by members of the Police, the Fire Department, Red Cross, and the USDA. Police Superintendent Myo Lwin told them that they could not proceed further and they should return to Rangoon. U Tin Oo , Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and party refused. The cars were then forced off the road and onto a dirt track. The vehicles, with their tires deflated, were about 200 yards from the road and a police truck was also stationed there to prevent them from moving on. The Army and

Intelligence Units were seen directing the blockade from behind the scenes but were not taking part directly. The car Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was in had no air conditioning but she remained in her car, shaded by members of her party who took turns to stand at the window with an umbrella. The gap between the vehicles was covered with a makeshift tent. NLD vice-chairman U Tin Oo, who accompanied Aung San Suu Kyi on the journey, was seen walking around the vehicles but never moving far from the area. Journalists representing the foreign media were barred from making the river crossing to Dala and were turned away by military intelligence stationed at the jetty. NLD youths who went along were asked by the NLD leaders to buy food for the group, which was kept isolated from the local people.

A senior spokesman for the military regime confirmed that Aung San Suu Kyi and a group accompanying her had been halted at Dala and told to remain there or return to Rangoon. The regime stated that, *"Due to threats by armed insurgent separatist forces, travel by prominent persons to some parts of the country is at present inadvisable," "As a prominent citizen of Myanmar ... the government will take all necessary action in protecting her from these threats while also safeguarding her human rights, as much as possible including the right to freedom of movement."* The regime also claimed in their media that the NLD members were merely "visiting" Dala and that all their needs were being provided for. (see Appendix #1) To support its assertion that Suu Kyi was being properly looked after and provided with food and water, the government released five photographs of Suu Kyi's *"visit to Dala."* One showed several men laden with plastic bags walking along a path towards the parked cars, with the caption: *"Suu Kyi's travel companions coming back from shopping at nearby food stores in time for high-tea."*

The stand-off went on for 9 days, and was ended when nearly 200 riot police raided the roadside convoy and forced Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the other NLD members to return to the capital. The members were treated roughly, and several arrested. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and were also put under temporary house arrest. (See chapter on arbitrary detention) and the NLD headquarters in Yangon were sealed off. The government confirmed the end of the standoff on September 2, saying Suu Kyi and her party were, *"escorted back to their residences in Yangon in a motorcade facilitated by the government for their safe and convenient return."*

This incident is similar to a situation that occurred in August of 1998 which captured international attention. At that time Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attempted to visit NLD members in Bassein. Her car was stopped by SPDC authorities near Anyar Su village in Nyaung Done township. She was unable to move for 12 days due to the fact that SPDC had surrounded her car with barbed wire. After two or three days she refused to accept food from SPDC and staged a hunger strike. The confrontation ended when female police officers forced Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from her car and she was driven back to Rangoon by the authorities. She had received minor injuries as a result of this incident and was in poor health due to lack of drinking water and food during her ordeal.

Restriction of Movement on NLD members following Dala Incident

From September 2 to September 14, 2000, following the Dala incident, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Tin Oo, and all the members of the NLD Central Executive Committee were kept under house arrest. British diplomats who tried to visit Suu Kyi and Tin Oo at their homes were stopped by security personnel. Military officials denied that other NLD leaders were

under house arrest, but said that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin OO had been asked to stay in their homes and their movements were being temporarily restricted. On September 14 2000, the government announced it was lifting restrictions against Suu Kyi and eight other party leaders who had been confined to their homes for two weeks after Suu Kyi tried to travel outside Yangon for party work. In her first public comments since her confinement on September 15, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi appeared determined to maintain political pressure on the military regime and announced her intention to try and travel beyond the capital within 10 days.

NLD members prevented from travelling by train to Mandalay

On September 21 2000, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo attempted to travel by train to Mandalay to investigate reports of NLD repression there. The authorities refused to allow her to board the final train of the day which left at 9 PM. The group was told that all trains were full. The government said it had tried to arrange tickets for her group, and escorted them to a VIP waiting room. *"These tickets are in high demand, and normally require a three-day advance purchase,"* it said in the state controlled 'New Light of Myanmar', *"When told that all seats on the train had already been sold, Ms. Suu Kyi and her party remained in the station, refusing to leave at closing time. They became abusive toward the station cleaning staff, and had to be escorted from the building."* Scores of plainclothes officers and police in riot gear were sent to the station, and journalists were ordered to leave the area. There was tight security around the station, with shops and businesses closed. U Tin Oo was taken into custody by the authorities and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was taken to her home and put under house arrest where she remains as of May 2001. About 100 of her supporters were herded into trucks by military police at the station and taken away. (See chapter on arrest for more information)

When Daw Aung San Suu Kyi tried to visit Mandalay in 1996 to visit jailed supporters, her carriage was disconnected from the rest of the train just before it left. Officials had blamed technical problems.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the NLD Central Executive Committee under house arrest

The military regime placed Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the NLD central executive committee under house arrest following the incident at the Rangoon Main Railway Station. Naturally, severe restrictions of movement coincided with the house arrest. They are only permitted to leave their homes for emergency medical treatment. The government has denied Suu Kyi and senior colleagues are under house arrest, but said they had been asked to *"stay at their respective residences"* while it investigated reports that some NLD members had been involved in *"terrorist activity."*

Appendix # 1

SPDC: Daw Su Kyi and Companions Continue to Rest in Dala Township

Myanmar Information Committee

Yangon, Myanmar

Information Sheet -N0. B-1494(I/L) 25th August, 2000

Daw Su Kyi, U Soe Myint, U Tin Oo and her personal chauffeur together with the 12 travel companions continue to rest in Sarpachaun ward of Dala town today, while the local authorities make every effort to ensure their comfort and safety.

NLD sources in Yangon said Daw Su Kyi had taken extra food supplies but government officials together with Dala township NLD members provided some fresh fruits while her travel companions bought some bottles of mineral water and soft drinks from the nearby food stores.

Until safety conditions improve, Daw Su Kyi is visiting Dala, a small but charming town which is (10) minutes by boat from Yangon. In case of emergency the Government has provided Daw Su Kyi with an ambulance from Yangon with one physician and six medical attendances remaining nearby around the clock to ensure her maximum comfort and welfare.



Appendix # 2- Sample order of restriction on travel

Stamp: To:

Date: 4-9-2000

Peace and Development

Council Chairperson, Secretary

Papun Township, yyyy Village

xxxx village

Subject: To hold a travel pass

Travelers from the Elder's village who would like to go in Ka Ma Maung direction are not allowed to travel without a travel pass. Be informed to get a travel pass from the village tract chairperson.

[Sd.]

Stamp: Village Peace and Development Council

[illegible]

14. Internally Displaced People and Forced Relocation

14.1 Background

The plight of Internally Displaced People, or IDPs, in Burma was a continuing problem over the year 2000. Burma contributes over an estimated 1 million IDPs to the estimated world IDP population of 21 million and estimated Asian IDP population of 5 million. (The CIDKP put the IDP number at 2 million in 2000.) Internally displaced persons in Burma live under conditions of severe deprivation and hardship. All but few of these people are without adequate access to food or basic social, health and education services. A large number of this group are women and children. As no legal instruments for IDPs exist in today's world, this mass population group in Burma has been left vulnerable because of the lack of international protection and assistance available to them.

IDPs in Burma have been displaced by similar factors, which although are many, are all related to SPDC presence and policy. The main factors of displacement in Burma are:

- Forced Relocation of villages by the SPDC as part of the military *four-cuts* program
- Forced Relocation for Urban Resettlement or "beautification" projects, which are often linked to the SPDC desire to promote tourism
- Forced Relocation for SPDC Rural Resettlement programs
- Resource scarcity/Deprivation of the livelihood of villagers due to numerous demands for forced labor and portering, government crop quotas, ceaseless taxes and fees to support the army, and army looting or destruction of property
- Uncompensated loss of land or property due to S P D C development projects or destruction and looting by soldiers
- Other numerous abuses committed by the army which cause the villagers to fear the security of their home areas, such as instances of torture, rape, arbitrary arrest and arbitrary killings.

Internal Population displacements in Burma are therefore largely due to the military regime, and have occurred prominently over the period of time that the country has been under military rule. Displacement caused by military rule and policy has led to displacement across Burma. Under the facade of regional or area development, private land and plantations from civilians have been confiscated by the military - without any compensation - for road or railroad constructions, and military plantations, farms or animal breeding ranches. This has forced the people to move on to other land or new areas where there is very dim hope for their future livelihood. In addition, the regime has forced numerous urban populations to move into areas away from city centres. The nation has been impoverished through the regime's economic policies and the corrupt military elite's constant demands for money from the people, resulting in thousands of economically displaced people. Yet the most significant displacements have occurred in the border ethnic areas where the military regime has been at war with ethnic armed opposition groups for over 50 years. Of Burma's IDPs, nearly 1 million are from the eastern and southeastern areas of Burma where ethnic

groups such as the Shan, Karenni, Mon and Karen people are living, and where armed opposition groups are still active. Recent statistics show there are more than 300,000 Shan, 300,000 Karen, 40,000 Mon and 50,000 Karenni IDPs suffering in their own territories. There are also significant numbers of IDPs from the western border areas of ethnic insurgency, from such ethnic groups as the Rohingya, Chin and Naga.

"Four-Cuts" Program

The SPDC calls this *four-cuts* policy, "draining the ocean so no fish can swim."

Faced with ethnic-based armed uprisings against its repressive rule, the SPDC's predecessors began to implement government displacement programs as early as the late 1960's to secure areas and cut links between the civilian population and the armed groups in an attempt to reduce the impact of the armed groups. In 1974, this program was introduced as the "*four-cuts*" operation by the BSPP. This program aimed to cut the supplies of 1) food, 2) funds, 3) recruits, and 4) information to the resistance groups. In the areas the regime regarded as *brown areas*, forced relocation programs were practiced, and in areas which were regarded as *black areas*, all villages were destroyed, any person seen was shot, and rice plantations and rice barns were burnt. After the 1988 uprising, the army re-emerged under SLORC, who began to do everything in its power to raise military might. The momentum of the war against the civilians was also raised. The "four-cuts" program increased in systematically terrorizing, controlling, and impoverishing the civilian population in resistance areas so that they have neither the opportunity nor the means to provide any form of support to the opposition. Since then, villagers and village elders perceived as having any contact whatsoever with the resistance have been detained, tortured, and executed; and regime troops have conducted systematic extortion and pillage of the villagers' crops, food supplies, livestock, cash and valuables. In addition, the large number of battalions in these areas have forced villagers to labor for army projects. If these things are not deemed enough to discourage the villagers from contact with the opposition, and a village is suspected to support the opposition, then entire villages or areas are forced to relocate by the army. In 1996-1997, the SLORC launched programs to forcibly move or wipe out all rural villages in areas not directly under their control. In 1997 the SLORC changed their name to SPDC, yet the policies stayed the same. As a result of these intensified programs to destroy the populations in the ethnic areas, the number of people displaced has been increasing dramatically. These programs have affected hundreds of thousands of villagers in border areas across Burma.

Forced Relocation under the *four-cuts* program

When a village is forced to relocate, the villagers are usually told that they will not be permitted to go home until the opposition groups have capitulated; SPDC issues written orders addressed to village headmen; the orders specify the date by which the entire village must be relocated to designated site. Relocated persons are not compensated for their homes nor are they given enough time to collect all of their belongings. Nearly all of the villagers must leave behind the majority of their belongings, including their livestock. Often people must also leave behind elderly and sick relatives. The areas cleared of villagers are then designated as "*free-fire*" or *black areas*. Houses, villages, and crops left behind are often pillaged and then dismantled and/or scorched to prevent the return of villagers, and villagers seen in the areas of their former homes are considered as rebel soldiers and shot on site. In some cases landmines are laid on the roads leading into villages, or in abandoned fields and homes.

14.2 IDPs in Burma

There are 4 main categories of IDPs in Burma. They are:

1) Those who have been displaced and are living in relocation sites and satellite towns

Villagers forcibly relocated generally are required to move to one of the areas designated as "relocation sites" by the SPDC. These sites are most often located in other villages or towns near army bases, car-road sides where there are no villages, and barren areas where there are no resources or methods of transportation. In the cases of urban resettlement or "beautification" projects, the townspeople are moved to outlying areas of the city called "satellite towns."

Satellite Towns

These new towns are made of populations forced to relocate by the military government, and are located in the outskirts of cities, usually a few miles out where there are very few facilities. In the last five years, the junta has forcibly resettled tens of thousands of potentially restive poor people from city centers into these distant slums. Clean water is scarce and sanitation is poor in these slum areas. In addition, the people who were relocated face great difficulty as transportation facilities into the cities either don't exist, or are extremely poor and unreliable. Employment in the new satellite towns is hard to come by. There are inadequately equipped schools in these towns, but health care is a problem as the few clinics that exist are understaffed and under supplied and the city hospitals (also understaffed and under supplied) are difficult to get to.

The Relocation Sites

In most sites chosen as "relocation sites" by the SPDC, little preparation or organization is done in order to receive the displaced people. The SPDC has seemed unwilling to consider such things as availability of water, food supplies, cultivatable land, employment and services in the new areas. The burden for sheltering and caring for the displaced at relocation sites generally falls on the local community. If the relocation site is part of, or near another village or town, this extra burden results in increased depletion of their resources. No humanitarian assistance comes from the government, although there is sometimes very limited assistance from church organizations in some sites. In some cases, rice has been distributed to the IDPs during the initial relocation period, yet these are insufficient and the distribution period is short. A refugee who came from the relocation site at Mawchi in Karenni State maintained that rice intended for the relocated people was diverted and sold by local township authorities.

-Conscription for forced labor and porter duty

The SPDC troops force the villagers in the relocation sites to work on a daily or weekly basis; generally one person from each family must go. This forced labor includes clearing bushes and trees from the roadsides both inside and outside the relocation sites, cleaning military buildings, cultivating land for the military bases, hauling water for the troops, building fences around the military camps, digging bunkers, road construction, portering for the military and other general servant work. The villagers are also being used to work in the infrastructure projects in the area. Moreover, they are extorted to pay several kinds of fees and quotas for the development projects, military funds, food for visiting troops, fees to support military activities so on.

-Services at relocation sites - access to water, electricity, education and health care

Services vary from site to site, as each site is under the responsibility of various State or township committees. However, in general there are no arrangements made to provide services for the relocated people.

Access to water varies – in some sites wells have been dug in addition to streams and lakes. Yet in some sites, such as the Shadaw relocation site in Karenni State, the lack of drinkable water has resulted in several problems, including sickness and death that was caused when chemicals were added to the water in an attempt to clean it.

Sanitary facilities are usually nonexistent for the IDPs and they either are required to build their own, or use outer areas of the sites for latrine purposes.

The poor water and sanitation at the sites, among other things, has resulted in higher levels of sickness and mortality, yet **health care facilities** are either missing altogether, or else seriously under-equipped and under-supplied.

There is no **access to electricity** in most sites, and in some sites, such as Shadaw relocation site in Karenni State, torches (flashlights) are banned and dry cell batteries are not permitted to be sold in the site. This lack of provisions for night lighting increases the vulnerability of women, among other things.

Education facilities are also insufficient or nonexistent. In most cases, the relocated people establish makeshift schools themselves. If there are pre-existing schools, school buildings, teaching materials and teachers are never sufficient, and families often do not send their children to school as they cannot afford the school costs, or they require their children to help in the family's attempts for survival. (see chapter on health and education for more information)

- Access to Farmland and Employment

At all relocation sites in Burma, access to farmland and employment is a serious problem for the relocated villagers. In some sites, IDPs are able to access farmland around the relocation site, yet this allocated land is most often insufficient for basic survival or unsuitable for farming. In other sites, access to surrounding land is denied, especially when villagers are relocated to sites where there is already a village with villagers who are already farming the land, either for themselves or for the military. New refugee arrivals at the Thai border in 1999 reported that they had been able to find daily labor at local farms near the relocation sites, earning between 40 and 120 kyats per day. In some cases, villagers are permitted to return to their former farms and plantations, yet due to the restrictions imposed on their trips out of the sites and the dangers these villagers face outside of the sites, most are unable to make a living in this way.

-Security and the Restrictions of Movement

Villagers in relocation sites live in constant fear of the violence and demands of the State forces, both inside and outside the relocation sites. Villagers are not permitted to leave the sites without passes, which are bought for various prices from either SPDC soldiers or local authorities. The passes are usually only valid for 1 day, from dawn to dusk, although in rare cases week passes have been granted. (see chapter on the freedom of movement) This leaves the villagers little time to travel to their places of work, work and then return.

In addition, security for the villagers outside of the relocation sites is notoriously horrible. Villagers seen outside the camps are vulnerable to capture, arrest, torture, or even killing, even if they hold valid passes, as they are accused by SPDC troops of venturing outside the camps to support rebel forces. Women are especially vulnerable, and many cases of rape have been reported by women who have gone outside the camp to forage for vegetables or get water. (see chapter of women) The local authorities do nothing when cases of abuse are reported to them by the villagers.

2) Those who have been displaced and are living in towns or areas in other SDPC controlled areas of their State or Province or in other towns or areas of Burma

Many villagers suffering from abuse of the SPDC *four-cuts* program, or who have been told to relocate without a specified site have chosen to resettle in areas under full SPDC control, where they feel the abuses will be less than in the conflict areas or where they have friends or relatives. Yet as most of the displaced villagers are farmers, they face many difficulties when they are forced to move into new villages or towns. Available land in these areas is often scarce and the search for other employment in new areas is difficult. In larger towns or cities farmers are often forced to seek work as day laborers in low paying jobs. The families who have been forcefully relocated also usually move without being able to bring all their belongings, adding to their problems of resettlement. Villagers sometimes move to villages and towns where they have relatives, but their relatives are often not able to provide the extra support needed, as they themselves are suffering. In addition, these IDPs living in areas under SPDC control are subject to the same abuses as the other villagers around them. They are subjected to the demands for forced labor, fees, and restrictions that are commonplace across Burma. Yet the abuses committed are sometimes less than in areas under the *four-cuts* program, so many villagers face the risk of moving to areas under full SPDC control.

3) Those who have been displaced and are living in areas and camps controlled by armed opposition groups

Villagers who have been forced to flee their homes and villages for any of the above mentioned factors sometimes are able to seek shelter in areas controlled by armed opposition groups, where they feel they are offered an amount of protection from SPDC abuses without crossing national borders. Several of the armed opposition groups operate camps and resettlement sites in their areas. However, in these camps and sites, supplies and services are very limited, and often the shelter and supplies offered are only temporary. Access to food, education and health differs, as well as the level of security. In some camps and sites schools, health care and other services are provided for a limited number of IDPs, and the area is safe from SPDC attack, yet in almost all such places, there are no employment opportunities. Therefore, the IDPs are made to live off of whatever the opposition groups can provide for them.

4) Those who have been displaced and are living in hiding in jungles, fields, and other remote, usually "*free fire*" or *black areas* of Burma

There are nearly 1 million people estimated to be hiding in the border conflict areas of Burma, and this is the IDP group with the least access to basic survival needs. These villagers have fled into hiding, despite the risks, because of various factors. These IDPs include:

- Those who flee SPDC troops in advance of their arrival

- Those who can no longer stand the abuses they suffer in their villages
- Those who were ordered to move from their village to a relocation site or other place, and who chose not to do so
- Those who have fled from relocation sites due to the unlivable conditions

Security of IDPs in hiding

These IDPs are regarded as enemies by the SPDC troops, as the areas where most villagers hide are located in *black* or "*free-fire*" zones. They are shot on sight, or else captured, tortured and then sometimes killed whenever they are found. Their shelters, rice plantations and belongings are looted or destroyed when discovered. Under the guise of ridding areas of opposition forces, the SPDC has launched several "Search and destroy" operations, in which soldiers hunt to destroy everything they see including people in these areas. The troops often plant landmines on paths that they suspect the IDP villagers use, and they practice a "scorched earth" policy of looting, destroying and burning any signs of habitation or food supply. Troops have even been known to cut down fruit trees growing naturally in the forest in these operations in an attempt to make it impossible for anyone to survive in the forests or jungles. In the year 2000, several such operations were launched, resulting in the destruction of many IDP areas and food supplies, and the deaths of numerous IDPs.

Livelihood of IDPs in hiding

Villagers often hide in areas nearby their old villages and risk attempting to work and harvest their crops in secret. This work is extremely dangerous, and if crops are discovered by soldiers, they are burned or destroyed. If the villagers are successful in harvesting rice, they forage for other sources of food in the forests. Villagers in hiding, for the most part, are unable to travel outside of their area of hiding to purchase other items necessary for living, and must make do with what they can find around them.

Health and Education of IDPs in hiding

Health is a predominant problem for these people in hiding. Life in the tropics without norms of shelter or food supply leads to high sickness and mortality rates from malnutrition, diarrhea, and Malaria. With a complete absence of health care facilities, people mainly rely on herbs and traditional medicine. Although there are some healthcare teams, the medicine and care they are able to provide is insufficient for the numbers of IDPs in hiding across many border areas. The mortality rate is rising at an alarming rate for these displaced people, and many villagers are dying from sicknesses easy to treat or prevent, and from minor wounds.

For the IDPs hiding in the jungle, schools are sometimes operated in temporary makeshift structures with volunteer teachers. These schools lack any supplies, and are forced to shift from time to time and from place to place depending on SPDC activity. With the increase in SPDC activity, and the common occurrence of "search and destroy" operations, the number of these schools has been greatly reduced.

14.3 Situation in Arakan State

There has been a considerable amount of internal displacement within the Arakan State over the last decade. Forced relocation has not been uncommon. Most of it related to military programs to install military camps, to build administrative or religious buildings, to concentrate the Muslim Rohingya population in the north of the State and to settle Buddhist people into the State through "model villages". Small minorities of Arakan (notably the Mro) have also been relocated from their mountainous and remote areas towards the plains. The recent development of tourism in Arakan State has also caused the displacement of people living close to historical sites which the government wishes to promote.

There is significant displacement due to the severe and continued discrimination and repression of the Rohingya Muslim minority. According to Human Rights Watch in a report from May 2000, denial of citizenship, forced labor, and arbitrary confiscation of property continue to prompt new refugee flows and limit the reintegration of those who have returned from refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Muslim villages outside the far North are becoming rare. Most of the Rohingyas who lived in the Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U or Minbya districts have been forcibly displaced to the North over the past few years. These forced relocations, which go hand in hand with serious human rights violations, have been denounced by the UN Special Rapporteur on Burma, notably in February 1993 and January 1995. 15 The Rathidaung Rohingyas (in the border district south of Maungdaw and Buthidaung) have met with the same fate. According to villagers still living in Rathidaung, out of the 53 Muslim villages existing in the district before 1995, only two remained in 1999. The construction of model villages for Buddhist settlers in the North of the State also entails the forced relocations of Muslims who are moved to less fertile lands, usually without adequate time to prepare or any compensation. In one such program, the government had relocated 200 Buddhists from Rangoon to a region with a large number of Muslims in Arakan State in March 1999.

New Model Villages in 2000

- In April 2000, the SPDC used the forced labor of Muslim Rohingya villagers from Rathedaung Township to build 258 houses for Burman Buddhist settlers. The villagers also had to provide 3 acres each for the new settlers. (Source: ARNO)
- In April 2000, 65 acres of farmland was confiscated from Quzirbal, Kaindapara and Hitalia villages in Maungdaw Township to make room for new model villages, and that the villagers were then forced to build these villages. (Source: RSO)
- In October and November 2000, 9 villages in Buthidaung township were forced to construct 25 houses for a new model village for new Burman settlers being established near a Rohingya village called "Pya Bin" by the military authorities. (Source: ARNO)

Land Confiscation and displacement for army bases in 2000

- In January 2000, 450 houses were demolished and 200 acres of housing and farm lands of Kyinthama Paletaung village, Buthidaung township were confiscated for the establishment of Army regiment No.553. (Source: ARNO)

Land Confiscation and displacement for Buddhist structures in 2000

- On April 28 2000, a Major, the commander of the NaSaKa Area No. 5, in collaboration with Aung Than Che and Saw Myint Aung, confiscated 73 acres of land belonging to Maulvi Mohammed and Akthar Hussain, both of them from the village of Auk Pruma (Kasarbil), a place about 12 miles north of Maungdaw town. The two collaborators are Buddhist Rakhines of the village. Then the Major ordered the Rohingya villagers to 'contribute' money for the building of a pagoda on the confiscated land. (Source: ARNO) (See livelihood and religion.)

- In July 2000, Capt. Hla Pu, the chairman of the township PDC of Maungdaw, forcibly confiscated 2 acres of land from the Rohingya Muslims of ward No. (4) called Myu Thit Rwa(village), Maungdaw town, on which(10) houses have long been existing. This land is situated at a close distance to a Buddhist monastery and the monks of that temple wanted to grab the land under the pretext of extending the monastery. And so the monks with the help of Capt. Hla Pu ejected the landowners without any compensation. (Source: ARNO)

Other Land Confiscation and Resulting Displacement

- In early 2000, a total of 1,232 acres of land belonging to Rohingya Muslims was confiscated making the poor Rohingya villagers homeless, land-less and jobless. As a result, during this rainy season, (June to October 2000) about 1070 families of those uprooted people fled towards Bangladesh in the face of extreme difficulty. The confiscated lands are: -Attwan Ngatthay village 384 acres. Pale Taung village 320 acres. Dabru Chaung village 528 acres. (Source: RSO)

14.4 Situation in Karen State

In 2000, there was an estimated 300,000 IDPs living in Karen State, and this number increasing exponentially.

Situation in Papun (Mu Traw) District

96% of the people in Papun (Mu Traw) District are Sgaw Karen, and most are farmers. In the past, they farmed peacefully, but this changed in 1979 when the BSPP introduced their 'four cuts' operation to Mu Traw District. The villagers were forced to flee from the numerous abuses committed by the army. From 1996 the number of Burma army soldiers in Mu Traw District rose to 21 battalions and they became more active. In 1997 the houses and rice barns in 130 villages over all three townships were destroyed by burning. The villagers dared not to go back to their villages and in 2000 many still remain hiding in the jungles and mountains. In 2000 the number of SPDC battalions increased by 15, bringing the total to 36, as well as troops from 32 mobile battalions which were sent for "search and destroy" operations, bringing the total to 68 battalions. These operations were intensified beginning in October 2000. CIDKP estimates that of the estimated approximately 125,000 total population of Papun (Mu Traw) District, approximately 37,000 are displaced. In some cases, whole villages have moved and in some case only a few households have moved from the village.

The estimated numbers of IDPs in the three townships of Papun (Mu Traw) district are shown in the table below:

Township	Number of Families	IDPs
Loo Thaw	2972	17,345
Bu Tho	1919	10,394
Dweh Lo	1721	9,268
District Total	6617	37,007

When people in Papun (Mu Traw) District leave their houses and villages, they search for places where the Burma army soldiers cannot reach them. Many build small huts and hide in the mountains and valleys and along streams. In some places there are only two or three houses, in some places there may be ten to twenty houses, in a few cases even more. In most cases the displaced people find a place to stay which is at least a few kilometres from their home village. Some people in hiding are people who have returned to their previous village area after living in refugee camps. Although these people know that the refugees in Thailand have been looked after, they don't want to go. Some of them have been to the refugee camps and returned. Others live far from the border and the Burma army soldiers have blocked their way so they can't reach the border. However, the majority of the villagers stay not far from the place where their ancestors had lived, whether they faced difficulties or not. They don't want to leave their village and some say that even if they have to die, they will die in their villages and their own country. The area of Papun District where people are most desperately in need of assistance are the four northwestern village tracts of Lu Thaw Township.

In addition to the people displaced within Papun District, villagers from neighboring Nyaunglebin District have been flooding into Papun making the condition in Papun worse, and the above IDP estimated number much higher. In late 2000 many of the Papun District IDPs in hiding managed to secure a small rice harvest, but they are having to share some of this with the several thousand people who have fled into the area from Nyaunglebin District. The new arrivals from Nyaunglebin District are still living on the ground in small lean-to's, and many of them have nothing so the local villagers are giving them what food they can. People finding the necessity to flee further on and cross into Thailand have met with many difficulties. SPDC strongholds along the major Kyauk Kyi-Saw Hta road are heavily guarded, fenced and laid with landmines along the roadsides. All of the villages along the road route were destroyed 3 to 4 years ago and no one dares live there anymore. Meanwhile, the military activity along the road and the mines around it have essentially cut off escape routes and supply lines for the people living to the north, in northern Lu Thaw township and in Toungoo District. It is now extremely difficult to send supplies to the thousands of displaced people in these areas, and it is equally difficult for them to flee to the Thai border. Some have managed to reach Thailand by making an extremely difficult and dangerous trip eastward into Karenni (Kayah) State and then southward to the Thai border. Some have managed to break across the road and join the internally displaced in the Yeh Mu Plaw area of central Lu Thaw township, though conditions there are also extremely difficult. But for most, they are now not only displaced and hunted, but more isolated from the outside than ever before. They are presently suffering from food shortages, mortality from diseases ranging from diarrhea to malaria with no access to medicines, and the need to regularly flee SPDC columns.

The Salween River which marks the Thai-Burma border has also now been heavily fortified with army camps which attempt to shut down KNLA supply lines, block the escape of refugees, and hunt down people in hiding.

Yet the high number of refugees who managed to flee to Thailand portrays the desperate situation clearly. Despite the difficulties, 1,340 refugees arrived in Mah Ka Kah Refugee Camp, Thailand alone between just January to April 2000. These numbers are significant particularly when noted that Papun District is not a densely populated area, with most villages consisting of only 10-15 families, and considering the difficulties of making it as far as refugee registration. (See chapter on refugees.) Most of the April 2000 arrivals to Mae Ka Kah had fled the burned villages, landmines and the new SPDC columns in Dweh Loh township.

Education and health of IDPs in Papun District

In July 1999, CIDKP estimated that 2,898 families (16,877 people), many under 5 years of age, were eating only boiled rice soup. Rice soup satisfies hunger, but lacks protein and nutrition. Because of malnutrition, they are vulnerable to diseases like edema, malaria, gastric problems and diarrhea. There are only a few hospitals and clinics in places where there is good security, and there is not enough medicines.

The displaced people desire to have some education, so in larger IDP settlements they have opened makeshift primary schools, however, as they are unable to provide the teachers with any salary, these schools are unstable. In some places there is no school. (Source: CIDKP)

Situation in Lu Thaw Township

There are 22 army camps in Lu Thaw Township, which makes life for villagers as well as for the estimated 7,000 IDPs in hiding very difficult. There are also frequent "search and destroy" operations. There are no relocation sites in the township, but most of the hill villages in the township are living in hiding. There has been little opportunity for outside groups to provide assistance for the IDPs in Lu Thaw Township. The health and education situation for IDPs hiding in the township is very dire. There are no hospitals and the back pack teams cannot always reach these areas. Almost all people in Lu Thaw have fled from the SPDC troops, but there are a few families in Klaw Hta and Baw Thay Hta village tracts living under SPDC control. They are determined not to leave their land if they can possibly stay, but present conditions are forcing many of them to consider fleeing to Thailand. However, this is not at all easy because of the landmines and the proliferation of SPDC Army camps and patrols. Even if they can make it to Thailand, if they encounter Thai Army troops or Border Patrol Police units before making it to a refugee camp, they are routinely forced back across the border at gunpoint. (Sources: CIDKP, KHRG)

Situation in Bu Tho Township

There were formerly 4 relocation sites in Bu Tho Township. However, these IDPs have been allowed to own villages which are now under SPDC control. There are a few families living in hiding in groups of 10 to 20 houses, and these people have been forced to eat only rice and boiled rice soup for their survival. In the southernmost village tracts, Day Wah, Kyaw Pa, Mae Pree and Htee Tha Daw, which are sandwiched between the Salween and the car road, there is no place to hide, so these people stay in their own villages and have to learn to deal with armed organizations, namely - SPDC, DKBA and KNU and to protect themselves in various ways. (Source: CIDKP)

Situation in Dweh Loh Township

Villagers from Dweh Loh township, just southwest of the town of Papun, have begun fleeing the area in large numbers after SPDC troops burned and then landmined at least 9 of their villages in March 2000, at the same time that villagers throughout the region have been fleeing in increasing numbers from increased SPDC militarisation and forced labor. In November 1999 SPDC troops had entered the township, causing the villagers to flee into the jungles. The villagers had remained in hiding, hoping the troops would leave, but they didn't and instead the SPDC began landmining pathways around their home villages. Then in March 2000 they began burning one village after another, including the villages of Meh Gha Law, T'Kaw Hta, Baw Wah Der, Lay Hta, Maw Bpu, Tee Th'Reh Kee, Dta Baw Kee, K'Pu Soh, and Maw Thay Hta. The troops also burned all the rice storage barns they could find in order to eliminate the food supply, and burned the villagers' hill fields which were being prepared for the June/July 2000 planting. The scrub in these fields had been cut and was being dried for the usual burnoff before the rains; however, by torching them early, only part of the scrub was burned and the villagers say it will now be impossible to do a proper burnoff or to plant a crop. They no longer dare go back to their villages for food either, because the troops mined the villages after burning them and are still encamped near the villages. Faced with starvation, many of the villagers have now fled the area.

The Burma army has established itself in six main locations in Dweh Lo township, Mae Wai, Khu Thu Hta, Waw Mu, Ka Ter Ti, Blow Lu and Taung Thone Lone. DKBA troops are located at Ma Taw. There has been a buildup of SPDC troops in Dweh Lo township since the beginning of 2000. In 2000 there were 4 relocation sites in the township. (Sources: KHRG, CIDKP)

Mae Wai forced relocation site - People from 19 villages were relocated to Mae Wai. At the end of 1999 there were approximately 2000 people at Mae Wai. There were originally over 2500 people there but those who could not pay the extortion fees and could not work for SPDC fled from the site. SPDC demands 6000 kyats in porter fees for 2 persons per 10 days from the site, so people have to pay 3 times a month. Moreover they have to serve in the local militia which is called Set Thar. The people have to fulfill the needs of the SPDC troops whenever they go on an operation. If their demands are not met, children aged over 10 and women are forced to work. The people are not allowed to work in their own fields near their own villages, they can only cultivate in the paddy fields near Mae Wai relocation site. The people are also not allowed to sleep in their farm huts, and those who disobey are beaten and their farm huts burnt.

Waw Mu forced relocation site - People from 7 villages were relocated to Waw Mu relocation site. At the end of 1999 there were approximately 1250 people at Waw Mu. They have to pay between 7000 and 10000 kyats per month in porter fees. To pay porter fees, villagers have to sell their cattle. People also have to work for the military. People are allowed only to work in the paddy fields near Waw Mu. Sometimes people are allowed to sleep in the farm huts but sometimes they are not allowed. Some people who could not bear staying under the control of SPDC fled and hid in the mountains. Some were found and beaten, some were killed, their huts and other possessions burned down.

Khu Thu Hta forced relocation site - People from over 10 villages were relocated to Khu Thu Hta relocation site. At the end of 1999 there were approximately 180 people at Khu Thu Hta. Nearly all the people however have returned to live near their old village, except those that had originally come from Khu Thu Hta village. Those that have returned and live around their old village are not free from SPDC control. They have to pay porter fees and if they can not pay they are captured and beaten. People who returned and live around their old village must not run. If they run from the village they are assumed to be KNU, so they have to stay under the SPDC. Some times when they have suffered too much they flee from their village and hide for 3-4 months. Depending on the condition of the place, they can hide for a while but not long, so they return and live under the SPDC again.

IDPs in the Bu Lo /Mae Wai valley

There are IDPs in all 8 village tracts in the Bu Lo/ Mae Wai valley area of Dweh Lo township. Nearly all people from 6 village tracts, Mae Thu, Nar Ko Khi, Lay Kaw Hti, Mae Wai, Khu Thu Hta village tract and Ma Lay Ler village tract have become displaced. They must hide in the jungle and try to grow upland rice. There are no clinics and medical assistance never reaches them. There are a few primary schools but most of the children do not get the opportunity to attend school. In 2000 attempts to relocate people in the valley led to a majority of the people fleeing to the mountains.

The situation of the four village tracts in Baw Kyo valley

In 1998 people from these areas were relocated to Baw Kyo Leh, Htee Law Thi Hta, Baw Tho Hta, Lay Po Hta and Ma Taw. But now they have been allowed to return and live in their own villages again, which are now under SPDC control. The area is flat so SPDC troops can move around easily. Roughly 25% of the whole population in the Baw Kyo valley area are in hiding. Yet these IDPs are able to buy food from Papun and Kamamaung through people living in the villages under SPDC control. They have never received any food or medical assistance. They have one primary school. (Source: CIDKP)

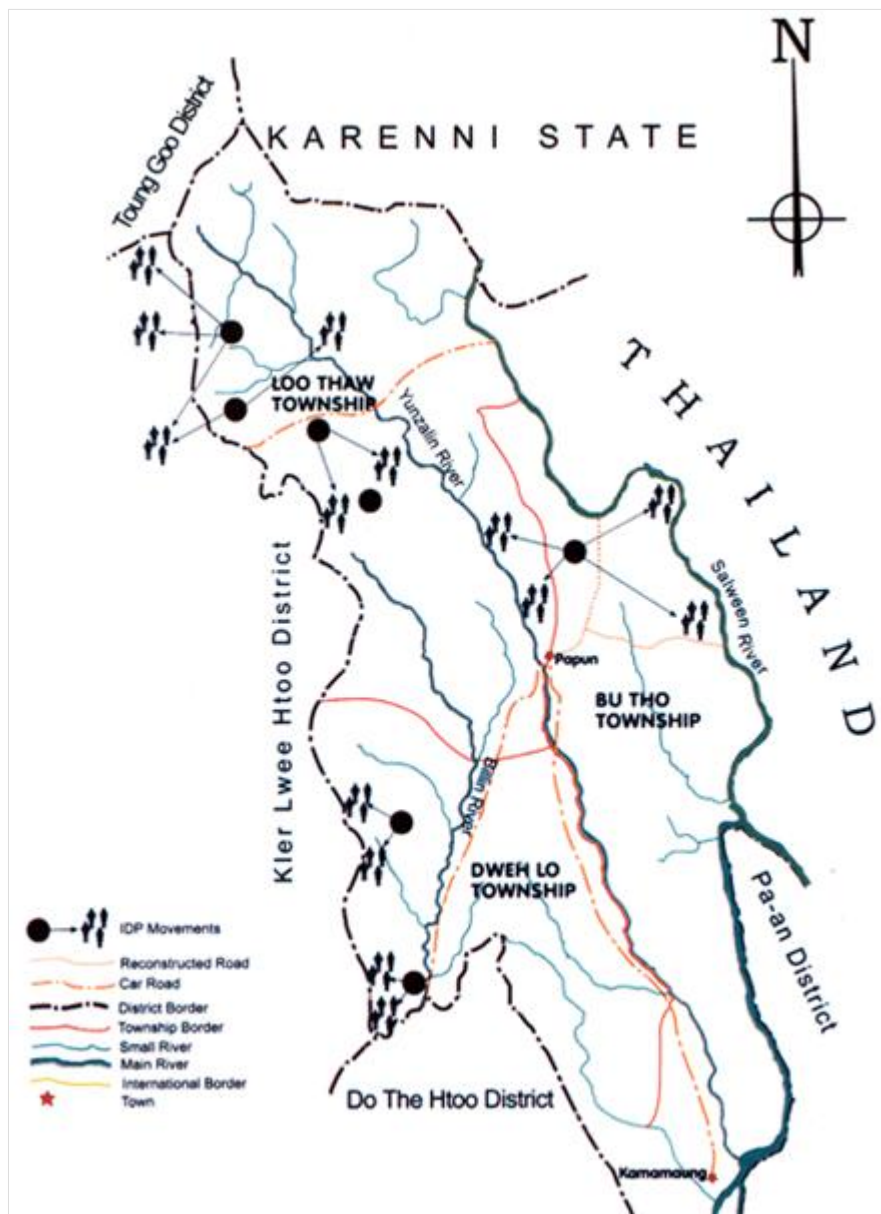
On July 3, 2000, troops from SPDC LIB 207 came to Meh-toe-nweh-kee area of Papun District, Karen State and found Lay-kee villagers, who were in hiding. They looted from Saw Kyaw Thein 1 tin of rice, 4 cooking pots, 5 dishes and clothes worth about 9,550 kyat, - from Po Nyo 1 basket of rice, 2 sarongs, salt and fish paste worth about 7,500 kyat, - from Saw Mya Kya a tin of rice, 2 cooking pots, 3 machetes and 4 dishes worth about 7,600 kyat, - from Saw Par Nu 1/8 tin of rice, 7 Viss of salt, 2 cooking pots and clothes worth about 14,050 kyat, - from Saw Tun Yin 3,000 kyat of cash, 2 sarongs and other items worth about 9,010 kyat, and from Saw Par Thu 1 tin of rice, 4 dishes and 2 sarongs worth about 4,300 kyat. They burned the belongings they could not carry. Many villagers escaped by running away. The following villagers who could not run away were arrested: Saw Tun Yin, M, 35; Naw Yaw, F, 33; Naw Nee Aye, F, 12; Saw Klor Poe, M, 5; Naw Paleh, F, 2; Naw Pawt, F, 32; Naw Paw Theh, F, 10; Naw Day, F, 6 and Par Dah, M, 3. (Source: KIC)

In December 2000, over 2,000 new IDPs fled from Nyaungbelin (Kleer Lwee Htoo) into Western Papun (Muthraw) due to attacks, or the forced labor and relocation operations of the SPDC. The villagers and IDPs in Loo Thaw township north of the new road continue to face extreme hardship and it has not been possible to provide regular assistance to that population. This is a black area where the SPDC troops shoot to kill. The new road is patrolled aggressively by 10 SPDC Battalions, who have also erected a bamboo fence with

Internally Displaced People and Forced Relocation

land mines all along the road, thus making it difficult for relief teams to cross or for IDPs to escape through to the south. Some however have managed to break through and have resettled in Yae Mu Plaw village tract, putting great pressure on the land and natural resources that are already at their limit in providing sustenance for the villagers and IDPs of Yae Mu Plaw. A quote from an IDP in Yae Mu Plaw, "We don't want to run any further, we want to stay in our land, we are not brave, we can do no other, we leave all in the hands of God. We believe God will protect us." (Source: CIDKP)

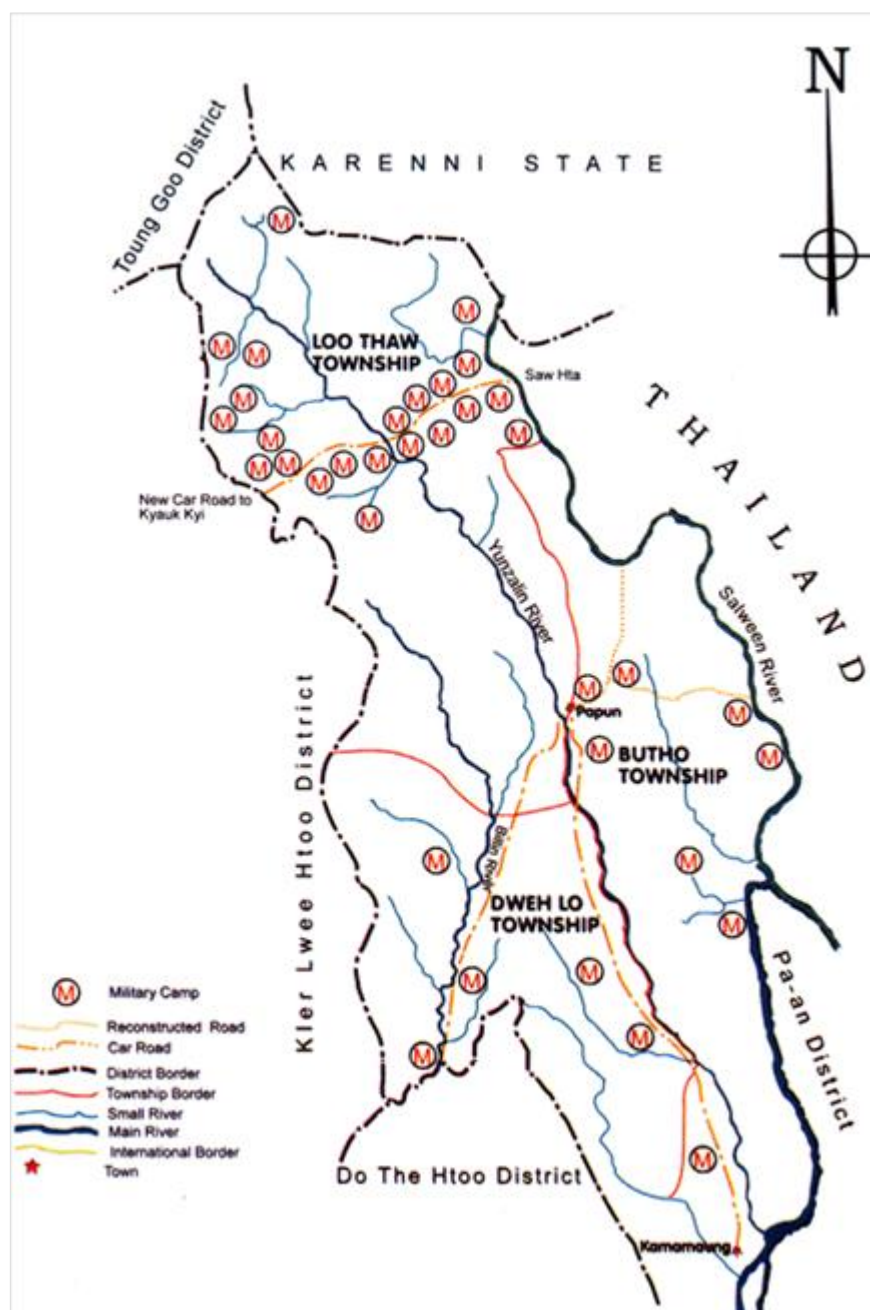
Forced Relocation Sites in Papun (Mu Traw) District, Karen State Map by CIDKP Dec. 2000



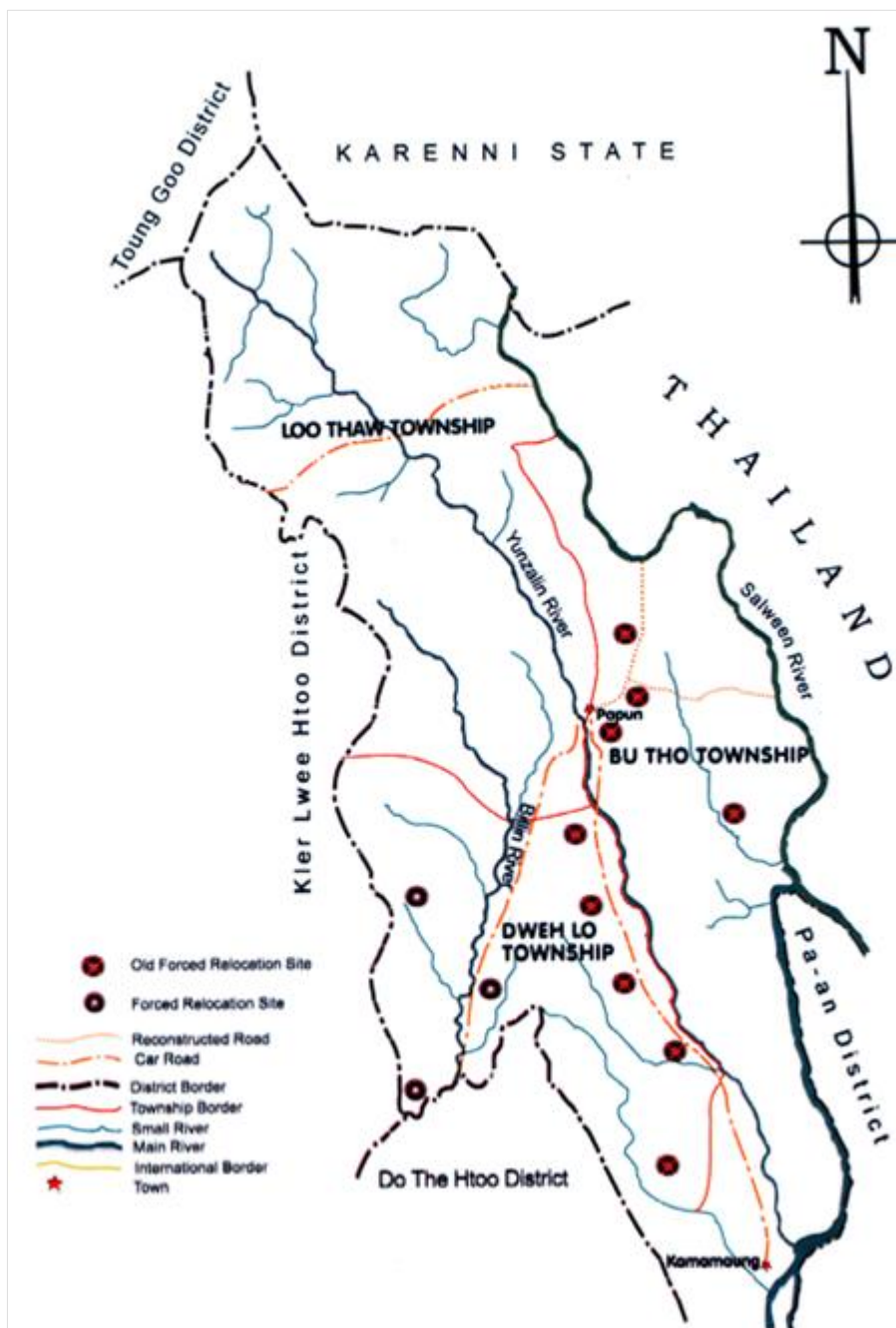
Internally Displaced People and Forced Relocation

HRDU Note: The relationship between the location of the SPDC military camps and the location of the IDP clusters is of significance

**Location of SPDC Military Camps in Papun (Mu Traw) District
Map by CIDKP. Dec. 2000**



IDP clusters in Mu Traw (Papun) District
Map by CIDKP, Dec 2000



Situation in Thaton District

Villagers in Thaton Township face great difficulty in providing their families with enough food because of the violence committed against them by the SPDC army. Many families been forcefully relocated, or have fled into the surrounding jungle. KHRG reported that 15 to 20 families from each of the following villages had fled and were living in the jungle. Those villages were Baw Naw Po Kee, Ther Khaw Doh Kee, Ther Gkee Pu, and Pleh Po Hta.

On February 10, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 545 ordered the entire village of Mer-met-ta, Tha-ton District, Karen State to relocate to the village of Mer-theh. They threatened to shoot to death all the villagers if they did not comply. (Source: KIC)

On August 23, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 361 came to Kyu-waw-kee, No-baw-daw, Gabu-lo and Gweh-ta areas, Tha-ton District, Karen State and terrorized the people for 7 days. As a result, the people had to flee from their villages and hide in the jungle. One Oh-tar-lu villager Tee Par Aung, 70, died from starvation. (Source: KIC)

Situation in Dooplaya District

There have been several forced relocation campaigns in Dooplaya District over the last 3 years. In 1999, around 100 villages were forcefully relocated to sites across the district, including Ye Tagun, Anan Gwin, Taungzun, Phar Pyat, Kyi Soe, and Kyar Ein Seik Kyi relocation sites. However, many villagers, out of mistrust for the SPDC refused to move into the relocation sites, and fled into the jungle. Many others who moved into the relocation sites ended up moving out due to the conditions. Due to these forced relocations, as well as the numerous abuses committed by the SPDC troops, there were mass displacements of people throughout 2000, as people attempted to flee. Those interviewed by KHRG reported widespread hunger and starvation in central Dooplaya, and of IDPs subsisting off of taro roots and jungle vegetables. Entire villages were reported to have been fleeing, and many of these who attempted to seek refuge in refugee camps across the border in Thailand were denied access. (See chapter on refugees)

Brief Background of Mae La Po Hta IDP site

In September 1998 SPDC troops stormed an area in the eastern Dawna Mountains, near the Thai border in Pa'an District, and shelled and burned 5 villages without warning. The villagers fled across the border but soon returned and camped just on the Burma side of the Moei River, hoping to return to their crops and villages if the SPDC troops withdrew. The troops did not withdraw; instead, many more internally displaced people kept coming to join those camped beside the Moei River at Meh La Po Hta. By late 1999 the population had swelled to 5,000 and it had begun to look a bit like a refugee camp, with food and other supplies sent in from Thailand. The site was heavily encircled by KNLA landmines, but it was never safe from attack by the nearby SPDC Army units. Similar camps slightly further south at Tee Ner Hta and Law Thay Hta were attacked by SPDC units in late 1999, and the villagers there fled into Thailand. (Source: KHRG)

The Burning of Mae La Poh Hta IDP Camp

At the end of March, 2000, the Mae La Poh Hta IDP camp located across the river from Tak province, Thailand was seized and set on fire in an attack by SPDC troops from IB 7, IB 8, IB 107 and IB 108 after fighting between the SPDC and the KNU. The fighting originally sent 1,700 of the displaced villagers across the river into Thailand, but after the village was burnt, more than 4,000 people were seeking shelter in Thailand. The village had consisted of 659 houses, 4 schools and a clinic, all of which were destroyed. The villagers who had been living in the camp were able to flee, and no villagers were reported to have been killed in the attack, but most were unable to run away with their possessions and lost the very little they had. On the Thai side, they then were suffering from lack of shelter, clean water and toilet facilities. Many of them were later moved to a location further in Thailand. In May 2000 most of the people who had lived at Mae La Po Hta set up a new site on the Burmese side of the border called Ler Baw Gher, where they were also joined by newly displaced people who had fled villages further inside Pa'an District. Ler Baw Gher was then briefly attacked by a passing SPDC column in early July 2000, causing the villagers to flee into Thailand yet again. Still determined to stay near their home villages, however, they soon crossed back again and are now re-establishing themselves at Ler Baw Gher, hoping they will not be attacked again too soon. (Also see chapter on refugees)

Situation in Kya-Ein-Seik-Gyi Township

From May until the end of June 2000, the SPDC escalated their military activities in many parts of Kya Inn Seikyi Township area and as a result, more and more villagers were forced to flee from their villages. Many of these displaced villagers moved into SPDC controlled areas where they felt they are not so safe but expected fewer abuses than in their native villages. Some families felt they were not safe in SPDC controlled areas and decided to move into the NMSP controlled area or KNU's firm control areas. A few numbers of families were able to enter into Thailand based refugee camps, yet since the Thai government has a certain policy to not accept the new refugees into their territory, most of the villagers have been living in hiding as IDPs in Burmese territory since they escaped from their native villages. From the first week of May until the end of June, 82 families from 13 rural Karen, Lao Shan and Mon villages arrived to three Mon villages under NMSP control in the Three Pagoda Pass area. Their native villages are Yalae, Danone, Koe-du-kwe, Khay-wee, Kawkamar, Maung-yaing, Maetabwee, Pone-khaw, Taung-kalay, Tawae-pauk, Ma-Oo, Kyauk-palu and Kyauk-kya. In these villages only about 25% of the original population of villagers remain in the villages, villagers who are unwilling to abandon their houses, farms, live-stock and other properties. Of these displaced villagers, only 20-25% arrived to the three Mon villages in the Three Pagoda Pass area. (Source: HURFOM)

Comparison of village populations in Kya Ein Seik Kyi under normal circumstance and the current village population, showing the recent population displacement

No.	The names of villages	Ethnic Nationalities	Households in normal situation (Estimation)	House in current time (Estimation)
1.	Yalae	(Lao Shan)	180	30
2.	Danone	(Karen/ Lao Shan)	200	100
3.	Koe-du-kwe	(Karen)	200	50
4.	Khay-wee	(Karen/ Mon)	60	20
5.	Kawkamax	(Karen/ Mon)	70	10
6.	Maung-yaing	(Karen/ Mon)	50	15
7.	Maetabwee	(Karen)	70	30
8.	Pone-khaw	(Karen)	50	20
9.	Taung-kalay	(Karen)	150	25
10.	Tawae-pauk	(Karen/ Mon)	120	0
11.	Ma-Oo	(Karen)	150	50
12.	Kyauk-palu	(Karen/ Mon)	220	100
13.	Kyauk-kyi	(Mon)	200	60

* This population displacement has taken place over the last 3 years since 1997 when the SPDC began large offensives in the area. (Source: HURFOM)

Situation in Nyaunglebin District

In the hills of northern Papun District and eastern Nyaunglebin District in northern Karen State, the SPDC began a campaign in 1997 to eliminate resistance activity and gain control by wiping out the small Karen villages which dot the remote hills. Army columns of several hundred troops went from village to village, firing mortar shells into the villages without warning, then shelling the streambeds where they knew villagers would run, and entering the villages to loot and burn all the houses. In 1997/98 close to 200 villages were destroyed this way. The villagers fled into hiding in the hills, while SPDC columns came to hunt them, shoot them on sight and destroy their hidden food supplies and their fields. Since then, many people have remained in hiding in the forests while others have managed to rebuild on the burned ruins of their villages, but they must always flee whenever SPDC troops come near.

Since the end of the rainy season in October 2000, the SPDC has intensified its campaign to destroy once again any villages which have been rebuilt and to hunt out the villagers in hiding. The columns look for villagers harvesting rice, open fire on them and landmine their fields or uproot their crops, and hunt out and destroy any hidden rice supplies. There are at present approximately 40 SPDC Battalions involved in this operation, making the food and security situation for the villagers in hiding extremely desperate. It is extremely difficult to place exact numbers on those internally displaced in Nyaunglebin and Papun districts, but the number could now be 50,000 or even more. (Source: KHRG)

In April 2000, IB 73 led by battalion commander Sann Myint returned villagers of Mone Township, Nyaung-le-bin District, Karen State back to their own villages who had previously been forcefully relocated from their villages namely -(1).Mee-daing-taw (2). Mae-zili-gon(3).Aung-chan-tha (4).Paw-pi-doe (5).Ta-kot-pwa (6).Ko-ni. However, the

villagers were not allowed to return to their own house compounds where they had previously lived, but were made to settle in places designated by the army. Villagers from Myang Oo village were not allowed

to return, and were made to stay at Myang Oo Kwet Thit. As the villagers are forced to hurriedly move from time to time, they have no time to do their work. In addition, the army constantly demands money, forced labor, porters, and runners, and as a result, the villagers have had to sell away what they have to pay the demanded money. Some of the villagers have nothing left and can afford only rice broth to eat for their survival. (Source: KAWU)

From November 2000, to January 2001, over 2,000 IDPs crossed the Bilin River from Nyaunglebin (Kler Lwee Htoo) district. On 30 January 2001, 200 more IDPs from Htee Bla and Saw Tha Kee came into Papun (Muthraw) district. IDPs from Htee Maw Kway Hta, Law Moo Der, Htee Ler Pah Hta, They Ko Ser Der, Htee Bla, Mee Tha Nang Der, Saw Tha Kee, Saw Roko, Lo Khee, and Kyaw Pla Kee villages have all fled because of attacks on their villages by the SPDC as well as demands for forced labor. In this area 124 people have been killed, women raped and many tortured. Most recently, on Nov. 4 2000, 3 villagers at Saw Roko village were beaten to death by troops of LIB 360 while they were gathering rice. On Nov. 10, a father and his two children were wounded by an SPDC mortar attack. On Nov. 16, one was killed by an SPDC land mine. Paddy is routinely destroyed resulting in over 5,000 people being deprived of rice in January 2001 alone. (Source: CIDKP)

In October 2000, ThaQweKo village Hlein-Bwe Township, which consists of over 300 houses, was ordered to relocate by Commander Tha Htoo Kyaw of DKBA and Officer Saw Say Htoo of MI # 25. They told the villagers that they all must be moved by October 30. According to an SPDC officer, the order was given verbally because they feared that if they gave the order on paper that external human rights groups would be able to get a copy of it. Yet as the officers hadn't told the villagers where to move, they didn't move by October 30. Therefore, on November 1 DKBA and SPDC troops entered the village and destroyed 1/3 of the village including the many mosques in the village. They then demanded that the villagers get out. Later the Muslim leaders met with the SPDC authorities and the authorities agreed that the village could wait to be moved until after the paddy harvest in December. For this agreement, the villagers had collected money with which to pay the SPDC authorities. In November, the villagers with money began moving out of the village, but the poorer villagers had to resort to re-building the houses which had been destroyed and living in them until they would be kicked out. (Source: DVB)

Relocation sites

Relocation operations in Naunglybin District (Kler Lwee Htoo) continue. The following are forced relocation sites.

<p>Kyawt Naga 5 villages => (more than) 1,000 people</p> <p>Kwin Seit 8 villages => 1,500 people</p> <p>May Po Hta 5 villages => 500 people</p> <p>Win Maung 10 villages => 2,000 people</p>
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Each site is fenced, patrolled and the inhabitants must provide labor free of charge to the SPDC. Labor includes road improvements, bridge building, gathering bamboo (often in

mined areas), and portering. Quote from an IDP family, "*We can't work our own land, we can't feed our families so we ran away.*"

IDPs from Nyaunglebin continue to flee into Papun District but due to new SPDC outposts on the west side of the Bilin River, this is dangerous. (Source: CIDKP)

Situation in Toungoo District

Situation of villagers hiding in the forests

The villages in large areas of Toungoo District have been abandoned and their inhabitants have become internally displaced. In Than Daung township, the villagers north of the Kler Lah-Mawchi car road in the area east of the Day Loh River are all living in the forest; the villages north of Kler Lah as far as the Day Loh River were all originally relocated to Kler Lah, but many of them have fled back to their villages and are now living in the forest; and the villagers in northern Than Daung township who were relocated to Leit Tho have also fled back to their villages to live in the forest. Together, these areas comprise over half of Than Daung township. In Tantabin township, all of the villagers between the Kler Lah-Mawchi and Kler Lah-Bu Sah Kee car roads and many of the villages on both sides of the Yaw Loh River are displaced and living in the forest. The villages along the route of the new road construction project from Bu Sah Kee to Ma La Daw appear to still be staying in their villages and facing the soldiers, but increased portering, forced labour, and extortion payments will probably result in these villagers also fleeing into the forest. There is also an area of displaced villagers near Swa Loh village and the Day Loh River, however the SPDC battalions in the area are actively cleaning them out.

The villages in the triangle between the Kler Lah-Mawchi and Kler Lah-Bu Sah Kee car roads are in an especially difficult situation. Most of the villages near the Kler Lah-Bu Sah Kee car road have been displaced since the project began in 1995. Now with the ongoing rebuilding of the Kler Lah-Mawchi car road, these villagers are sandwiched between the camps along the two roads. The villagers in Hsaw Wah Der, Ha Toh Per, Kho Kee, Hee Daw Khaw, Thay Ghee Lah, Sho Ser and Wah Soe have not been able to plant crops in the year 2000 because of the close proximity of the new Army camps. Hsaw Wah Der and Ha Toh Per are only 30 minutes' walk from the nearest Army camp. This has caused a food shortage among these villagers.

The villagers in the forest live in small groups of one to seven families. Smaller numbers of people in one place means it is easier for them to hide when SPDC troops come near. Villagers are shot on sight if they are seen by the soldiers, so the villagers run whenever Burmese patrols come near. The SPDC's campaign against the villagers in the area began in earnest in the dry season of 1997 when the SPDC units were ordered to burn the villages east of the Day Loh River and north of the Kler Lah-Bu Sah Kee car road. Having done that, the battalions were ordered in 1998 to destroy the fields. This was to deny the villagers still hiding near their villages any means of growing food. The soldiers continued to destroy the fields in 1999, and they were assisted by early rains in April (before the fields have been properly prepared for planting) which did not stop until November, and strong winds which then blew down and destroyed much of the paddy when it grew tall. The result has been a desperate shortage of rice over the past year. In 2000 the SPDC troops have used a new tactic, burning off the fields early before all the cut brush and trees have properly dried. In the Karen system of rotating hill fields, the scrub and trees which have grown since the field was last used are cut in January/February and are then left for 2

or 3 months to dry before burning; this ensures that the fields burn off evenly and the whole field can be used, and the new ash also provides protection for the seeds which are planted with the first rains. By searching out fields which the villagers have cut and burning them early, the soldiers have prevented the villagers from being able to properly burn off their whole fields, and have thereby ensured that there will be a bad harvest in 2000 and continued hunger in 2001. According to the KNU, orders have been given to the SPDC units in Tantabin township to find the hill fields and huts and burn them all as well as to plant landmines in the hill fields and shoot dead any villagers they see. The military wants to force the villagers to come down out of the mountains to the relocation sites in order to deny the KNU a support base, while also bringing the civilians under direct control and making them available for forced labor. However, most of the villagers have already lived in the relocation sites or have heard about conditions there, so they are determined to hold out in the hills.

Aid is occasionally brought in from Thailand to the internally displaced villagers, but as the area is so remote and there are so many people, the aid is never enough and the problems are only getting worse. Each aid trip from Thailand requires a month or more of difficult and extremely dangerous hiking through landmine-infested areas avoiding SPDC patrols, and can only bring in enough supplies for 2 months for a small number of people. Only the villagers to the east of the Day Loh and Klay Loh Rivers can be reached with such aid.

There is no other place for the villagers to run to. In the other districts to the south there is the possibility of fleeing to Thailand, but the distance is just too far from Toungoo District and there are too many soldiers along the way. If the villagers flee westward to bigger villages or the plains they are at high risk of being caught along the way, and even if they make it they face arrest if the authorities find out they are from the hills. Some villagers who have fled to Toungoo town found that their relatives could not feed or protect them there, so they eventually fled back up into the mountains. As of July 2000 the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the district was estimated by a KHRG researcher at over 10,000. The researcher reported that in Than Daung township, from the Day Loh River to the Klay Loh River, there were more than 30 villages now abandoned with 4-5,000 villagers becoming IDPs, and in Tantabin township, there were nearly 30 such villages with another 4-5,000 villagers displaced. These are only the villagers that could be reached and counted. The villagers in the Leit Tho and Swa Loh areas, as well as those from relocation sites west of the Day Loh River and along the Toungoo-Kler Lah car road who have fled back to the area around their villages, were not counted and would add substantially to these figures.

Education for most of the hiding villagers is non-existent. In the villages closer to the Army camps, the villagers must be constantly ready to run and it isn't possible to set up a permanent school. At best, when there is some free time and the situation is relatively calm, some of the better educated parents gather the children in one of the houses or a forest clearing and teach them there. (Source: KHRG)

Forced Relocation in Toungoo District

Forced Relocation of Swa Loh village

In April 2000, in retaliation for 2 soldiers that had deserted the army, and then been caught, the Ta Pa Ka [Southern Regional Command] ordered all of the columns from IB #39, 53, 73, and 92 to find the guns of the two deserters. In mid April, troops entered Swa Loh village looking for guns of deserted soldiers, and arrested and tortured many villagers. (see

chapter on torture) The villagers were threatened that if they could not produce the guns, that their village would be burned. Then, as the villagers knew nothing about the guns, the troops proceeded to burn down all of the houses and belongings in Swa Loh village. Then they drove all of the Swa Loh villagers to 19-Mile, on the car road. There were 35 families in Swa Loh, 89 males and 73 females including children for a total of 162 people. At the new site, the villagers were left without clothing, food or shelter, and were forced to build houses themselves. They had not been able to take any food with them when they moved, and the SPDC did not provide them with any food, so they faced severe food shortages. Pastor Saw Law Law and the villagers were ordered to search for lost weapons. As of June 24, 2000 they were still searching. In addition, the columns destroyed and burned the Swa Loh villagers' betelnut and banana crops. (Source: KHRG, KIC)

Forced relocation of villagers around Leit Tho

In mid-2000 the villages around Leit Tho, in northern Than Daung township, were forcibly relocated to Leit Tho village. Many stayed there for only a short time before fleeing into the forest. (Source: KHRG)

Relocation Sites in Toungoo District

The villages of Kler Lah and Kaw Thay Der, which have reached agreements with the SPDC, and are supposedly "peace" villages, include large numbers of forcibly relocated villagers.

Kler Lah Relocation Site

In 1998 the villages of Maw Ko Der, Peh Kaw Der, Der Doh, Naw Thay Der, Klay Soe Kee, Thay Kaw Der and Ku Pler Der were forcibly relocated to Kler Lah and not allowed to return home. These villages each now occupy their own ground around the perimeter of Kler Lah village and keep their own headmen, but are often referred to by the SPDC simply as sections of Kler Lah village, and both the original inhabitants and the relocated villagers are now considered as "*Nyein Chan Yay*" (*peace*) villagers.

Forced Labor, travel restriction, looting at Kler Lah

Relocated villagers are looked on by the military as a convenient pool of forced labor, and these relocations have turned Kler Lah and Kaw Thay Der into large forced labor camps. Villagers there are taken daily to carry supplies to the Army camps along the Kler Lah-Bu Sah Kee and Kler Lah-Mawchi car roads, and to work on these car roads in the dry season. A new dam project which has begun on the Day Loh River near Pa Leh Wah will probably result in the forcible relocation of more villages in the area. As of October 2000, there were already reports that forced labour is being used on the project.

Many of the villagers relocated to Kler Lah in recent years have already fled back to their villages due to the heavy demands for forced labor and extortion money imposed on them in Kler Lah. They must work at daily labor to get enough money to pay the fees, while still trying to find time to work a field so they will have enough rice to eat after harvest time. Travel outside the village is heavily restricted, villagers need passes to go anywhere and these often force them to be back by sunset, or at best within a few days. The villagers growing cash crops have seen their plantations looted and their produce sold for the soldiers' profit. This is compounded by the rising prices of rice and commodities.

Inflation has caused the prices of goods throughout Burma to rise, but in Toungoo District it is particularly bad because of the extortion 'fees' which traders must pay to every one of the many Army checkpoints on the road up from Toungoo to Kler Lah and beyond. Facing all of these problems, many of the relocated villagers felt that they could plant bigger plots if they stayed in hiding in the forest, and that they would be able to spend more time working in their fields without all the forced labor and movement restrictions they face in a *Nyein Chan Yay* village. Fear of forced labour on the roads to Mawchi and Bu Sah Kee is also a major factor in the decision to flee for many villagers.

Education at Kler Lah

The high school in Kler Lah has only three teachers. Often the teachers' salaries, while officially paid by the SPDC, really come from money demanded by the authorities. Because the schools are understaffed, the villagers often hire better educated people from within the village to teach in the schools alongside the SPDC teachers. All of the students' school supplies and textbooks have to be bought and school fees have to be paid by the parents. Faced with forced labor, extortion and all the other problems in the region, most families don't have enough money left to pay the costs of sending their children to school. The unstable situation also forces many parents to keep their children at home or to send them to work in the fields. Enrolment at Kler Lah school has dropped because many of the students have fled into the forest with their parents.

Health at Kler Lah

The hospital in Kler Lah is called the "*Tine Ni Say Yone*" (Township Hospital) and has been actively promoted by the authorities. It has one doctor, a head nurse, and some nurses, but no medicine. The villagers who go to the hospital are asked to give a 'donation' and then allowed to buy medicine. What little medicine the hospital has is sold at the market price, but most medicines have to be bought outside and then brought back in to be administered. Most of the villagers are not able to buy medicines due to their lack of income. Seriously ill villagers, if they can afford it, are taken by their family or friends to Toungoo to the *Pyithu Sit* (Militia) Hospital. This hospital doesn't have much medicine either, and the villagers have to pay for service or they will not even be admitted. It is common in Burma for patients to have to pay to be seen by the doctors as well as for the medicine, and to be ejected from hospitals when they run out of funds even if they have not fully recovered.

Villagers who were relocated to Kler Lah in 1998 have reported that many of the old people have died since being relocated and many of the other villagers are sick. There is an increased health risk in Kler Lah and the other relocation sites due to the relocation of so many people to one place. There is also a higher chance of contracting malaria or diseases and infections related to poor sanitation and a general lack of basic health education. Older people who have lived their whole lives higher in the cold of the hills cannot adapt to the different climate and diseases of lower areas, and once displaced in a relocation site people no longer know which sources of water are good and which are contaminated. Many of the villagers don't have enough rice or other foods to eat, so there are high rates of malnutrition and vitamin deficiency. The heavy labor demands levied by the military do not give the villagers much of a chance to rest. (Source: KHRG)

14.5 Situation in Karenni State

Brief summary of the situation of Internally Displaced Persons in Karenni

The successive military regimes of Burma have three times carried out forced relocation programs in Karenni State. First under the BSPP, particularly in No. (2) District of Karenni State, when an estimated 50 villages were destroyed and burnt down and tens of thousands of villagers in the area became homeless. Second, under the SLORC, who forcibly relocated many villages in No. (3) District of Karenni State, and about 500 of the villagers in the area died from diseases such as malaria and diarrhea. Then in 1996, the SLORC, now called SPDC again carried out its forced relocation program across the Karenni area. The forced relocation order with the deadline of July 7 was firstly given to villagers living in locations between Salween river and Pon river the two major rivers in Karenni State. According to the order, the villagers had to leave their villages in seven days and have to go to forced relocation sites designated by SPDC. The villagers were threatened that seven days after the order, the area would be declared a free-fire zone, and anyone found in the villages or in the free-fire zone would be considered rebels and shot dead on sight. In the year 2000, the SPDC allowed many Karenni people who had been living in forced relocation sites since 1996 to go back to their own villages. The villagers, however, have been ordered to report to the nearest SPDC outposts at least once a week. They are not allowed to stay over nights at their farms, and are required to possess passes, which cost 20 kyat in order to travel to their farms. Villagers are prohibited from carrying military uniforms or traditional guns used for hunting, and from trading in medicine or batteries. Purchasing and selling rice is restricted. Villagers are allowed to travel from village to village only twice a week- Tuesday and Thursday. Villagers are checked when they travel for their National ID cards, and are required to pay 20 kyat at every checkpoint gate. For more information on the lives of villagers in Karenni State under SPDC control, see the chapter on livelihood.

Situation in relocation sites

There are no proper shelters and no pure drinking water in forced relocation sites which are like concentration camps. There is no food or medicine so villagers are dying from starvation and illness. For example, there were about 50 villagers in Shadaw relocation sites who died of contaminated drinking water. Approximately, 1000 villagers in No. (1) District alone died in both forced relocation sites and hideouts. International relief organizations have no access to the sites. Leaders from a couple of local churches tried to provide food and other needed materials for the villagers in the hideouts but they were not allowed to do so. The villagers were not allowed to go out of the sites to farm. Recently, villagers from some sites have been allowed to farm outside the sites, but they must return at the end of the day. The villagers are fenced in.

The villagers also face forced labor and portering. A certain number of villagers have to go to the nearest strongholds of the SPDC everyday where they are forced to offer free labor such as digging trenches, making fences, fetching water and collecting firewood. Women and children are also made to do forced labor.

In mid 2000, villagers living in Kaylya's forced relocation camp were being allowed to return to their original villages. There were no schools for the children upon return to their villages. (Source: KNAHR)

Situation in hideouts

These villagers find their lives are in great danger as they are being hunted by SPDC troops. The villagers are suffering from many kinds of diseases such as malaria, diarrhea and skin infections. Many villagers have died from treatable diseases. For instance 40 villagers from a hideout village in No. (2) District died from Diarrhea. These villagers would not have died if there had been the needed medicine. Villagers catch sickness easily due to lack of proper shelter. They are all the time on the move, especially when SPDC troops approach their hideouts. While on the move, villagers have to travel in the rain and sleep on the ground and eat what they find in the jungle and drink impure water. Many villagers have also died from starvation. There is no food for these IDPs. They have to completely depend on what they can find in the jungle. They are not able to farm, with the exception of a few families. But even for the families who manage to farm, most cannot manage to harvest their crops because SPDC troops always turn up by the time the crops are to be harvested and destroy the crops. The IDPs also have no access to education. Some communities in some areas may be able to set up a kind of makeshift way for the children to study, but they cannot keep up this way of studying when attacks and hunting from the SPDC come. Killing of innocent people, destruction of villages, looting of property and making the people's lives miserable are signs of genocide by the SPDC against the Karenni people.

In early 2000, the SPDC launched a new military operation in Lopwakoe District, Karenni State to destroy villagers living in hiding (IDPs) and Karenni troops.

On April 8 2000, Three Karenni hide-out dwellers (IDPs) from Klaw Tuleh, Hsoe Tasha district, Karenni State were found and killed by troops of LIB 66. They encountered the Burmese troops at May Yu Stream and were immediately shot dead. The killed persons were Soe Reh, 18, Koe Reh, 20 and Saw Reh, 17.

On April 22 2000, three IDPs from Klaw Beleh, Hsoe Tasha district, Karenni State stepped on a landmine that had been planted by SPDC troops near the border with Thailand. Khu Su Reh, 25, died immediately and two others were seriously wounded.

On April 5 2000, SPDC troops found a hideout family consisting of 6 members between Yawtakar and Shodawko villages, Karenni State. The family members escaped, but the troops seized 30,000 kyat and other household furniture and clothes in the hideout hut. (Source: KNAHR)

14.6 Situation in Sagaing Division

Zomi Chin Village destroyed

On June 2, 2000 the Kha La Ya battalion commander, 17 soldiers, and 22 members of the USDA, invaded Auk-sa-tan village, the dwelling place of the Auk-stan Zomi Chin people containing 80 households, located in a long narrow row of hills between the townships of Kalembo and Minkin, Sagaing Division. They pulled down the houses in the village claiming that this area was within the demarcated Kya-bin forest land. When the villagers cried and begged them not to destroy their houses the soldiers responded by setting fire to the broken down houses and property of the villagers. The villagers ran away with whatever could be saved, dragging and carrying the young and the old and took shelter in the church. The Zomi Chin people lost three churches, 63 houses and about 600 livestock (chicken and pigs). A total of about 300 became destitute. Prior to the incident, on January 10, 2000, the

authorities burnt down the Ah-ma-ka village school which had a staff of 4 teachers and a student population of 67. As of August 2000 the children still had no school to attend.

Before the destruction of the village, in March 2000, the Minkin authorities gave notice that the village was to be vacated by June 2, 2000 at the latest. Other Burmese villages existing in this demarcated area have not been moved. It is suspected that this was a deliberate move against the Zomi village because they belong to the Chin ethnic group and are Christians. As of August 2000, these people could not grow any crops and had to take shelter in neighboring villages or go deeper into the forest and live in temporary huts made with branches exposed to wind and rain. Children had no food and many were sick. (Source: NLD)

IDPs in the Naga Hill Land area

In December 2000, the Naga People's Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR) released a statement that said Naga villagers living in Burma have been subjected to hardships meted out by the Burmese army recently. The release further said that there is an increase of Internally Displaced People in the Naga Hill areas in Burma and the displaced people are living without food and clothing. (Source: Mizzima News Group)

14.7 Situation in Shan State

Forced Relocation in Shan State

In 1996 the SPDC delineated a huge area of Shan State, and ordered the forced relocation and destruction of every village in the region. The villagers were forced to move into sites more directly under SPDC control. By 1998 over 1,400 villages in 8 townships had been forcibly relocated and destroyed, displacing a population of at least 300,000 people. Since that time, the forced relocation has continued, although not on such a large scale.

On February 27 2000, 120 households from the village of Hofailong in Mongpan Township, Shan State were forced to relocate without notice to a section just 200 meters from the town by Captain Than Maung, LIB 520, and his 70 - 80 strong company. On that day Capt. Than Maung summoned the Hofailong Tract headman, Zingna and ordered him to call an ad hoc meeting of the 18-men Tract Committee, that included village headmen and their secretaries, to receive the visiting commander of the local military operations command. When all the committee members arrived, they were tied up and locked up at the Battalion post. Meanwhile, the villagers were all rounded up and moved to the section near the town, a location only 200 meters from the LIB 332 camp at the town entrance. As the villagers were taken away, the soldiers looted their belongings, including their furniture and livestock. As of March 10 2000, the 18-committee members together with 37 other villagers were still reported to be under arrest. Many others had fled leaving their wives and relatives behind who were interrogated and molested by the officers. At least 19 women were reported to have been raped. The reason given for the forced removal was the suspicion that the villagers were harboring members of the SSA known to be active in the area. Some villagers who still had some money secretly moved to Murng-Pan town and other places. (Source: SHAN, SHRF)

In early August 2000, 6 Lahu hill villages in Kunhing Township were ordered to relocate to Nawng-aw, south of Takaw Bridge. The timeframe for the forced relocations was from August 10 to 15, and the order was given by Major Kyaw Lin of an (unidentified) SPDC military unit. The villages forced to relocate were: Nati, Nawngphai-Nalong, Naw Bah Taw, Panghawk, Nataw, and Nawng Yasai. Some villagers, reluctant to live in the relocation site at Nawng-aw fled to Mongpiang across the Salween river where Lahus live in large communities. Others fled to Thailand. 3 Lahu men were shot to death for "straggling" and failing to follow the timeframe of the relocation order. (See chapter on extrajudicial executions) (Source: LNN)

Mass Relocation of Wa people to southern Shan State

The year 2000 brought on a new mass population movement in the Shan State of Burma. Beginning in October 1999, the SPDC and the United Wa State Army, which is described by the US State Department as a leading drug-trafficking syndicate, began cooperating in an unprecedented 3 year program to relocate 50,000 ethnic Wa families from the Wa region in northern Shan State near the Chinese border to Mongton and MongSat townships in southern Shan State. This would effectively displace half the population in the region, which consists of Mongmai, Pangwai, Manhpar, Nahpar, Pangyang and Mangsang Townships. Although the joint UWSA and SPDC authorities claimed the program was part of a drug eradication plan, Laoyi, 68, one of the new resettlers, told S.H.A.N., *"Nothing was spoken about drug eradication. They told us the trans-Salween areas were historically ours and we needed to reclaim them. And that the soil was richer than the barren hills in the north. They said they were planning to bring down 50,000 families. So we moved down here with our families although we hated to leave our homes and fields."* The relocations were compulsory, but many of the Wa people reportedly came willingly because of the promises made by their leaders that land and loans for a whole year were guaranteed. The people were being moved in large groups to Mongyawn, MongHsat and to two relocation sites: Wan Hung (Banhoong), and Site 46 (halfway between Wanhung and Mongyawn). As of April 2000, 10,000 people had already settled into the WanHung site, and were living in sub-standard conditions. By late 2000, the numbers in these areas were reported to be about 40,000 relocated people in Wan Hung , 30,000 in Site 46 , and 20,000 in Mongyawn. Sources told S.H.A.N. although official policy was to encourage *"development of fallow land"*, there were several instances where cultivated land from the local people was arbitrarily taken. No figures were available. The mass relocation program continued over the year 2000 and was suspended temporarily over the rainy season because of food shortages and people who died on the journey from intense cold. A Wa leader denied reports that the food supply problems had any bearing on the suspension of their operation by stating, *"We Was are used to fasting"* On October 13 2000, a U.S. State Department official reported that as many as 1,000 had died since June as a result of the relocations. On December 10-11 2000, about 600 Wa families were seen traveling from Panghsang to Tachilek and continuing to Monghsat.

Situation in Relocation Sites in Shan State

Relocation sites in Lai Kha Township

Nam Wan relocation site

Nam Wan relocation site is on the border of Nam Zang township, about a four hour walk from Nam Khai. Villagers from Nam Khai faced the same problem there that plagues villagers across Shan State who are forced into relocation sites far from their native villages: all surrounding land is already owned, so it is impossible to work a field and earn a living. After being relocated twice, the Nam Khai villagers no longer retained any hope of returning to their original village to stay, especially after the village was finally destroyed. Fighting for survival at relocation sites is even more precarious, especially when the sites consolidate or more people are forced into them. Securing jobs as field hands becomes competitive, as does foraging for the little food available, and there is no possibility of farming their own fields. The SPDC military and civilian authorities provide nothing at all to the relocated villagers; instead they demand forced labor, food and money from them. (Source: KHRG)

Kho Lam relocation site

On January 24 2000, a fire that started in Kho Lam village spread to the relocation site, destroying an estimated 300 homes and killing 2 people. The perilous life for villagers in Kho Lam relocation site is intensified by the close proximity to soldiers. Both women and men are in constant fear of physical abuse by the SPDC soldiers. (Source: KHRG)

Relocation sites in Murng Pan Township

Villagers in Murng Pan township have mainly been relocated to the main town and sites along the motor road. Nam Tong and Nong Harn villages were forced to move to the village of Hwe Mark Pun close to Murng Pan, where they quickly doubled the size of the small village. The main problem they immediately faced was that native villagers in the area already owned the surrounding fields, so the newcomers had no opportunity to farm close to the relocation site. Consequently they were forced to tend fields quite far away, but the military authorities only permitted them to leave the immediate vicinity of the relocation site between dawn and dusk. Many villagers' fields were at least a half day's walk away, leaving them no time to farm by the time they had to return by evening. They were never allowed to return to their villages to collect their stored food or belongings to sell—most of which had already been looted by SPDC troops anyway—and if soldiers caught them trying to return to their villages they were shot on sight.

The other factor preventing people from earning a living at relocation sites is the forced labour they are required to do for the Army, whose officers see the relocated villagers as a convenient pool of forced laborers. Villagers living at Hwe Mark Pun site are constantly called to work, mainly to build military camps in the township. Standard practice is to force civilians to go to villages that have already been relocated, dismantle people's homes and fences, and then use those materials to build the camps. People complain of having to work for the SPDC Army twice as much as they are able to work for themselves, and no one is spared from duty. While typically the men go as military porters, women and children have to fulfill the Army's demands for other forms of forced labor. These usually include building and maintaining Army camps, doing unarmed sentry duty on motor roads, clearing scrub from the roadsides (to make it difficult for resistance forces to ambush

SPDC columns), and maintaining roads. Villagers living in smaller relocation sites like Hwe Mark Pun are called on for forced labor and portering more often than in larger sites, where the work load can be rotated among a larger population. It is extremely difficult for these villagers to earn enough to survive under such constraints.

In addition to fearing capture to be used as porters, villagers must also avoid SPDC soldiers who beat and kill civilians without explanation. Extrajudicial killings are commonplace in relocation sites throughout Shan State, and Murng Pan township is no exception. While all the victims were killed outside the relocation site, some were not far from the sites at all. In several cases, people have actually been dragged off the main street of the relocation site to the surrounding bush and beaten terribly, in at least one case almost to death. Villagers have always known that they are vulnerable to the whims of drunken or aggressive SPDC soldiers if caught outside the sites working in fields, selling vegetables in town, or searching for food in forests, but they must even be on guard within the 'safe' confines of the relocation site. Ironically, the SPDC claims that it sequesters villagers in relocation sites so that its troops can 'protect' the civilians against attacks by 'insurgent' groups. It is the SPDC soldiers, however, whom villagers fear the most. (Source: KHRG)

Relocation Sites in Kun Hing Township

Relocation sites in Kun-Hing Township continue to be places of extreme violence. Villagers are restricted from travel outside the sites, but in many cases have been given day passes with which to travel. However, these passes do not guarantee the security of these IDPs, as in several cases, relocated villagers who were given passes are killed by SPDC units waiting for them. In 2000 there were over 500 villagers from relocation sites in Kun-Hing township killed by SPDC troops, including 3 massacres which occurred on January 30, February 12, and May 23. (See chapter on extra-judicial executions)

Situation of IDPs hiding in Shan State

On April 11, 2000, a patrol of about 100 SPDC troops, with 20 forced civilian porters, from IB 246, led by Capt. Htun Myint, looted and burned the camps and granaries of displaced farmers hiding in some small remote islands in Nam Paang river, Kun-Hing Township, Shan State. They also raped and killed a handicapped 18-year-old girl and dumped her body into the river, in Kun-Hing township (See chapter on Women). These 8 farming families were originally from Kun Pan village that had been forcibly relocated by SLORC/SPDC troops 3-4 years ago. After finding that it was virtually impossible for them to earn a decent living as farmers in the relocation site due to lack of farming land, they had been hiding on remote islands for 2-3 years, growing crops on small plots of land and catching fish and game for food. The farmers managed to stockpile some of their extra rice in granaries hidden under thick brush and dense forest. They also managed to keep some livestock such as chickens, pigs and cattle in their camps. The troops looted the camps, taking all they wanted including food, livestock and other possessions, and eventually burned down the camps and all the rice granaries. (Source: SHRF)

On July 14, 2000, a patrol of SPDC troops from Company No.4 of IB246 led by Capt. Kyaw Myint beat to death 5 displaced persons-in-hiding who were returning from Kun-Hing town, Shan State after buying rice for their families, in a forest some distance from the town. These villagers were originally from Naa Khu village in Ho Yaan tract, Kun-Hing township, that had been forcibly relocated by SLORC/SPDC troops 3-4 years ago. Since then, because

it was virtually impossible for them to be able to survive in the relocation site due to the lack of work and farming land, these men and their families had been hiding in the jungle near Nam Paang river where they could fish and grew some vegetables on its banks. Though they could not grow rice for fear of being more easily detected, they managed to buy their rice by selling some of the fish they caught and some vegetables in the town. These men were killed by the SPDC troops while bringing rice back to feed their families who were waiting for them at their hiding places. (Source: SHRF)

14.8 Situation in Tenasserim Division

Incidents of Forced Relocation in Tenasserim Division in 2000

On February 9 2000, the villagers from between Theybyu and Maw Taung (Mo Daung) in Tenasserim Division were ordered to relocate to the west bank of Nyaung Bin Gwin village and/or Bok Pyin town. Families from the military units were ordered the same by the local military authorities. LIB 561 HQ at Theybyu was shifted to Hsonedaw in Tenasseim Township. (Source: TIR)

In late May 2000, about 50 troops from LIB 273, led by Lt. Col. Htin Kyaw (THRF reports the relocation order was given by Major Aye-Pae, which may be due to the fact that "Aye Pae" is a term in Burmese for 'cross-eyed', and the officer who gave the relocation order is known and called for his abnormal eye problem) arrived in Paunt-Pin-Qwin village, Ye-Byu Township, Tenasserim Division, and treated the villagers inhumanly, forcing them to act as cows by manually pulling carts around the village square. (see chapter on torture) The order was in retaliation for a Mon National Day ceremony which had been held in Paun-Pin-Gwin village on February 20, 2000 and which had been attended by a Mon opposition group. After the villagers had done as ordered, the villagers were ordered to relocate to another village within 7 days. It was not specified where they were to relocate to. The chairman of the village, Nai Htun, requested that the village be given more time to move, but this was refused. Paunt-Pin-Qwin is a big village, with 500 houses, approximantely 2,000 people, and 2 monasteries. 90% of the people in the village are Mon, and the others are Tavoy and a few other ethnic groups. Most of the villagers forced to relocate decided to move into SPDC control areas. The villagers moved into Kalort, Koe-mile, and Ye town in Ye Township area and to Aleskan and Yapu villages in Yebyu Township. The monks fled to Ye and Tavoy cities, and 20 families fled to a Mon camp on the Thai-Burma border. These villagers were ordered to leave on short notice and were only able to move a few of their belongings with them, leaving behind their homes, land and livestock. The value of these losses is many thousands of kyats. Pauk-Pin-Gwin village was established over 100 years ago (Source: THRF, HURFOM)

On July 14 2000, LIB 563 ordered the villagers from Hta Hpo Hkee, Kawei, and Pler Hta villages, in Easter Mergui Township, Mergui district, Tenasserim Division, to relocate to Pway Plaw village, 11 miles north of Taninthayi town. The army has threatened the villagers that for those who would not obey the order, serious action will be taken, and any one found out of the designated area would be shot without question. In addition, the battalion explained that they would be operating in the area, and if they discover land, plantations, or gardens without owners, the military would confiscate these. It was learnt that the Coastal Military Command had ordered LIB 563 (under controlled of Tactical

Command No.3, Operation Commanding HQ No.5) to setup a military camp in Pway Plaw village after the forced relocation. (Source: TIR)

Relocation sites in Tenasserim Division

Situation of Katuangni Relocation Site

Kataungni is a village east of Tavoy on the bank of Banchaung River, Tenasserim Division. In February 1997, the village was deserted as the SPDC troops launched a massive offensive against KNU Mergui/Tavoy district (KNLA 4 Brigade area). Due to difficult living conditions in the jungle brought on mostly by the SPDC's incessant search and destroy operations against them, the villagers eventually returned to their deserted village. There the SPDC troops grouped them up and ordered them to live at the center of the village along with other relocated people.

The villagers have had to live under strict rules arranged by the military. They are forbidden to leave the relocation site without permission from the troops there (No.1 Tactical Command Headquarters). Those who attempt to leave are shot on sight.

According to one Kataungni villager who escaped the relocation center and arrived at the border on May 21 2000, at least 70 of his fellow villagers have been killed or have disappeared over a stretch of 4 years while serving as porters. Some of those victims were also from nearby villages including Maw Ma Tru, Kyauk Hton, Thebyuchaung, Maw Ler Kay, and Myintmolekka. (Source: TIR)

Situation of relocation sites in Palaw and Theyetchaung Townships

The SPDC launched a massive relocation of Karen villages in Palaw and Theyetchaung Townships, Tenasserim Division in 1997. Some villagers were forced to move to a distant area designated and controlled by the army, and some villagers had to group up in the middle of their village. Since then, the villagers have faced constant abuses such as; forced labour on military plantations, car road construction, and bridge construction, and forced portering for the army. They have faced many forms of extortion such as porter fees, military funds, development funds, sentry fees, fees for feeding the army and so on. In addition, the SPDC troops have executed many villagers in this area, accusing them of having contact with the resistance groups. (Source: TIR)

Situation in Padaw relocation site

Pawdaw villagers were forced by the SPDC in 1997 to relocate to the center of the village under SPDC control. Many villagers did not move to the relocation site, but hid behind the village. Villagers who do not stay in relocation sites designated for them are considered rebels by the SPDC and they shoot anyone outside the relocations sites without questioning them.

Situation of Hiding Villagers in Tenasserim Division

In Feb. 1997, the Burma army launched a massive offensive against Mergui-Tavoy District of the KNU. Many villagers in the Banchaung River area were forced to flee to the jungle in fear of persecution. Those who fled were accused of supporting the resistance groups and marked as enemies. The SPDC has continued to hunt them and kill them and destroy their property.

According to the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People (CIDKP), at least 15,995 displaced Karen villagers are hiding in the jungle of Tenasserim Division as a result of the 1997 SPDC offensive and SPDC forced relocation programs.

Internally Displaced People and Forced Relocation

During the year 2000, villagers who were hiding from the SPDC in the Mergui-Tavoy District (Tenasserim Division) faced an enormous SPDC "search and destroy" operation to destroy and kill anything not under their (SPDC) control. The areas along the Tenasserim river and in the east of Theyetchaung township fared the worst.

On January 12 2000, the SPDC Army attacked the Mai Pya Hpo IDP hiding site in Kaserdoh Township. All were driven out by force and fled to Thailand. This was only a few weeks after their arrival to the site. During the attack, one woman was killed, two wounded, and five were captured. The fate of the captured villagers was still not known as of April 2000. According to the CIDKP in Kaserdoh Township, Mergui-Tavoy District there are more than 1912 displaced persons in the jungle in Kaserdoh township area (Source: TIR)

Following a Mon National Day ceremony held in Paun-Pin-Gwin village, YeByu Township, Mon State on February 20, 2000 which was attended by a Mon opposition group, SPDC troops began arresting and torturing villagers who had attended the celebrations. Because the celebrations had been attended by the Mon opposition group, SPDC troops from LIB No. 273, 410 and IB No. 25 accused the villagers in the area of supporting the group, and increased their oppression of these villagers. Villagers were restricted from leaving their villages and their food supplies were taken by soldiers. As a result, an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 villagers from Paukpingwin, Mi-htaw-hlar Gyi, Mi-htawp-hlar Kalay, Dani-kyar, Chaung-phar, Kyauktayan and Phaya-thonzu villages had to flee from their native villages. About 70 families moved into a Tavoy resettlement camp, and over 100 families resettled in Hle-seik (an IDP village established last year) and "The Chaung" (a new IDP village established in March 2000). There were also families displaced in other places, including many families who moved into areas under SPDC's firm control where they felt they would suffer less than in their villages. In addition, about 1,000 moved into the NMSP Tavoy District control area, including the refugee resettlement area and IDP villages there. (Source: HURFOM)

On April 8 2000 SPDC Coastal Military Command (CMC) ordered Front Line Operation Commanding HQ No. 9, 8 and 13 and the military divisions under its command to launch more "search and destroy" operations and to kill who-ever they saw in the jungle. CMC has 39 battalions under its command. No. 8, 9, and 13 Operation Commanding HQs (OCHQ) which are frontline divisions assigned for operations in the Tenasserim Division area, and have 10 battalions each. According to the operation, the SPDC troops began in April to search for villagers, with the plan to drive them all from the jungle, and resettle them at their frontline military base at Buthaplaw. Karen villages situated around the Buthawplaw (Ler Mu Lah Township) area have been deserted since the SPDC offensive against KNU Mergui-Tavoy District in 1997. A few of these villagers fled to Thailand and became refugees, but many have remained hiding from the army in the jungles of Burma as internally displaced persons. Others living as IDP's in this area are those who have escaped from forced relocation camps. With the start of the SPDC operation, which in effect attempts to cleanse the Karen villagers from the area by killing, burning and destroying, those hiding in the jungles of Buthawplaw area have faced deliberately inflicted operations to destroy their lives. Almost all of the villagers fear military persecution but cannot find safety in the area because of continuous military operations. Thus, following the start of the April 2000 operation, many of the IDP's in the area attempted to flee to Thailand. (Source: TIR)

On May 10, 2000, 32 IDP families, consisting of 137 Karen villagers from the Buthawplaw area fled to Thailand at Ban Phu Rakam in Suan Phung District, Ratchburi province. They were allowed to enter by Thai authorities and were shifted to a temporary settlement at Ban Huai Kamu. More than two hundred villagers had tried to escape from the military operation against them, but only more than one hundred could escape to Thailand. The rest are still trapped inside Burma. (Source: TIR)

On July 3, 2000 SPDC Operation Commanding HQ No.8 Commander Brigadier General Maung Oo ordered his troops to cut the food supplies of the villagers in Pawklo (Banchaung) and Kamoethey (Ka Maung Thwer) river area, Tenasserim Division in the south east of Tavoy. On the same day, Brigadier Maung Oo ordered his troops stationed along Pawklo and Kamoethway River to search and destroy all the villagers hiding behind their villages. He further told the troops that if they found or destroyed any of the hiding villagers' sites, they would be rewarded. It was learned that Burma army's Light Infantry Battalion 401, 408 and 410 started a new 'search and destroy' operation to kill all the villagers hiding from the army in the area of Mawmatru, Kataungni, Kawhtee (Thabyuchaung), and Myitmoletka villages in Pawklo River area. This action is a part of Burma army's "Four Cuts" strategy. (Source: TIR)

Only July 31, 2000, SPDC troops entered an IDP hiding site in the area of Thutawhkee, Sgeh Ker Hkee, and Htee Po Naw Ae Hkee along the Tenasserim Riverside. They burnt down 21 houses and entirely destroyed their crops and properties. The villagers therefore lacked enough food to survive, and their security was gone, so they fled to Thailand for safety. (See chapter on refugees) (Source: TIR)

On August 3, 2000, a Column of SPDC troops from LIB 409 led by Major Thet Naing Oo launched an operation to clear the villagers who were hiding in Banchaung area in the east of Tavoy. During their operation from 3 to 5 August, the troops found an IDP hiding site and destroyed it. At least 15 acres of paddy fields, 10 villagers huts, two rice stores, seven tins of rice, 3 baskets of paddy and everything else found by the troops which belonged to the villagers was destroyed. (Source: TIR)

On August 11 2000, a column of SPDC LIB 401 led by Lt. Nanda Aung, launched a "search and destroy" operation to find villagers not staying in the relocations site in Pawdaw village. On the same day, they arrived to outer Pawdaw village, and the troops found a hut in a paddy field. The troops entered the field and opened fire on the villagers in the hut. They killed Saw Pulu, 60, and his wife Naw Per Htoo, 50. After the killing the troops took the two daughters Naw Ka Ler Sa, 15, and her sister Naw Ter, 10, along with them.(Source: TIR)

On August 11, 2000, a SPDC column entered an IDP hiding site at Sgeh Kler Khee, close to Thutawhkee, along the Tenasserim Riverside. The troops burned down the entire place. A four-year old child was killed during the attack and altogether 19 houses were burned down. All the villagers were forced to flee from this site to escape the SPDC operation. (Source: TIR)

On October 25, 2000, a troop of soldiers from LIB 373, under control of Tatical Command 3, Operation Commanding HQ 5, was on patrol in a "search and destroy" operation. They discovered a hiding site Mekerhkee, Buthawplaw area, in Eastern Palaw Township (KNU Ler Mu Lah Township), and then proceeded to destroy six paddy plantations. The paddy plantations belonged to: (1) Saw Perler (approximate 2 acres), (2) Saw Shwe Htoo (approximately 2 acres), (3) Saw Pret (approximately 1 acre), (4) Saw Lah Hton (approximately 3 acres), (5) Saw New (approximately 3 acres), and (6) Saw Kye (approximately 2 acres). Karen villages situated in the Buthawplaw (Ler Mu Lah Township) area were deserted in 1997 because of the SPDC offensive against the KNU Mergui-Tavoy District in 1997. (Source: TIR)

14.9 Situation in other areas of Burma

There was little information available about the situation of IDPs in other areas of Burma, such as in the Chin and Mon States, and the Divisions, as the plight of these people has not been well documented. However, it is known that there is a significant population of IDPs in these areas, as villages have been relocated in the past, relocation sites exist, and the conditions which push people out of their villages has been documented.

Relocation orders in Rangoon Division

On April 2 2000, the authorities ordered 36 households to relocate from Dagon Myothit township, Rangoon Division to Arakan State. The heads of the household were summoned to the office of the Police Superintendent. They were told that if they immediately gave their household particulars they would be granted 5 acres of agricultural land, a pair of cows, one cart, clothing, utensils, twenty thousand kyats cash and one year's provision of rice, oil and salt. Those households that failed to give the required particulars would face examination of their household census list and eviction after fourteen days imprisonment. The same night the households were subjected to "household list examination" and heads of 4 households were illegally arrested and hauled away. They were U Po Htwe, U Tin Win, U Kyaw Soe, Daw Tin San, Daw Ngwe Thein, and Daw The Ye.

These 36 households had built their current homes after the Myothit Expansion program had forced them off their former lands in 1994 without compensation. In 1999, they were accused of trespassing and ordered to relocate for the first time. Daw Khin Win Ye, (head of one household) refuted the allegation that they were squatters for which she was charged under Section 51 (f) (g) by the Township court and sentenced to imprisonment for 51 days and an additional movement restriction for 6 months. (Source: NLD)

Forced Relocation of Villagers located along the Mudon natural gas pipeline in Mon State

In early 2000, Maj.Gen Myint Aung, the commander of SPDC South-eastern Command ordered that houses and buildings located along the Mudon natural gas pipe-line route be relocated to make room for the pipeline. The Mudon pipeline is for powering the Ngan-tae electric Turbine in Moulemein, Mon State. Some of the people with houses and building along the route were able to bribe their way out of moving by paying high fees to the Major General. (Source: Inside Source)

Muslim Villages Forcibly Relocated in Mon State and Pegu Division

The HRDU only received news of 2 incidents of Muslim majority villages who were forced to relocate in the year 2000 in areas other than Arakan State. However, this small number doesn't accurately reflect the actual number of incidents, as news of these events is difficult to get outside of Burma.

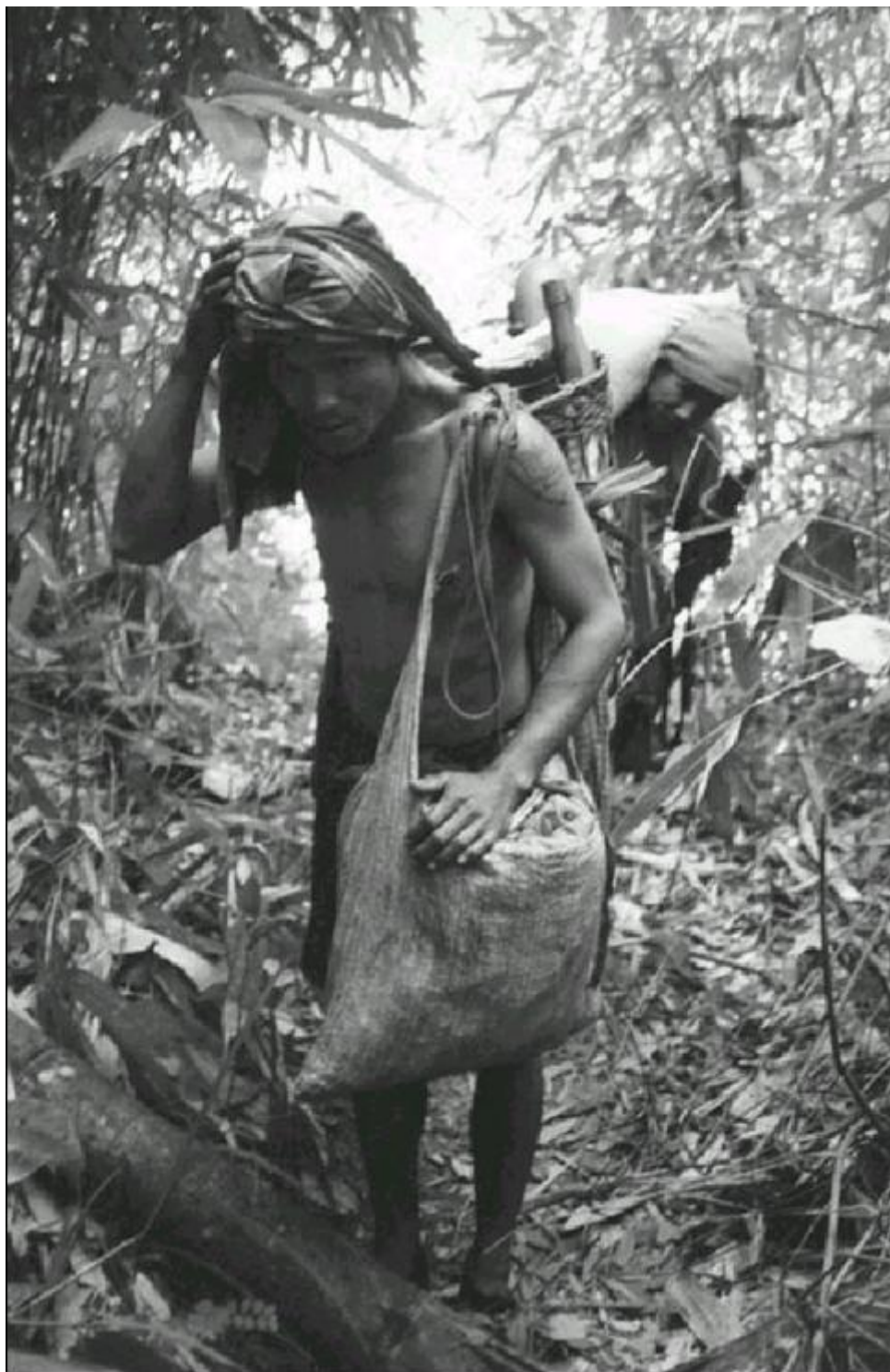
On January 1 2000, an SPDC police officer, U Tun Kyaing, forcibly relocated a Muslim village called Thayetmyain of Waw Township, Pegu Division. According to a Karen trader, the police inspector relocated the village, which was comprised of 40 Muslim houses, in order to raise pigs on the site of the village. In addition, a Muslim man by the name of U Soe Thein who had reported the event to the commanders of IB 202 and IB 203 was subsequently arrested and shot dead by the police inspector. (Source: MICB)

On February 4 2000, a Muslim village in Apoung Township, Mon State was destroyed by SPDC authorities. The village was known as 'Si Soon Block 2' and consisted of approximately 110 houses. According to a local villager, the village was destroyed so that the authorities could construct a pagoda on the site of the village mosque as well as a jetty on the site of the village. The villagers were driven out of their homes and forced to relocate to an isolated swampy area called Kaw Sai where they have been facing extreme difficulties such as lack of food, water and medical supplies. The order for the villagers to relocate to the Kaw Sai swamp was given by Captain Tint Shwe, commander of LIB 102.(Source: MICB)

A "Nyein Chan Yay" (*peace*) village in the south of Toungoo district received the order document below in July 2000. When the village still hadn't moved 4 weeks later, the local military commander threatened to shoot the village head.

		<u>Stamp:</u>
Frontline #xx Infantry Battalion		
To: Chairperson	U	xxxx
	xxxx village	Date: <u>21-7-2000</u>
The higher authorities have ordered that your village be relocated. Important. Bring the family list of the village and report to yyyy [<i>camp</i>] as soon as you receive this letter, you are informed.		
[Sd.]		21-7-2000
Column Commander		

[This order was also published as Order #1 in "SPDC & DKBA Orders to Villages: Set 2000-B" (KHRG #2000-04, 12/10/00).]



Villagers fleeing from SPDC abuses in Karen State. (Photo: KIC)

Internally Displaced People and Forced Relocation



200 IDP's fleeing from Htee Bla and Saw Tha Kee cross the Bilin river on January 30, 2001. (Photo: Free Burma Rangers)



(left)
Fleeing their village which
had been destroyed by the
SPDC, villagers face a
difficult journey to safer
areas.
(Photo: KWO)

(right) Villagers forced
by IB 273 to relocate
from Paukpingwin
village move to other
areas in May 2000.
(Photos: HURFOM)





Wondering when she will be able to return to her home, a displaced woman in the jungle of Karen State, mid-2000. (Photo: KWO)



Children eating at a IDP hide-out in Karen State, early 2000. (Photo: KIC)



A woman and child at the Mae La Po Hta IDP site in January 2000, before the village was burned by SPDC troops. (Photo: Ma Aindra)



The demands of life in hiding and on the run affect children seriously. A young girl, exhausted from the flight, sleeps under a tree, near some of the belongings her family had been able to bring. (Photo: KWO)

Internally Displaced People and Forced Relocation



A 60-year-old bachelor in Shwegyin township, Nyaunglebin District, who was left behind in a hut outside the village when the villagers fled because he was too weak to flee and has no family. This village has now been burned and destroyed by the SPDC Light Infantry Battalion #5. When the photo was taken in March 2000, he was staying alone with nothing to eat, and said he was basically waiting to die. *[Photo: KHRG researcher]*



After the internally displaced villagers from Meh La Po Hta and other sites had re-established themselves at Ler Baw Gher, they were again attacked by a passing SPDC column in early July 2000. The villagers had enough advance warning to flee across the river into Thailand, and then the troops fired M79 grenades and other small arms into Ler Baw Gher camp, entered it and tried to burn the houses. This photo shows part of the camp after the attack. *[Photo: KHRG researcher]*



Internally displaced villagers from Maw Kee and Kyaw Mu Cha Day villages in southern Kyauk Kyi township, Nyaunglebin District, living in hiding in the forest in March 2000 after SPDC Light Infantry Battalion #6 destroyed their villages. The photo below shows a mother and daughter building a shelter, while Grandmother sifts rice to prepare it for cooking. On March 13th, four days after this photo was taken, a patrol from SPDC Light Infantry Battalion #6 found this group of villagers and opened fire on them, killing 2 and wounding 4 others. The shelters were destroyed. The patrol was commanded by SPDC officer Kyaw Kyaw Soe [Photo: KHRG researcher]





Some of the internally displaced villagers wounded in the March 13th attack on their hidden forest shelter. Two villagers were killed in the raid by SPDC Light Infantry Battalion #6, and 4 were wounded. This photo shows Naw D___, one of the wounded from Kyaw Mu Cha Day village, with her children and family belongings. [Photo: KHRG researcher]



IDP site in Karen State. [Photo: CIDKP]

15. The Situation of Refugees

15.1 Background

There are currently more than 120,000 refugees living in Thailand. Refugees from Burma are also in refugee camps along the Bangladeshi and Indian borders as well as working and living in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Malaysia. The line between refugee and migrant is a thin one and there are also an estimated 1 million migrant workers living in Thailand who have fled from their homes for many of the same reasons that official refugees have. (The topic of migrant workers from Burma is covered in the next chapter) The majority of refugees living in Thailand are from the Karen, Karenni, Shan and Mon ethnic groups with migrant workers coming from all ethnic groups and all areas of Burma. The majority of Burmese refugees in Bangladesh are Rohingya Muslims who face religious and ethnic persecution in their native Arakan State in western Burma. Many Rohingya refugees have been repatriated since 250,000 of them fled to the Cox's Bazaar District of Bangladesh in 1992 and there are currently 22,000 refugees remaining in the camps. Thousands of Rohingya refugees have also migrated or been trafficked to India and Pakistan where there are a number of Rohingya refugee women and girls who have been sold into prostitution.

Refugees flee Burma for a number of reasons, including large scale human rights abuses such as forced relocations, rape, forced labor, torture, the confiscation of land and property, arbitrary arrest and lack of personal security. In areas where there are ethnic armed resistance groups still active, such as in Shan and Karen States, villagers have faced mass forced relocation programs in the past few years along with other human rights violations. More than 1 million people are living as IDPs with the potential to become cross-border refugees during times of increased military pressure or hardship. A new trend has been more ethnic Burmese leaving Burma from both urban and rural areas in family groups. They usually become migrant workers and leave Burma due to forced labor, heavy taxation, corruption, inability to maintain an adequate standard of living and interference with their livelihood through the theft or confiscation of land, property and livestock.

15.2 Situation in Thailand

In 2000, in response to several incidents, including the raid on the Ratchaburi Government Hospital in January by members of an armed Burmese opposition group, Thailand took measures to increase security including restricting movement on the border areas. The effect of this on refugees has been increased confinement to the camps and restricted access to the camps for new refugees. Refugees on their way to camps have been stopped by Thai border patrols and taken into custody and later deported or immediately turned back at the border. For refugees already in Thailand this has meant an increased dependence on aid agencies for their needs, as if they are caught outside the camps for any reason, including work, they are liable to arrest and deportation. ZOA Refugee Care Netherlands statistics show that whereas in 1995/6, 19% of refugees worked outside the camps, in 2000 it had dropped to 2%. In 2000 there were more than 120,000 refugees living in camps along the border. The Ratchaburi Hospital incident also contributed to an increasingly negative atmosphere in Thailand towards refugees, and increased pressure on the international community and organizations to find solve the question of repatriation. In addition the Maneelay Burmese

Student Center in Bangkok was shut down which meant that ethnic camps along the border became the only places of asylum for refugees.

New asylum seekers, whose cases are now handled by Provincial Admissions Boards (PABs), face the rejection of their applications unless they were fleeing direct fighting in border areas. This is despite the fact that in the 1998 working arrangements worked out between Thailand and the UNHCR, people fleeing "the effects of fighting," should also be given consideration. During the visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, in October she asked that the Thai Government broaden admissions criteria and give the UNHCR a clear role on the Admissions Boards.

The process for asylum seekers has been extremely slow as PABs have no consistent meeting schedule and there is a delay between the time they are interviewed by District officials and their cases are presented to the PABs. Of 19,114 people who sought admission to the camps in 1999 and 2000, 8,000 had not had their cases presented to the PABs as of December 2000. At the provincial level, 844 cases for asylum were rejected in 2000 and all were informally appealed against by the UNHCR. Final decisions were made for 499 of the applicants and all had their appeals rejected. Until recently, no action was taken to repatriate those rejected by the board, but now this has changed. 115 of the rejected refugees were deported from Ban Don Yang Camp in June and 152 from Nu Po camp in August, despite active protests by foreign embassies, and the office of the UNHCR. They were escorted out of the camp by Thai soldiers. Both of these forced repatriations occurred during the rainy season, when travel was difficult.

In the case of the group from Nu Po, the group consisted mostly of women and children who had fled from abuses in the Dooplaya District of Karen State. The group was taken to a remote area across the border where they were unable to build proper shelter due to the ongoing rain. By late September some of the refugees had fled back into Thailand, saying that some of the children had already died. There were also unconfirmed reports that two of refugees had been killed when fighting broke out in the remote border area that they were deported to. Yet despite these reports, there has been no sign that there are any plans to change the policy of PABs or forced repatriations, nor any sign of an international call for the authorities to be held responsible for these actions. Instead, the Thai National Security Council has begun agitating very strongly for the forced repatriation of all Karen refugees within the next 2-3 years.

Camp conditions

During October 2000, outgoing High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs. Sadako Ogata, visited both Thailand and Burma to discuss the refugee situation and the role of UNHCR. While visiting Tham Hin Camp in Thailand she noted that the camp, which housed 8,200 Karen refugees, lacked adequate space and sanitary conditions, saying "shelter-wise, very bad...I'm concerned." A Thai spokesperson defended Thailand against the criticism, saying that the conditions at the 16 acre camp 90 miles west of Bangkok were better than those of local Thais and that Ogata had only conducted a "superficial" visit. The government has said that it has no intention of expanding camps to alleviate overcrowding, however, after Mrs. Ogata's visit there was discussion among local authorities and assistance organizations about the eventual relocation of the camp to a larger site farther inside Thailand.

Although the biggest problems among camp refugees continue to be HIV/AIDS and drug addiction, skyrocketing birthrates are adding to overcrowding and could possibly contribute to developmental problems and malnutrition among children who have to compete for food and have stressed mothers. The average population growth for Thailand is 1%, while in the camps it is 4%. The problem is most serious in camps at Tham Hin in Suan Phung district, Ratchaburi, and Mae La in Tak's Tha Song Yang district. Every month 20 babies are born at Tham Hin camp, said one official. The figure is even higher at Mae La, which is the biggest camp with some 30,000 refugees and in October the Tak Governor announced that all children under 12 would only receive half rations. Officials have encouraged refugees to plan their families and use condoms but have only limited success because birth control is against the religious beliefs of many refugees.

As refugees have become more aid dependent due to restrictions on their movement, this has caused concern that this has impact on their nutritional intake. Refugees receive a basic food basket of rice, salt, yellow beans, oil and fish paste from relief agencies, and in the past were able to supplement their diets by foraging, cultivating vegetables, raising livestock, growing crops on land held by opposition groups and purchasing other needed items with wages from seasonal work in Thailand. As the self-sufficiency of refugees has declined, due to tightened security in Thailand and the loss of land to the Burmese army previously controlled by oppositions forces, relief organizations have had to go from providing 50 percent of staple diet needs in 1984 to providing 100 percent by the mid 1990s. There is now a fear that the diet of many refugees may be deficient.

Situation of Women in Refugee Camps

The majority of refugees in camps live in family units, either arriving as such or reuniting after separate arrivals to the camps. The ratio of males to females is 51:49 and there are relatively few single mothers. The average family size is 5.3. Women tend to be under-represented in the committees that organize the day to day administration of the camps but are active in areas such as teaching, health care work and home visits to gather information about the daily routine of refugees. Obstacles to increased participation in camp administration is lack of education and basic knowledge about their rights. There are various women's groups in all the camps, some focusing on the daily needs and welfare of women and some on the more political aspects of women's rights. (Source: BBC)

The majority of refugee women come from ethnic minority groups and suffer from a wide range of human rights violations prior to arrival in the camps. Ethnic minority women living conflict areas are used as forced labor on infrastructure projects and forced porters for the military, are subject to the constant threat of rape and have virtually no personal security. Conditions in the camps vary from place to place, but women have generally suffered from the recent tighter restrictions on movement outside the camps and have seen their ability to be self-sufficient decline. The conditions of refugee women strongly effect children, of whom women are the primary caregivers.

Situation of Refugee Children

Although the decision to flee one's home is usually made by adults, children are deeply affected by the situation. The physical dangers for children during flight are immense. They are threatened by landmines, shelling, sudden attacks and their health is put at severe risk due to long days of walking without adequate food and water. They become malnourished and their resistance to diseases, such as malaria, is lowered. Unaccompanied children are vulnerable to neglect, military recruitment, sexual assault and other types of abuse.

Children also suffer greatly from the emotional effects of fleeing their homes. They leave behind friends, relatives, possessions and established social structures and witness the fear and uncertainty felt by adult authority figures. This is in addition to their exposure to the factors that caused their flight to begin with, such as the killing, torture, rape and use of forced labor of their family and community members. All of this, along with shortages of basic resources, can lead to harmful effects of the physical, psychological and social development of refugee children.

Closure of the Maneelay Burmese Student Center

Rumored possible ties between the RBSW and students at the Maneelay Burmese Student Center was one factor in the decision by the Thai National Security Council to close down the center and resettle the caseload overseas. As of December 31, 2000, 1,662 people had been accepted by Third Countries for resettlement and 564 were waiting decisions on their resettlement.

The center had been the only place of asylum outside the refugee camps and had been holding students, as well as other "Persons of Concern" who had applied for asylum in Bangkok but could not stay at the border for their own security. An attempt was made to transfer 85 Karen for whom it was considered safe to stay at the border to Umpiem Mai camp. However, this move was blocked by Thai groups in Mae Sot who felt that the transfer would be a security risk.

Timeline of major refugee related events on the Thai/Burma border in 2000

January: An SPDC offensive against a KNU base at Mae Pya, which was overrun on January 13, caused Karen refugees to flee to Thailand but they were prevented from crossing the border. However, by the last two weeks in January, 1,000 refugees had been allowed to set up camp at Bor Wii after fighting intensified and were registered by the UNHCR.

Ratchaburi Hospital: Around the same time as the offensive at Mae Pya, the SPDC also launched an attack on Kamerplaw, possibly aimed at the presence of the Vigorous Burmese Student Warriors (VBSW). Both the SPDC and the Thai army fired on territory held by the Gods Army where members of the VBSW were staying. On January 23, 10 soldiers, who were never identified, hijacked a bus near the border and drove to Ratchaburi where they seized the government hospital. They demanded that the attack on their base cease and that medical aid be given to the wounded and refugees allowed into Thailand. After laying explosives and holding hundreds of hostages for a day, all 10 were killed by Thai commandos on January 24.

February: In the wake of the Ratchaburi Hospital incident, a crackdown on armed ethnic minority groups by the SPDC forced hundreds of civilians to flee to Thailand. More than 1,000 refugees fled to Thailand as the result of fleeing heavy shelling by the SPDC on Kamerplaw, the base of the God's Army. Security on the border became very tight and it was reported that refugees were being denied access to Thailand and being held at Huay Sot, Baan Ta Ko Lang, Suan Phung District. On February 3, 254 women and children were allowed to move into Bor Wii. They were later joined by a group of 31 men, but another 50 men were reported to be held at Huay Sot on the border.

On the night of February 23, after negotiations between the Thai army, the UNHCR and

NGOs, the entire population of Bor Wii, 1,400 refugees, mostly elderly, women and children, were moved to the less sensitive area of Ban Don Yang, 300 kilometers to the north. Many refugees were opposed to the move as they did not want to move so far from their homes. It was reported that about 100 of the refugees were suffering from malaria and other diseases and some were sent to Suan Phung hospital to receive treatment. Subsequent new arrivals from Mepia were temporarily held at Bor Wii before being moved to Ban Don Yang.

By the end of the month, the 50 men that had been held at Huay Sot were still "missing". Refugees reported that the men had been taken by soldiers from Thailand's military Task Force 29 on February 15 and marched into the forest. The UNHCR asked the Thai government for an explanation and were that told that the men had been KNU soldiers and had been refused entry to Thailand because they refused to lay down their arms. This contradicted an earlier statement in which the Thai government said that the men chose to return to Burma on their own volition as they did not wish to stay in Thailand. It is feared that the men were pushed back into oncoming SPDC troops and were executed. It remained unclear whether the men were civilians or KNU soldiers.

Subsequent to the February events, another 181 new arrivals from Mepia were again housed at Bor Wii for a short period before also being transferred to Ban Don Yang during the night of July 5th.

March: As of March 11, 700 ethnic Karennis, mostly women and children, had crossed the border to Maung District, Mae Hong Song province to flee forced relocation. The refugees were from several villages in the south of Karen State and were being forcibly relocated to areas in the drought ridden north of Karen State. They were being gathered at Ban Kwai camp (Camp 2) in Mae Hong Son which already housed Karenni refugees.

At the end of March, SPDC attacked Mae La Pho Hta, a Karen camp on the Burma side of the Moei river, 10 kilometers north of Mae La camp. The offensive was part of an ongoing campaign to prevent any KNU buildup along the border. The camp, which was one and a half years old, housed 4,500 people. After the camp was attacked and burned down, including 3 schools and a hospital, the refugees fled to Thailand. 3,500 found shelter at Mae U Su, and were registered by the UNHCR. A number of them were suffering from malaria. The refugees were later told by the Thai authorities that they either had to return to Burma or move into Mae La camp.

May: On May 10, 447 of the refugees that fled Mae La Pho Hta in April chose to move to Mae La along with another group of 160 refugees from Mae Ra Mat.

June: A total of 2,000 refugees originally from Mae La Pho Hta returned to the Burma side of border to a new location called Ler Ber Her, four kilometers north of the Mae La Pho Hta site.

July: On July 9, The Ler Ber Her camp population was evacuated to Thailand after SPDC attacked a KNU base.

August: On August 17, in a highly controversial decision, Thai authorities forcibly returned 152 refugees from No Poh refugee camp in Umphang District, Tak Province. The refugees were from the last 29 families who had entered the camp in January. An August 10 deadline for repatriation had been announced in July, but the reluctance of the refugees to return due to bad weather, fear of the SPDC, and lack of food had caused the deadline to be put off

until August 17. The refugees had been fleeing human rights abuses caused by a large scale SPDC operation in Doo Plah Yah District, Karen State since October 1999. The group was marched out of No Poh camp by Thai soldiers. Going was very slow as it was the height of the rainy season, rain was falling steadily, and the paths over the hills were slippery and dangerous mud holes. Most of the group was women and small children, and people were carrying whatever they could. It took the soldiers 5 days to march them to a place where there was no way for them to build proper houses because of the continuing rains. By September some of the refugees had fled back into Thailand, saying that some of the children had already died. (Source: KHRG) Please refer to the photos of the forced repatriation.

October: On October 18, 200 Karen villagers fled to Thailand to escape an offensive by the SPDC/DKBA against the KNU. They found refuge in the border district of Mae Ra Mat in the northwestern province of Tak.

November: On November 23, 11 prisoners, 9 of whom were Burmese, broke out of Samut Sakhon jail, taking 8 hostages with them. After a shootout, shown on live television, all 9 of the Burmese prisoners were killed and 3 of the hostages ended up dead. The incident caused for more calls for repatriation of all Burmese even though the perpetrators were criminals and not refugees.

December: On December 30, 6 Thai villagers were shot dead by a group of armed men robbing a store in Ban Nai Noi. It was said that the men were Karen, and may have been part of God's army. This led to Thai villagers demonstrating against the presence of nearby Tham Hin refugee camp.

Situation of Karen Refugees

The situation inside Burma across from Ratchaburi Province in Thailand has worsened over the past year, according to recently arrived refugees. At the same time that Thailand has restricted movement along the border, cutting off sources of basic supplies, the SPDC has increased military pressure. One refugee reported that the quality of life in their area had significantly declined over the past five years as control of the area switched from the KNU to the SPDC. When the KNU controlled their area and they had sufficient food and better personal security.

On January 15, 2000, the SPDC attacked thousands of Karen refugees who were being deported by Thai immigration near Suan Phung District, Ratchaburi Province. They had previously crossed to the Thai side on January 12 and were sent back by the Thai army on the 13th. On the 13th fighting broke out close to their hiding place in Mae Pya Po and they fled to Thailand a second time. They were being forced to return at noon on January 15 when fighting broke out between SPDC and Karen soldiers. Some refugees fled to the jungle on the Burma side and others were able to cross to the Thai side and took refuge in the Thai Border Police office. Unconfirmed reports indicated that there were at least 10 fatalities, mostly villagers who were collecting water at a stream near the attack. One pregnant woman suffered a miscarriage after watching her husband shot to death. 1,300 refugees that stayed at the Thai Border checkpoint during the attack were allowed to settle at Ban Bo Wei at Hwai Ka Mu. Hundreds of people have been reported missing since the incident.

Around the same time fighting broke out between the KNU and SPDC and forced refugees from Mae Pya Po to seek shelter on the border. They were allowed to sleep at the border overnight but the next day the Thai authorities made arrangements with Burma to repatriate them. Rather than be repatriated, some villagers fled to the jungle.

As of January 17, approximately 1,000 Karen had villagers fled to Thailand and took refuge in Suan Phung District after SPDC attacked a KNU camp opposite Huay Khok Mu pass near Ban Bo Wi during the previous days.

On May 10, 2000, 145 Karen villagers from 37 families fled to Thailand at Ban Phu Rakam in Suan Phung District, Ratchaburi province. Thai authorities allowed them to cross to the Thai side of the border and take temporary shelter at Ban Huai Kamu. Another 34 villagers from 8 families later joined them. The majority of the refugees were women, children and elderly persons. On June 6, they were all moved to Ban Don Yang refugee camp in Kanchanaburi province. The refugees were from the Tenasserim Riverside near Buthawplaw (Kyaukpa). More than 200 had tried to escape but many did not make it to Thailand.

On June 12, 2000, 116 Karen refugees were deported from Ban Don Yang refugee camp to Mon State in Burma. The applications for asylum of the 116 refugees had been rejected earlier by the Kanchanaburi PAB. The refugees had fled fighting between the KNU and SPDC in 1997 but had not reported to the camp until 1998 border wide registrations. Their delay in reporting to the camp was used as the basis of the rejection of their applications. Many of the refugees fled the camps rather than face forced return and when Thai authorities arrived at the camps to deport the refugees, they found only 40 to 60 of those scheduled to be returned. It is reported that the officials made up the difference by deporting other refugees from the camp that had not yet been registered or passed through the admissions process. It is thought that the 116 deported refugees moved into IDP camps in Mon State in an area where there is a cease- fire between NMSP and SPDC.

During the week of July 14, 2000 Karen villagers fled to Thailand after the SPDC and DKBA attacked the KNU opposite Sop Moei and Mae Sariang Districts.

On August 15, 2000, a group of Karen villagers fled to the Thai-Burma border opposite Suan Phung district, Ratchaburi province, Thailand. The Thai authorities allowed them to cross the border and temporarily take refuge in Ban Bo Wei, Suan Phung district. On August 20, another group arrived. The combined number of arrivals was 96 villagers from 3 families. On September 15, the Thai Authorities moved them to Ban Don Yang refugee camp in Kanchanaburi province. Prior to fleeing to Thailand, the villagers had been in hiding along the Tenasserim Riverside in the area of Thutawhkee, Sgeh Ker Hkee, and Htee Po Naw Ae Hkee since 1997, when the SPDC made an offensive against the Mergui-Tavoy District of the KNU. On July 31, 2000, SPDC troops entered their hiding site and burned down 21 houses and destroyed their crops and property. They said they made the decision to flee to Thailand because they lacked food and security.

On December 20, 2000, 81 Karen villagers arrived in Thailand at Bor Wii following an 8-day trek through the jungle. An estimated 200 villagers had fled for the border after SPDC troops raided and torched their settlement at Mae Kong Ni, in which 1 Karen man was killed and another 17-year-old woman was abducted. Her fate is not known. 40 villagers who were too old or sick to make the journey were left behind. It is possible that more than a hundred other refugees were also making their way to the border but got lost or had to go into hiding along the way.

Situation of Karenni Refugees

Since 1996, 14,000 Karenni refugees have fled to Thailand to escape forced relocations by the SPDC. Prior to 1996 there were approximately 5,000 Karenni refugees in Thailand.

Partial timeline of events provided by KNAHR

February 11 : Eighteen villagers from the Daw Nye Ku, Daw Tamadu, Daw Sopya and Kay Lya villages of Deemaw Soe and Kay Lya Townships arrived at the Karenni refugee camp after traveling on foot for 10 days to reach the camp.

March 9: 757 refugees from 137 families crossed the Thai-Karenni border and reached the refugee camp # 2 on March 9. The refugees were mainly women, and elderly persons. Three elderly persons were reported to have died on the way due to exhaustion and lack of food. The new arrivals were mainly from Tee Lon and Htee Sakeh village tracts, Loikaw district. Some of them escaped from the SPDC forced relocation camps. The refugees reported that they were fleeing from arbitrary arrest, torture, extortion and forced portering. When some of the villages were forced to relocate, some people fled to Shan state, some went into hiding in the jungle, and others fled to Thailand. They also reported that the Kayah, a major ethnic group in Karenni State were being prohibited from using their own language by the military junta.

April 7 : Eleven villagers from Baw Tar and Kayeh Kee villages, Pasaung district, Lopwakoe Province crossed the Thai border and reached Karenni refugee camp # 5. They had escaped from Pasaung relocation camp.

April 12 : Approximately 54 villagers from Wam Ngaw forced relocation center escaped and arrived to the Karenni refugee camp # 2.

April 15 : Over 90 Karennis refugees, 60 of whom were children and elderly persons, crossed the Thai-Karenni border and arrived at Karenni refugee camp # 2. The refugees were mainly from Daw Tamadu village tract, Deemaw Soe district. They reported that they were frequently threatened and used a forced labor by Burmese troops stationed in the area. For this reason they could not provide enough food for themselves or engage in business in order to feed their families and fled to Thailand.

May 5: Thirty new arrivals reached the Karenni refugee camp #2 in the beginning of May. The new arrivals were from Beh Ngaw, Tapho, Wasaw and Daw Taku villages, No. 1 Province. They reported that they fled due to SPDC military operations and threats on their lives made by the troops.

May 29: Nine villagers from Kabawtar No. 1, district, Lopwakoe Province crossed the Thai-Karenni border and reached refugee camp #5. They were all elderly persons and children.

June: In early June 2000, several battles close to Ban Mai Nai Soe refugee camp (Camp 3), caused the refugees to fear for their security. As the SPDC moved closer to the border in order to attack Karenni strongholds, the attacks were within earshot of the refugee camps.

Situation of Mon Refugees

In 2000, there were approximately 3,000 repatriated Mon refugees in the area opposite Prachaub Kirichan District of Thailand who have been staying there since 1997 with some assistance from NGOs. During 2000 thousands of illegal migrants were deported by the Thai authorities and some of them found temporary refuge in the Halockhani resettlement camp.

At the beginning of 2000, the entire population of Payaw refugee camp, 4,000 Mon, Tavoyan and Burmese refugees, were forced to move to Halockhani resettlement camp closer to the Thai border. This included new refugees who had fled from forced labor used on the construction of the Ye-Tavoy railroad and other human rights abuses. Since 1999, when the NMSP stopped receiving rice from Thailand based NGOs, they have been unable to accept many new refugees into the camps. The majority of the refugees rejected from the camps have either returned to Burma or gone to Sangklaburi in Thailand.

In March and April of 2000, following the hospital seizure in Ratchaburi, Thai authorities in the area of Thong-phar-phoom began checking villagers to ensure everyone had the proper I.D. Villagers without Identity Cards were arrested and deported to the border areas. This included several Mon families in "Ban Bilockhi" village who did not have Thai or Tribe ID as well as other villagers who had been living illegally in Thailand for years. 160 displaced villagers crossed the border and settled in the Tavoy resettlement camp during the first two weeks of April. The burden of finding food and shelter for them fell on the site leaders.

The deported villagers were refugees who had fled their native villages in Yebyu and Tavoy townships five years ago to escape human rights abuses, including forced labor and tax collection related to the construction of the Ye-Tavoy railroad. None of the villagers chose to return to their original villages as they preferred to wait until the human rights situation there improved.

Situation of Shan Refugees

Although human rights abuses in Shan State in Burma are just as bad as in other ethnic minority areas, for unknown reasons, Shan refugees are not officially recognized by the Thai government. The SHRF has estimated that over 100,000 Shan refugees have entered Thailand since SPDC began a large scale village relocation program in 1996. During 2000, SHRF recorded 12,000 new refugees arriving at just one border crossing. The majority of Shan refugees live in the northern provinces of Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Mae Hong Son where they are sometimes able to find work but have extremely limited access to health care and education. They are in the same precarious situation as other migrant laborers and are subject to exploitation and abuse by employers and arrest and detention by the Thai authorities.

In January 2000, a makeshift Shan refugee camp, 2 kilometers inside Thailand, near Pangbawn Village, Pang Mapha District, Mae Hong Son Province, was burned down by Company 751, Battalion 5, Regiment 7 of the Thai Army. The camp contained 300 refugees who had arrived at the site in December of 1999 with the help of the SSA. The refugees were then driven back across the border.

In July and August 2000, Burmese troops manning the BP-1 border in Murg Ton across from Chiang Mai province refused to accept Shan refugees that the Thai authorities

attempted to forcibly return. The refugees were then released in Nawng Ook, a border town on the Thai side of the border.

Beginning in June of 2000, SPDC troops in Kun-Hing township, central Shan State, intensified their search for IDPs in hiding in the relocation areas, causing many to flee to the border areas and Thailand. Kun-Hing township has been one of the worst affected by mass forced relocation program that began in 1996. Approximately 70-75 SPDC troops from Company No. 4, IB246 led by Capt. Than Nyunt with 25 forced porters were searching the relocations areas that includes the village tracts of Wan Lao, Kaeng Lom, HoYaan, Kun Pu and Loi Keng. Another column of 50-60 troops from Company No. 5 of IB246 led by Capt. Cit Oo with 30 forced porters was searching the village tracts of Naa Teng, Naa Poi, Saai Khaao, Wan Phui, Saai Mung and Loi Khio. If the villagers are found by these troops they face possible execution, rape, beatings and abductions for forced portering. Often troops will shoot into villages or huts without any warning to the people inside. News of the intensified search for IDPs in hiding sent many people fleeing for the border. Most of the refugees are women and small children, like members of a family in the following list who have arrived at the Thai border in early July 2000.

15.3 Situation in India, Bangladesh and Malaysia

Situation of Rohingya Refugees

The Muslim Rohingya of Arakan State suffer human rights abuses above and beyond their non-Rohingya Buddhists living in the same area. As a result of ethnic and religious discrimination dating back to independence, the Rohingya are not given Burmese citizenship. As a result of this, their status as both migrants and refugees is made more precarious, with Burma refusing to accept some repatriated refugees back, saying they are not citizens. Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and Malaysia, as well as Chin refugees in India, were all subject to the threat of repatriation or deportation, raising concerns of refolement, and forcible return, which is contrary to international law.

Bangladesh

In 1991 more than 250,000 Rohingya refugees fled from Burma to the Bangladeshi district of Cox's Bazaar to escape atrocities committed by the military government during a crackdown on Rohingya in Arakan State. Since that time more than 31,500 children have been born and nearly 7,500 refugees have died in the camps. The majority of refugees were repatriated before 1997 as the result of agreements between Burma, Bangladesh and the UNHCR worked out in 1992. However, the agreement contained no provisions for impartial screening of the refugees before they went back or for monitoring their well-being afterwards. The majority of the refugees who were first repatriated did so involuntarily and there are reports that the authorities in Bangladesh used food withdrawal and beatings to force people to return home. In 1997 repatriation was halted by the Burmese government and only began again in very limited numbers the next year.

In 1996, between 10,000 and 15,000 new asylum seekers entered Bangladesh as the result of increased forced labor, heavy taxation on Muslims and cases of rape in Arakan State. New refugees were not welcomed by the Bangladeshi authorities, and in April of 1996, 15 women and children who were part of a group of asylum seekers drowned in the Naf river as they were being brought back to Burma by border authorities. In June of 1997, 5,000

new refugees arrived in Bangladesh, however 500 of them were sent back by local authorities. Refugees who managed to find places to stay in the camps, with friends or relatives, were tracked down by the Bangladeshi authorities and charged with illegal entry. Other did not enter the camps but hid in jungle areas or slums in Cox's Bazaar. It is estimated that a between 10,000 and 15,000 Rohingya arrived in Bangladesh in 1997, as well as 1996, but because they didn't enter refugee camps there is no exact number. In July of 1997, police officials announced that 2,000 newly arrived refugees had been sent back to Burma in the preceding months. One commander of the border security forces stated, "If caught, we are pushing [refugees] back or sending them to jails".

As of 2000, there were approximately 22,000 refugees living in UNHCR-run refugee camps and temporary shelters in Noryapara (Ukhia) and Kutuplong (Teknaf) in Phalungchake Township, Cox's Bazaar. The Burmese government has agreed to take back only 7,000 of these, saying the rest are not Burmese nationals. The UNHCR requested the Bangladeshi authorities to allow the remaining 14,300 Rohingyas to settle in Bangladesh, but was turned down. The Burmese Ambassador to Bangladesh said that as of June 2000, 1,500 of the 7,000 refugees cleared for repatriation had been repatriated and an additional 5,000 were in the process of scrutiny before being sent back. However, although 50 refugees were supposed to be repatriated each week, as of July much fewer were being sent back. As a result the Bangladeshi government was pushing Rangoon to expedite repatriation. Among Rangoon's conditions for repatriation were that repatriated refugees must not be from a split family to avoid people illegally going back to Bangladesh to meet family members left behind.

There continue to be Rohingya refugees arriving Bangladesh, but not in large numbers and it is difficult to ascertain the exact number as many of them enter with valid permits for one week and then become migrant workers. In addition there is large scale trafficking or Rohingya from Bangladesh to Pakistan. Apart from these registered refugees in the camps, there are estimated twenty thousand Muslim refugees who are scattered in the Chittagong Hills and other areas of Bangladesh having run away from the two refugee camps.

Refugee killed in Bangladesh Camp

On March 7, 2000, Gul Mohammad, a 70 year old Rohingya refugee housed in shed No. 72, Room No. 6, Block C, of the Nayapara refugee camp 1 in Bangladesh was killed by a Magistrate of the camp. According to refugees living in the camp Gul Mohammad, who had consented to be repatriated to Arakan State from Bangladesh, was beaten to death when he approached the camp authorities for the quota he deserved to get as a returnee. The incident was said to have occurred before the UNHCR staff. There have been reports of many untoward incidents in the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh in the past. (Source: ARNO)

Malaysia

There are currently 10,000 Muslim Rohingya refugees in Malaysia. A 2000 Human Rights Watch Report criticized both the UNHCR and the Malaysian Government's treatment of Rohingya in Malaysia, saying that the "treatment of the Rohingya falls short of internationally accepted standards." and the treatment of refugees from Burma is "bad and getting worse." Rohingya refugees in Malaysia are considered illegal immigrants even if they are recognized by the UNHCR and are at constant risk of arrest. There is no asylum system in Malaysia which is not a signatory to the Convention Relating to the Status of

Refugees. Malaysia is selective in which refugees groups it recognizes and the Rohingya have been refused recognition despite the fact that their situation has been deteriorating in recent years. The HRW report also criticized the Malaysian police and immigration officers, saying that they are ignorant of what it is to be a refugee and that because detainees are kept out of the view of international monitors, they are beaten, robbed, inadequately fed and denied medical care in detention camps. Rohingya children are often not allowed to go to school and have been detained with adult non-relatives and deported alone. The report also says that the UNHCR has not fulfilled its role to provide international protection and seek durable solutions.

Situation of Chin Refugees in India

There are an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 Chin, an ethnic and religious minority in Burma, and Lushai living in Mizoram State, India. In a decision criticized by the US Committee for Refugees (USCR) HRW, and Amnesty International, the Indian government made a decision to deport hundreds of ethnic Chin living in the northeastern region back to Burma. A USCR spokesman said that the Chin should be treated as refugees because they fled Burma due to persecution and that their forced repatriated could constitute refoulment, or forced return, which is contrary to international law. India is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee convention but is a member of UNHCR's Executive Committee.

Beginning in August, refugees were arrested and detained in Aizawl, Champai, Saiha, Tanhril, Babutlang, Vaiva, Kulikawn, and Lungmaul and other cities and towns after the Mizoram state government issued an order that all Chin and other Burmese refugees must leave India on or before August 31. A list of all Chin refugees in many towns and villages was collected for the purpose of deportation and many refugees were not allowed to take their belongings with them. On August 3, 87 people were deported to Burma. On August 8, 27 refugees were deported to the Tio River on the border with Burma and on August 18, and additional 82 refugees from the Aizawl town area were deported after being jailed for the required 7 days. As of August 16, there were approximately 1,000 refugees jailed in Mizoram state. During the first week of August 2000, 114 Chin were deported to the Burma border and handed over to the SPDC.

Death of Refugee in Police Custody

On August 3, Mr Lalrinchan, aged 25, originally from Leilet village, Falam Township, Chin State, died at the police lock-up in Aizawal. He was first arrested by the Village Defense People (VDP) of the Electric Ward, Aizawal and then handed over to the police. He had been charged with drug use and was tortured while in police custody. (Source: CFC)

Rohingya Refugee Denied Asylum in India

A Rohingya refugee, Jafar Alam, who had been imprisoned in Deoband, India since 1998 was released during the last week of October 2000, but later rearrested. It was feared that he would be deported to Burma. Jafar Alam was a former member of the National Democratic Party for Human Rights and had been arrested by the military government in 1989 and released in 1994. He had also been taken to do forced labor on the Indian/Burma border in 1996. In 1997 he entered India to join his brother Budiul Alam, a UNHCR refugee. His brother went to New Delhi to talk about getting refugee status for Jafar. While he was gone Jafar was arrested for illegal entry to India. He was first interviewed by the

UNHCR on May 7, 1998 but was not aware of the purpose of the interview and there was no translator present. On June 11, 1998, Jafar was sent a letter denying him refugee status on the grounds that he could not prove he had or could suffer persecution of enough severity to grant him refugee status. He was given a second interview on October 25, 1998 with his brother acting as interpreter. The interview went well but his brother was later told by the first person to interview Jafar in May that it was unlikely he would be granted refugee status. After Jafar's release and re-arrest in October 2000, the South Asian Human Rights Documentation Center asked the National Human Rights Commission to intervene in the matter, who then sent the request to the Ministry of External Affairs and UNHCR for speedy action. However, Jafar's brother alleges that UNHCR staff told him there was little chance that he would get refugee status unless new information came to light, as there was political pressure to deny Muslims from Burma refugee status. However, this was later denied by the UNHCR.

Acquitted Burmese Prisoners Held in Calcutta Jail

On October 21, 2000, 58 Burmese fisherman languishing in two jails in Calcutta ended a hunger strike after being assured of a prompt release by the Indian authorities. The fisherman had crossed into Indian water territory in 1997, and as they carried no documents were arrested under Section 14 of the Foreigners Act. After serving more than one year in jail, they were acquitted on September 23, 1999, but not released because the Burmese authorities refused to take them back. The Indian authorities promised to do their best and work the Burmese Embassy in New Delhi to ensure their return home. The prisoners were of the Mon, Rakhine, Burman and Karen nationalities of Burma. (Source: Mizzima)

15. 4 Personal Accounts

Name: Lu Ral

Sex: Male

Age: 30

Ethnicity: Karenni

Religion: Buddhism

Address: Pa Kyae village, Loi Khaw Township, Karenni State

Occupation: Farmer

Education None

Marital Status: Married with 3 sons

Date of interview: February 23, 2001

Source: KNAHR

The reason I came here was that I had no job, and my hill side fields were confiscated by the military unit, LIB (250). They also ordered us to do forced labor every day. Although LIB 250 was about 2 "ParLone" away from our village, they came to our village every day and demanded this and that. We didn't appropriate this, and were sure if we continued to stay

The Situation of Refugees

In 1995, the military forced the villages in the Che Kul village groups to expand 200 acres of fields cultivated beside our village. This was an order that came from the Loikhaw Operations Command to LIB 250. The plan was to use the fields and forced labor in the fields to grow paddy for the government services. They hired tractors at 300 kyat per acre, and forced the Chee Kal village groups to cultivate the fields. They ordered us to grow maize, sesame, beans, and bananas in these fields, and then took all the profits and the villagers didn't get anything. Even now there are many requirements for us to do forced labor with our own food supplies. There was another forced labor ordered by LIB 250 where we had to build army camps for them. They ordered us to build fences, dig trenches, and every three houses had to draw water two times a day for them. Once in the morning and once in the evening. As there was no water in our area, we had to draw it from a village 3 miles away. Also there was the firewood, which we had to send every day from every two or three houses. The army soldiers stole chickens, ducks and pigs when they come to the village, and if they saw cows outside of the village, they shot and ate them. They behaved like this every time they came to the village, and the villager can't live like this any more.

We had a primary school in our village, but the teachers didn't really want to come and teach because they were afraid. They came and taught once a week. We really worry for the future of the children. Another thing is that the military constantly came and demanded porters from our village for their operations. If they took porters, the porters would be gone for a month, and some would die along the way. When we couldn't carry things, they tortured and beat us in various ways. In 1998, there were 200 porters from Pa Kya San Pya, Pa Tee Ma, Thone Mai and Daw Mu Ka La villages, including myself. After they arrested us they put us in a house. But we were able to break out of the house and run away. Some were arrested again and the military tortured them very, very badly. I don't want to talk about it again, because the military was really, really hard on them.

We arrived to this camp from our village after 10 days (of travel). We were very afraid and worried coming here. We didn't know if we would die or not, and we couldn't breathe. We could only breathe easily after we arrived. We are OK here because they give us the food that we need. And we have some happiness. Right now we are staying in barracks. I think we will heal slowly. That is all that I wish to tell.



Below and left photos:
Refugees from Arakan
State in refugee camps
near Cox's Bazaar,
Bangladesh (Photos:
ARNO)



A refugee child from Chin State,
Burmain his home in Mizoram
State, India. Many Chin people
moved to border areas due to the
persecution of the SPDC against
ethnic people. There are no
refugee camps for them
recognized by the India
government. (Photo: Aung Myo
Min)



Refugee children in Mae La refugee camp, Thailand. Late 2000. (Photo: Ma Aindra)



Children at Halockni Camp
near Sangkhlaburi, Thailand.
(Photo: Aung Myo Min)



Refugees in Halockni camp making brooms for money after their food supplies were cut off in December 2000. (Source: Aung Myo Min)



The 152 refugees set out from the Noh Po refugee camp office on August 17th 2000, under supervision of the Thai Army. Foreign relief organisations had issued each of them some supplies and a thin plastic sheet to protect them from the rain [Photos: KHRG researcher]



Photos this page and next: The repatriation march. People were carrying whatever they could, there were many small children who often needed to rest, and the paths were slippery, dangerous, muddy or washed out, so going was very slow. As can be seen in the photos, some of the Thai soldiers sympathised with the refugees. *[Photos: KHRG researcher]*





The Situation of Refugees



Young Karen refugees at Umphien Mai refugee camp. (Photo: The Nation)



Refugees who fled the SPDC attack on the Mae La Po Hta IDP site wait to be transported to safer ground in April 2000. (Source: The Nation)

BURMESE BORDER REFUGEE SITES WITH POPULATION FIGURES - December 2000



		December	June
KARENNI			+(+)
2 Ban Kwai (Site 1)		12,041	417
3 Ban Mai Nai Soi		3,871	211
5 Ban Mae Surin (Site 2)		2,959	25
		18,871	653
KAREN			
K1 Mae Kong Kha (Site 3)		13,221	525
K2 Mae Ra Ma Luang (Site 4)		8,743	133
K3 Mae La		37,070	2,802
K4 Umphien Mai		16,085	353
K5 Nu Po		8,777	22
K6 Ban Don Yang		3,653	271
K7 Htee Wa Doh*		1,989	0
K8 Tham Hin		8,526	305
K9 Bor Wi**		81	81
K10 Chumphon**		276	(8)
		98,421	4,484
MON - Resettlement Sites			
M1 Halocharae*		4,500	0
M2 Bee Ree*		3,177	0
M3 Tavoy*		2,945	0
		10,622	0
Total:		127,914	5,137
★ Maneloy Student Centre		943	(824)

* Sites on Burmese side of the border (Not registered)

** Not registered

Note: Figures are the BBC food case-load and include new arrivals since MOU/UNHCR registration.

16. The Situation of Migrant Workers from Burma

16.1 Background

The one million Burmese migrant workers in Thailand are one of the largest migrant populations in Asia. Migrant workers from Burma come from a variety of geographical locations and ethnic groups and work in several different industries and service sectors in Thailand. There are both push and pull factors at work when people make the decision to migrate to Thailand. The pull factors include the close geographical location of Thailand to Burma as well as the demand in Thailand for cheap labor. The push factors include the poor state of the Burmese economy and massive human rights violations that occur all over the country. Many workers have come to Thailand to escape the demands for forced labor on infrastructure and other projects in their home states and divisions. In the case of the more than 100,000 Shans working in Northern Thailand, the majority of them have fled from human rights abuses that include forced labor, forced relocations, arbitrary arrest and rape, but are denied refugee status by Thailand and therefore are considered illegal migrants.

All migrant workers face a common fear of arrest and deportation. This fear keeps many migrants from moving freely and impedes their access to health care and other social services that may be available. For this reason migrants suffer in silence from easily treatable diseases, and the spread of communicable diseases is facilitated by lack of access to health care facilities and medicine, cramped living conditions and poor sanitation. Lack of knowledge of the local language also prevents migrants from seeking help when they face unhealthy or dangerous situations. This combination of fear of arrest and lack of knowledge about the laws, customs and language of their host country means that migrants are easily exploited and abused by their employers, the Thai authorities and each other. However, the conditions inside Burma make migration to other countries preferable for a large number of people despite the risks and dangers involved in such a move.

Over the course of 2000, several high profile acts of violence carried out on Thai soil by Burmese nationals increased negative sentiment among the Thai public towards refugees and migrants from Burma. In addition, the Thai authorities intensified a high-profile crackdown on illegal alien workers, especially Burmese, in attempt to increase security in Thailand. Their efforts were the most intense in Kanchanaburi, Tak and Ranong Provinces which share a border with Burma. This made an already precarious situation for Burmese migrant workers worse. Despite this, thousands of workers continued to flood into Thailand where the economy has improved since the 1997 economic crisis and there has been a corresponding demand for cheap labor.

In response to long standing requests by Thai businesses for the authorities to relax restrictions on foreign workers, in August 2000, the Thai Labor ministry decided to extend work permits for 107,000 migrant workers.

Legally registered workers, a fraction of the total number of migrant workers in Thailand, were spread out in 37 Thai provinces, mostly working in areas bordering Burma, and restricted to working in 18 areas, including fishing, mining, farming and cottage industries.

The Situation of Migrant Workers from Burma

The majority, 19,200, worked in Samut Sakhon, followed by 11,236 in Ranong. Foreign workers seeking to stay for another year had to apply for a work permit and pay a 1,000 baht registration fee by November 2000. On August 24, more than 10,000 unskilled Burmese workers rushed to Mae Sot, Tak province after the decision to extend the work permits was made known. Of between 60,000 and 100,000 workers in Mae Sot, only 2,125 were legally allowed to work in the farming and construction sectors.

The crackdown in the border provinces has pushed illegal immigrants to find jobs elsewhere in Thailand with many Thais making money by acting as their agents or transporting them. Burmese laborers who enter Thailand illegally usually begin by applying for a temporary border pass. They then contact brokers, including policemen and immigration officers, who will find them jobs in Bangkok or other provinces. They often travel by hiding in trucks transporting other goods, such as produce. Corruption of the police and immigration authorities has meant that most often those who are arrested and pushed back across the border are able to return shortly.

As a result of the crackdown, and increased job competition, jobs in factories have become harder to find and many women from Burma are taking jobs in the sex industry. This is partially to blame for the growing number of women workers being seen at Thai hospitals after seeking dangerous back-street abortions. In addition, many of the migrant women are young and separated from their families for the first time and lack knowledge about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV/AIDs. Those who have found work in factories are often confined in cramped quarters supplied by their employers, with men and women housed together. Many pregnancies are out of wedlock which are unacceptable in conservative Burmese society.

Women are also vulnerable to sexual harassment and sexual assault by their employers and the Thai authorities. Because they are illegal aliens, there is no legal recourse for this abuse and many women fear losing their jobs or being deported if they complain. This is also true for workers who have been exploited by their employers or faced physical abuse at work or during arrest or detention by the Thai authorities. During arrest and detention workers are vulnerable to beatings, rapes and economic exploitation in the form of bribes requested by the Thai authorities for their release or to prevent arrest. After deportation dealing with the Burmese authorities is not any better - workers face possible extortion, interrogation, detention, prison sentences forced labor, recruitment for the army, rape and physical abuse; in some cases repatriated workers have been killed by the SPDC.

Type of work (Thailand)	Wages/Salary <small>*That minimum wage is 162 Baht a day</small>
Agriculture	2,500 Baht (71.42 US \$) per month with a place to stay
Cold Storage	2,500 Baht (71.42 US \$) per month with a place to stay
Construction	100 Baht (2.29 US \$) - 180 Baht (4.57 US \$) per day
Coastal fishing	2,000 Baht (2.85 US \$) per month
Fishery (deep sea)	2,500 Baht (71.42 US \$) per month
Food Shops	2,000 Baht (57.14 US \$) per month
Gas Stations	1,500 Baht (42.85 US \$) per month
Gem cutting	3,500 Baht (100 US \$) per month
Gem mining	2,000 Baht (57.14 US \$) per month
Golf courses	2,000 Baht (57.14 US \$) per month
Industry	150 Baht (2.85 US \$) - 180 Baht (4.57 US \$) per day
Housekeeping	1000 Baht (28.57 US \$) per month with a place to stay
Logging	80 Baht (2.28 US \$) - 150 Baht (4.28 US \$) per day
Saw mills	80 Baht (2.28 US \$) - 160 Baht (4.57 US \$) per day
Services	90 Baht (2.57 US \$) - 160 Baht (4.57 US \$) a day
Restaurants	2,000 Baht (57.14 US \$) per month with a place to stay
Rice mills	2,500 Baht (71.42 US \$) per month
Rock grinding	80 Baht (2.28 US \$) - 160 Baht (4.57 US \$) per day
Slaughter houses	2,000 Baht (57.14 US \$) per month
Paper mill	90 Baht (2.57 US \$) - 160 Baht (4.57 US \$) per day

Type of work (India)
1. Manual labor, such as road building, construction and forestry.
2. Agricultural workers
3. Skilled workers (handloom worker, gold smith, small home factory worker, mechanic)
4. Professional - such as schoolteacher (mostly in private schools)
5. Trader
6. Domestic worker
7. Others (such as sex workers etc.)

16.2 Situation in Mae Sot, Thailand

In the year 2000 it was estimated that there were between 60,000 and 100,000 illegal Burmese migrant workers in Mae Sot, Tak Province, Thailand. The majority of these workers are employed by Thai and foreign owned factories, especially the garment and textile industries. They are subject to harassment by their employers and the Thai authorities, unsafe working conditions, exploitation, lack of job security and sexual abuse; because of their illegal status they have no recourse against these abuses. Due to the location of Mae Sot directly across from the Burmese town of Myawaddy, workers face the continual threat of deportation. Burmese workers can be arrested during factory raids, as they are walking down the street, shopping in the market, or riding public transportation. In 2000 there were several mass arrests with workers being arrested in the hundreds or thousands at a time. In some instances migrants have been arrested by Thai authorities in wearing plainclothes. In some cases workers may avoid deportation by paying bribes to the Thai authorities, either before or after they are taken into custody.

Beginning July 1, 2000, Thai authorities launched successive repatriations of Burmese migrant workers in Mae Sot. As of August 21, 2000 there were 300 police and immigration officers in Mae Sot in addition to the usual police force in order to carry out the operations. It is believed that the Thai police received an additional budget from the Government to repatriate illegal immigrants. The successive repatriations stopped after August but started again on December 1, 2000. It is reported that the Thai authorities ordered the factories to close, but some were still running secretly. As of December 19 there was information that police had orders to arrest 70,000 migrant workers. Due to the successive raids on factories Burmese workers in Mae Sot had no steady employment or wages due to the inconsistency of the availability of work and fear of arrest if they did go to work. In some instances factory raids have been coordinated with the factory owners/managers to occur a few days before pay day so that the workers don't have to be paid the wages they are owed.

Another result of the continuing raids was that many workers were left without livelihood, shelter, food, clean water or medical care which put their health at risk. Many times the workers live at their place of employment, therefore when they had to flee as the result of a raid, fear of a raid or the closing of a factory they were also fleeing their homes. In some instances, workers were warned by their employers or others before a raid took place. It is reported that thousands of workers fled to paddy fields and jungle surrounding Mae Sot in order to avoid arrest. Some factory owners gave the workers a small amount of money, as a loan or an advance on future pay, when there was information about an upcoming raid and the workers had to hide, but the majority didn't. When groups of workers, sometimes more than 1,000 at a time, are arrested they are sent in groups, by truck, to the Thai Immigration Detention Cell located near the Moei River. Before being repatriated their details are recorded, and fingerprints and photographs taken. Burmese workers who have already been arrested three times by Thai authorities could be sentenced to jail. There are reports that workers have been beaten during arrest or detention. With jobs harder to find in factories after the clampdown, more Myanmar women are taking up jobs as hostesses in karaoke bars and as prostitutes. Health surveys in Mae Sot show that eight in ten Myanmar prostitutes are likely to contract the HIV virus that leads to AIDS.

Situation in Myawaddy

Workers that are repatriated to Burma from Thailand face harassment and extortion or worse from the Burmese authorities in Myawaddy. It is reported that Burmese authorities were interrogating and investigating workers deported by Thai authorities in 2000. Some were being fined 6,000 kyat if they could not show a Burmese National Identity Card; this was a hardship for many families who had been settled in Mae Sot for a long time and had lost their National Identity Cards. In addition to this, workers were forced to pay various fees to the authorities, including those for entering and leaving Myawaddy, an offense for which they can also be given jail sentences.

Other reports from Myawaddy said that repatriated male workers may be recruited for the army and all workers could be taken to be used as forced porters for the military. This creates addition fear of being sent back to Burma because their security cannot be guaranteed. As of December 19, 2000, Burmese authorities had left open only the Mae Sot-Myawaddy "Friendship Bridge" check point and closed down all other passages. Therefore Burmese workers wishing to return to Burma had to pass through the authorities.

Workers that wanted to return home often didn't have enough money to both pay the Burmese authorities as well as pay for transportation home. In addition to this, many are also afraid of situation inside Burma and possible arrest by the Burmese authorities. Some workers have no place to stay in Burma as they had sold of all of their properties to settle in Mae Sot. As of August 21, 2000, many recently repatriated workers were staying in a monastery in Myawaddy. They were unable to either return to Thailand because of continuing police operations, or to return to their original home in Burma as they could not afford transportation. On August 21st, the Burmese police, immigration officers and army officers held a meeting at the Myawaddy highway compound. After the meeting, they went to a place where many of the workers were staying and told the female workers to take their belongings and get into a truck. The women were afraid and ran away. Some of the workers were taken further inside Burma. Others went into hiding in the jungle and paddy fields near Myawaddy. On the Burmese side, the Burmese military blocked all illegal border crossings and stopped issuing official passes for Burmese citizens to enter Thailand.

The following is a time-line of the Thai authorities' operation to repatriate Burmese migrant workers in Mae Sot, and related events in December 2000. (Source: BLSO)

December 1, 2000- Thai authorities start arresting Burmese migrant workers and other Burmese people in Mae Sot.

December 2, 2000- During arrests the Thai authorities wear both uniforms and plain clothes and sometimes use civilian vehicles. They arrest Burmese in the central market and around Mae Sot. Some workers start leaving factories and going into hiding.

December 3, 2000- The arrests continue. A worker, Maung Lin Lin Naing, 16 years old, from Champion wool factory is sent to Mae Sot hospital because of an accident while he was working in Champion wool factory.

December 4, 2000- Thai polices and immigration officers raid and arrest workers from the sock factory in Ban Nuear and other small factories.

December 5, 2000- One young woman is raped and killed near Champion wool factory. Maung Lin Lin Naing dies in the hospital of his injuries.

The Situation of Migrant Workers from Burma

December 6, 2000- Thai police raid Mae Pa Slipper factory. Workers, including women, jump down from the third-floor window. Many injure in their legs and bodies.

December 7, 2000- In the early morning, Thai police and immigration officers raid the construction workers' barracks. Old women and some children are arrested and taken to the Thai immigration custody.

The funeral ceremony for Maung Lin Lin Naing is prevented from being held at a Monastery because the Thai police threaten any Burmese coming to the funeral with arrest.

December 8, 2000- Some workers hiding in the paddy fields become sick because of the lack of shelter from the weather which is windy and cool.

December 9, 2000- Thai police arrest workers from Hyaat wool factory and workers coming back from Myawaddy.

December 10, 2000- Many workers are still hiding in the paddy fields and forest until some factories open again secretly.

December 14, 2000- The owner of the Champion factory refuses to pay full compensation for the death of Maung Lin Lin Aung and tries to force his parents to sign an agreement. The parents refuse to sign. The workers are very angry and try to call a strike.

December 15, 2000- Worker leaders negotiate with the owner of the Champion Knitting Company to promise to give full compensation to Maun Lin Lin Aung's monther. Finally, the owner gives her 20,000 baht.

December 16, 2000- Some factory owners announce to the workers that factories will closed down because Thai authorities will accelerate operations. Some workers go back to Burma and some go into hiding again.

December 17, 2000- Arrests start in the early morning in the central market and continue the whole day around Mae Sot.

December 18 and 19, 2000- Police vans crowded with people who were arrested can bee seen going to the immigration center near the Moei River (Burma border).

Situation for workers in CKI Factory, Mae Sot

Raid on factory by Thai authorities, workers arrested and beaten, one killed

On August 31, 2000 in the early afternoon, the Thai Authorities, including police, immigration and army personnel, raided the Chow Knitting Industrial Co. LT. factory in Mae Sot, Thailand. The Taiwanese owned factory employs 3,000 workers and is one of the biggest factories in Mae Sot. The factory is divided in two sections, with an upper and a lower compound. The lower compound, with 1,000 workers, was raided first. After entering the building, the Thai Authorities locked all the gates and doors to prevent any workers from escaping. However, the workers in the upper compound heard about the raid and some were able to escape with their belongings. The workers, including women and children, were chased by the authorities for over one mile through paddy and corn fields, which were muddy due to the rain, and many slipped and fell. As the workers were running away the police shot their guns in the air to give them warning they should stop. According to one female worker who escaped, she heard the cries of some women workers as they asked the police not to beat them. Workers that were caught were taken to a monastery located near the factory and beaten by the authorities. 900 female and 100 male workers

were arrested during the raid. The workers were first locked inside the factory and the authorities began by arresting only female workers. Twenty five male workers approached the authorities and asked if they could exchange themselves for 25 of the female workers. This angered the police and they began to beat some of the workers. Before they did this they took photographs of the 25 workers who had requested the exchange.

The 1,000 workers that were arrested were taken to the Thai immigration detention center where some were beaten. Forty-four workers (42 male and 2 female) were separated from the rest and put in a different cell. The rest of the workers were released. On September 2, twenty-four of the 44 workers were released opposite the Zeetaw Gate checkpoint. They were put on a boat to cross the Moei river to the Burma side. Some of the workers became angry and shouted at the police, who then proceeded to beat the workers in the boat. One of the workers, Kyaw Min, 24, from Dagon satellite town in the Rangoon division, was hit in the head by the Thai authorities and fell into the river. He could not swim and because no one could help him he drown. He is survived by his wife who was 2 months pregnant at the time. The owner of the factory where he worked gave his wife some compensation money. Of the twenty workers that remained in custody, 16 were released on September 5. Four remained in the detention center as of Sept 9. Of the workers that were released on September 2, two of them had serious injuries due to being kicked in the chest by police and army officers wearing heavy boots, and as of September 9 were receiving medical treatment.

Employment Conditions of CKI Factory as of December 2000

The workers of the Chow Knitting Industry Co., Ltd have had a tradition of good relations with management, having established a social affairs committee to settle concerns of both the management and the workers, including, but not limited to: pay disputes, working hours, and arbitration of disputes between workers. In the fall of 2000, the management of Chow Knitting Industry Co. Ltd. changed, and since then the conditions for employment and the relationship between the manager and the workers has continually deteriorated. Workers have consistently complained of derogatory treatment on the part of the new Thai manager, as well as racist statements made by him. The following is a timeline of events that occurred in the last part of December 2000 regarding the worsening situation.

December 21, 2000- Factory workers reject a pay reduction, instead calling for a pay raise. Managers refuse demands; as a result, factory workers begin a strike. Factory owner and manager close machine room, thereby forbidding the workers from entering said rooms.

December 22, 2000- Workers continue strike.

December 23, 2000- 4pm- Manager requests police, immigration officers, and militia to pressure the striking workers back to work. At this time, workers meet with the manager and factory owner to discuss the terms of employment and salary. Workers demand the dismissal of the factory manager, but owner refuses, stating that he would, however, be willing to dismiss workers. Meeting reaches no agreement.

December 24, 2000 5pm- All of the approximate 2,000 workers of the factory's upper compound are dismissed. Manager disburses pay for previous thirty days. Some workers complain that they receive only a fraction of money owed. Even though most workers usually stay at factory during nighttime, the factory manager instructs all workers to leave factory immediately. As a result, many workers sleep in the forest surrounding the factory; while those who refuse to leave the factory are escorted out by security.

December 25, 2000- Manager invites female and homosexual workers to return to work,

though on condition that they abide by nine rules demanded by the factory manager, which includes:

1. Workers must not demand pay raise. If workers demand such a raise in pay, he/she will be immediately dismissed without *any* pay.
2. If a worker incorrectly sews an item, he/she must pay a fine that equals 300% of the payment, which they would receive for sewing such an item.

Many of the workers refuse to sign the aforementioned contract, and begin searching for employment at other factories, but because of the crackdown on illegal workers, several factories are temporarily shutdown, thus forcing the former workers of the factory to remain nearby.

December 26, 2000- The factory's security guard demands that those former workers staying in nearby shops leave the area. At this time, there is a Thai police crack down on migrant workers, thus putting these factory workers in a difficult situation; if they leave the area, they risk beatings at the hands of Thai authorities, as well as forced repatriation to Burma. Many lack the financial resources to both re-enter Burma and back to their hometown.

December 26,2000-January 3,2001- Little transpires to change the situation at the Chow Knitting Industry Co, Ltd. factory. Management waits for former workers to agree to their contract and return to work, while many former workers wait for the reopening of other factories.

January 4, 2001 8:30am.- Approximately 100 police and Thai immigration authorities surround areas where former workers continue to hide. Many escape, but approximately eighty-five workers are arrested. 1:00pm. Police and Thai immigration return to area, though only about thirty workers are arrested. During both incidents, police shoot bullets into the air in order to terrorize the workers. Some workers complain that authorities shot bullets directly into the forest where many workers were believed to be hiding. In total, about 120 workers are arrested and transported to police station, where many pay a bribe and are released. Others pay bribes, yet are not released. Others are sent to the detention center for illegal immigrants, where many are randomly beaten before repatriation to Burma. Women detainees complain that male authorities at the detention center performed body searches. Male detainees attempting to stop this sexual abuse are beaten by authorities.

16.3 Situation for Shans in Fang District, Chiang Mai

As of July 18, 2000, members of the Shan ethnic group living in the Fang District of Chiangmai were being harassed by the local police. Fang and the neighboring districts of Mae-ai and Chaiprakarn are known in the north for their fruit plantations. They rely heavily on cheap labor from the Shans who have been streaming into Thailand since the 1996 forced relocation campaigns launched by Rangoon. Thailand does not recognize the Shans as refugees even though they are the victims of human rights abuses, such as forced relocations, by the SPDC. Normally those who carried pink cards (for displaced persons) and green survey cards (for highlanders) were left alone unless they ventured out of the district area, but since June 2000, even those that carried blue cards, who could normally travel inside Chiangmai province, were not spared from harassment. Many without a

citizenship card were being stopped and forced to pay bribes to the Thai police. It is reported that the harassment started after village headmen refused to collect a monthly protection fee of B.150 per family for the police. The Thai government has issued a directive empowering district chiefs to grant citizenship to various card holders, but it has yet to effect the Shans. (Source: S.H.A.N.)

16.4 Situation in Samut Sakon, Thailand

In 2000, the Thai Action Committee for Democracy in Burma released a survey they had carried out on the living and working conditions of the estimated 60,000 illegal Burmese workers in Samut Sakhon. Mistreatment of workers was widespread and some employers used violence to control their workers if they did not do what they were told or were caught slacking. Filthy working and living conditions increased the spread of disease, as well as the fact that ill workers did not seek medical treatment at hospitals because of fear of being deported. One Burmese worker said he was not entitled to take a day off even if he was sick. If he did his employer would deduct Bt500 from his salary. Some unscrupulous employers even arranged to have their workers arrested on the day before pay-day so wouldn't have to pay them. Female victims of sexual assault were afraid to speak out; employers, police and others took advantage of the women and threatened them if they dared complain. Some female workers have been caught by the police and never heard from again.

Among the Thai authorities there was widespread corruption, the survey found. Police officers were involved with smuggling people into the country and the wages of some workers were garnished by their employers to pay weekly bribes to the police. Employers also had to pay the police, normally Bt 3,000 per laborer, to get arrested Burmese workers freed from custody. Most workers that get caught outside their places of employment have to pay bribes to the police to be set free, in some cases even those carrying legal licenses have had to do this because the authorities say they are fake. Sometimes if workers are arrested in groups, one person is set free to collect money and bring it back to pay the bribe. In cases where workers are beaten by the police they are afraid to come forth and complain.

16.5 Situation in Mizoram State, India

There are an undocumented number of people from Burma who are living and working in the Mizoram State of India after fleeing from Burma.

Mass Arrests and Deportations

As of July 2000, scores of ethnic Chin were reported to have been forcibly returned to Burma from the northeastern Indian state of Mizoram, and handed over to the SPDC. Hundreds more were reportedly detained and facing deportation. Between 40,000 to 50,000 ethnic Chin and Lushai from Myanmar are estimated to be living in Mizoram, which borders the Chin State in Burma. In addition, it is estimated that one thousand handloom weavers from the middle and upper parts of Burma are working in various handloom houses in the State. Whenever the police in Mizoram launch an operation against illegal immigrants, Burmese handloom workers suffer the most and are easy to catch because of their recognizable appearance.

Many of those detained had well-founded fears of persecution and possibly imprisonment

and torture in Burma, and were not able to claim asylum in India. At least 87 were reportedly forcibly returned on August 4, 2000, and several hundred more were reportedly detained in the first week of August. U Than Sein, an exiled member of parliament from the NLD, and two members of the ABSDF were arrested and held in the central jail in Aizawl, the capital of the Mizoram State, and eventually released. As of July 30, 2000, the fate of other foreigners including U Than Sein's daughter and son in law was unknown. As of August 2, 2000 there were fears that there would be further arrests and deportations, and many Chin went into hiding. Those detained were reportedly held in several jails and police posts in the state, under the Foreigners Act, which makes no provision for refugees and does not allow those detained to seek asylum. (Source: Amnesty International/Mizzima News Group)

Increase in Number of Women Migrant Workers in Mizzoram

As a result of the soaring prices of basic commodities, religious persecution and forced labor by the SPDC the number of Burmese women working in various occupations in Mizzoram has steadily increased over the last ten years as the economic and political situation in Burma has deteriorated. According to local people, before the 1988 military take over in Burma, very few Burmese women came to Mizoram and worked mostly in handloom weaving industry. As of 2000, there were estimated to be five thousand Burmese women working in Aizawl alone. The majority of them work as housemaids, while others work in handloom weaving, teashops, restaurants and trading in goods and cosmetics. In addition, some women trade between India and Burma. As a result of the influx of workers, it is difficult to find employment. Most of the migrant women workers are from rural areas of Chin State and the Sagaing Division of Burma. There are also many others who come from Monywa, Mandalay, Swhe Bo, Hseik Khun, Saung Nat and rural areas in Upper Burma. They are scattered in Aizawl, Laung Thlaing and Lone Li townships in Mizoram of India. When crossing border from Burma to India they have to bribe Burmese security forces at numerous checkpoints along the route and immigrations officers in addition to paying an increased bus fare if they don't have a National Identity card. Many women working as housemaids are exploited and harassed by men and are forced to have sex with their employers. Sometimes, without being aware of the situation they become involved in sex work. (Source: Mizzima News Group).

16.6 Situation for illegal migrant Rohingya women in Pakistan

It is estimated that there are at least 20,000 Rohingya women, originally from the Arakan State of Burma, living in Karachi, the capital of Pakistan alone. Most are forced to work as rag-pickers, casual laborers and sex workers. Once in Pakistan, the price of a female illegal migrant ranges from \$1,285 to \$2,428, depending on her physical attributes and conditioning. Many claim to be Bangladeshi as Burma denies them citizenship. Because they have no citizenship, if they try and return home they are evicted or used a forced labor. Their stateless status also puts them at the mercy of pimps, touts, police informers, border guards and agents who run the flesh trade. The coast of Sindh is also a popular destination for Rohingya because jobs in the fishing industry can be found easily, however, most refugees owe huge sums of money to those who arranged for their journey which then puts them in a cycle of debt.

Many Rohingya have also settled in West Bengal, India, working as domestic help and living in shanties near railway stations. The women have found some backing from the Left parties although such support comes with strings attached. They are vulnerable to the local area bosses, panchayat leaders and the police, who have to be bribed regularly and who extract other favors from these women, who cannot approach officials for fear of detection and deportation.

Stateless Prisoners in Bangladesh

In 2000, 500 stateless prisoners, mostly from Arakan State, were squandering in Bangladeshi prisons even though their terms had expired because the SPDC would not take them back. Ninety percent had overstayed their term 4-5 years and the other 10% for more than one year.

16.7 Partial List of Incidents

Refugees/migrant workers arrested and detained by SPDC troops after repatriation

On February 1, 2000, 45 refugees/migrant workers who were returning from Thailand were arrested and detained by SPDC troops from LIB553 led by Maj. Mya Thin at Paeng Kham village, Murng Yawn tract, Murng-Sart township. After being held for 4 nights and 5 days, during which they were interrogated and robbed, they were forced to return to Thailand. (Source: SHRF)

Child crushed by steel plate on construction site of the new Minburi Provincial Court Building

On February 26, 2000 a two year-old boy "Pepsi", the only son of two illegal Burmese immigrants, was killed when a steel plate fell from a construction site in Minburi. His parents were working at the site of the new Minburi provincial court building at the time of the accident. Witnesses said the boy was wandering about the construction site when the steel plate fell from the unfinished building and crushed him. The boy's parents, who had been working illegally in the country for five years, were arrested for illegal entry and were to be sent back to Burma.

However, a police spokesman said they might be allowed to stay for the funeral of their son before being expelled. Police charged Sathit Pititraisakul, supervising engineer of the building project, with negligence leading to the death of the child. (Source: The Nation)

Rape of Burmese girl by Thai Official, Mae Sot

On March 1, 2000, an 18 year-old girl was abducted in Mae Sot, Tak province, Thailand, by a Thai official, taken to a remote area and raped. As the man was under the influence of narcotics, the girl was later able to escape. The girl was from Bogalay Township, Irawaddy Division, and had fled to Thailand after the SPDC had ordered the villagers in her hometown to rebuild a collapsed river bank. She had arrived in Thailand 3 days prior to the incident, and had been searching for work in local factories. (Source: Young Chi Oo)

Detainee beaten almost to death in Mae Sot by Immigration Officers

On March 3, 2000, Aa Htun, aged 21, was beaten almost to death while in police custody in Mae Sot. The victim had been arrested on February 26 in Ma Ha Chai where he worked in a fish-canning factory. Prior to being sent to Mae Sot he had been kept in the Ma Ha Chai jail for 4 days, during which time all his money, 9,000 baht, was taken by the police. On March 1 he and approximately 100 other workers were sent from the Bangkok Immigration Detention Center to Mae Sot by truck. When they arrived they were brought to the Mae Sot

Immigration Center and the immigration police told them that if they could pay some money they could be released. The workers could not pay and were kept in the Immigration Center. Au Htun told the police that even if they could not pay then they should be released. The police asked him if he was released would he go back to Burma, he answered yes, but the police did not believe him and began to beat him. Their exchange was complicated by the fact that the victim didn't speak Thai well. He was told that he shouldn't argue with the police because it was very easy to kill a Burmese person. Aa Htun tried to run to a different part of the cell while he was being beaten and the officers became more angry. Several officers came in to beat him one by one; they handcuffed him and brought him to a special cell where kicked him with their boots and hit him with a rubber stick and brooms. He later managed to get his handcuffs off and when someone opened a door a tried to escape but was arrested at the gate. He was beaten again, this time with iron and rubber sticks, and he was hit in the face and neck, and his head was stepped on and crushed by an officer wearing military boots. He was covered in blood and when he fell unconscious the officers threw water on him so he would wake up and they beat him more. The other prisoners feared that he was dead and one of the police officers warned that he would be killed that night. Luckily a Burmese man came to the detention center looking for a friend and the other detainees begged him to pay a bribe to the police to release Aa Htun before he was killed. The man paid them \$1000 bhat and Aa Htun was released. (Source: BLSO)

15 Workers Die in Car Accident during Deportation, Mae Sot

On May 19, 2000, at 6:30 a.m., at least 15 Burmese workers were killed, and more than 30 injured, as Thai authorities transported them to the border in a routine deportation. The bus carrying 65 Burmese workers to the border crossing at Mae Sot, left the road and plunged into a 100-meter deep ravine during rainy weather. (Source: AFP)

Deported Migrant Workers used as porters

On June 5 and 7, 2000, IB 61, captured nearly 100 men from a group of 237 people which had been deported by the Thai Government to Paya-Thone-Zu (Three Pagodas Pass). The troops used these deported Burmese migrant workers as porters in their columns. At that time, IB 61, which had been temporarily based in Paya-Thone-Zu, had to change bases with IB 343, so they were in need of porters. Along the way, the SPDC troops tied every porter's hand to a rope, so that each porter was separated 20 inches from one to another. One soldier had to guard two porters and walk between them. (Source: THRF)

Six women and children Sold to Banyaikai sewing factory, Nornthapburi

On June 20, 2000, six young Burmese women who had been sold to the Banyaikai sewing factory in Nornthaburi district, managed to escape to Mae Sot. While working in the factory the young women were forced to work 14 hours a day, sometimes working overtime until 4 a.m. Their employer did not pay them because he considered them his 'property'. They were also slapped and otherwise physically abused. The women were:

- Ma Ni La, aged 13
 - Nan Htay Yin, aged 14
 - Ma Thuza Thin, aged 14
 - Ma Kya Phyu, aged 14
 - Nan Thwe Thwe, aged 18
 - Ma Soe Nhin See, aged 19
- (Source: BWU)

Unsafe working conditions at illegal Mae Pa slipper factory, Mae Sot

On July 3, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. a fire started in Mae Pa slipper factory, located near Mae Sot, due to faulty wiring. More than 400 Burmese workers were employed at the Mae Pa factory. Seven workers were injured in the fire. The worker's barracks and many of the factory's raw materials were destroyed in the fire. The factory owner told the workers that the factory would close. After the fire the Thai authorities arrested approximately 100 workers. As of July 6, 2000, some workers were in hiding and without money to buy food because they had not yet been paid their wages. The factory was officially shut down on July 16. The factory owner was from Hong Kong, and reportedly ran this factory illegally based on an agreement with the Thai police. Higher Thai authorities only discovered the factory after hearing about the fire as the factory owner had never legally registered the factory with the Thai government. The owner was unable to pay the government taxes and the factory was forced to shut down. (Source: BLSO)

Factory owner exchanges Burmese workers with Thai authorities for Chinese staff, MaeSot

On July 4, 2000, the owner of FK wool factory urged 1,000 workers to temporarily hide in the jungle, saying he would pay each worker 50 baht and 1 kilo of rice, because the Thai police had plans to raid the factory. But the workers demanded, through the owner's assistant, that they be given further aid. The assistant alluded to the owner's financial difficulties and reasoned that the owner would reject their demands; he further added that, if the workers complied, the police would not arrest them.

On the early morning of July 5, the Thai police entered FK wool factory and arrested the workers, transporting them to the Thai-Burma border. 8 Chinese staff from Hong Kong were also arrested. Though they had work visas, they were expired at the time of the arrest. The factory owner negotiated with the authorities to release the Chinese workers in exchange for 8 Burmese workers. The owner promised these 8 Burmese workers that he would give them each 200 baht for their time in detention center for daily food and assistance. However, as of July 22, the Burmese workers had not been released from the detention center or received any of the promised compensation from the factory owner. The Burmese workers in the factory decided to pressure the owner by staging a strike for the release of the prisoners. 5 leaders of the strike were fired for this action. (Source: BLSO)

SPDC officers gang-rape 3 Burmese Muslim women repatriated by Thai officers in Mae Sot

On July 8, 2000, SPDC military officers of Infantry Battalion (235), based in Thingan Nyi Naung of Karen State, gang-raped Muslim women. According to a relative of a victim, the Muslim migrant women workers were repatriated by Thai authorities in Mae Sot, Thailand. The women were unable to pay the money demanded by the SPDC authorities in Myawaddy, so they were transferred to Thingan Nyi authorities to take further action against them, where they were then gang-raped. The victims were (1) Ma Khin Win (26), Rangoon, (2) Ma Mya Khin (28), Mudon, Mon State and (3) Aye Aye Cho (25), Bilin, Mon state.(Source: MICB)

Repatriated migrant workers jailed in Myawaddy

The SPDC authorities, in Kawkareik township, levied unequal taxes on illegal workers coming back from Thailand. For a non-Muslim it is Ks. 15,000 and for a Muslim Ks. 50,000 respectively. Those who were unable to pay the taxes were sentenced to 6 months to 3 years respectively. (Source: MICB)

On June 6 2000, SPDC MI No.25, police and military officers led by Lt. Hla Thaung of IB 331 in Mya Waddy, collected kyats 5,000 as extortion money from each Muslim migrant worker repatriated by the Thai authorities from Maesot. According to a merchant from Mya waddy, one Ko Win Naing 30 years and another U Hla Maung 41 years, both from Moulmein, Mon state, unable to pay the money, were arrested and on July 8 2000, the two Burmese Muslims were sentenced to six months imprisonment each for illegally going out of the country. (Source: MICB)

On August 3, 2000, SPDC police and Immigration officers jailed about 150 migrant workers in Myawaddy, after they had been repatriated by the Thai authorities in Mae Sot, Thailand. According to an illegal worker, the SPDC authorities allowed the migrant workers who were able to give 1,500 kyats as bribe money to the authorities to go free. Those who were unable to pay the money to the SPDC were put into prison in Myawaddy. (Source: MICB)

Repatriated Buddhist migrant workers forced to join the army and Christian and Muslim workers put into prison or forced to be porters

On August 6, 2000, 120 Burmese migrant workers were repatriated by the Thai authorities to Myawaddy. The military officers of Battalion No. 203 led by Major Soe Naing brought them to the Pa-an head office where the workers were divided into three categories. The first group, who were able to pay 10,000 kkyat in bribe money were released. The second group, Buddhists (aged between 18 and 25) were forced to join the SPDC army. The third group, Christians and Muslims were collected as porters and some were put into prison. (Source: MICB)

Repatriated migrant workers forced to hand over money to SPDC authorities

On August 28, 2000, SPDC authorities, including military personnel, collected money from workers repatriated from Mae Sot. The authorities, led by USDA Chairman U Tun Khaing of Mudon township, Mon State collected 10,000 kkyat from each migrant worker. According to a migrant worker, the military personnel were from the Battalion near Mudon, Mon State. Two of the female migrant workers who had to pay money were Ma Myint Win (26) and Ma Soe Soe Oo (25) of Mudon township, Mon state. (Source: MICB)

SPDC officers rape women who was forcefully deported

On October 24 2000, Sgt. Zaw Htun and Private Aung Myint of LIB 343, which was temporarily based in PayaThoneZu (Three Pagoda Pass), Karen State on the Thai border, raped a Pa-O woman named Ma Knin Ma Yee, age 27. Ma Khin Ma Yee was originally from Thaton town, Karen State, but had been working in Thailand. She was raped at the immigration crossing point after she had been forcibly deported from Thailand. The said officers didn't allow Ma Yee to continue into Burma, and told her that they needed to check something, and then at 7 PM that evening they raped her. The next morning, Ma Yee told the Sgt. that she wished to return to her hometown, but he refused, and sent her back to the Thai side. She is now living in Halockni Refugee Camp. (Source: DVB)

Punishment for workers deported from Ranong

In November 2000 Burmese authorities in Kawthaung agreed to accept arrested illegal Burmese workers being deported from Ranong, Thailand as of November 22. The deported workers had to pay a fine of 3,000 kkyat or be sentenced to one month in jail with hard labor under Section 13/1 of the Immigration Law for illegally crossing the border. The hard

labor was to be carried out at the construction sight of the Kawthaung-Tavoy border security road. The road was also being constructed with personnel from the regional development front, prisoners from Bawathit camp and local villagers. After being deported to Burma they were being kept at two temporary holding centers in Kawthaung and Dawdaik Village. (Source: DVB)

Burmese Migrant Fisherman Killed by the SPDC

On November 20th, 2000, a fishing boat named "Dyna", owned by Thai national, Mr. Baw Chop, was fishing in Burmese waters, in a area designated "Vertical A12-13", when it was attacked by the Burmese navy and 15 Burmese laborers were killed at close range. The boat was attacked by a naval vessel from the No. 46 fleet of the Burmese navy, under the control of the Morrawaddy naval base and under the orders of Colonel Thein Ngwe. The fishing boat was fired upon with heavy guns without any warning. It then approached the boat and killed all of the Burmese laborers on board one by one at close range. The navy then boarded the boat and tugged it away. The families of the murder victims were not compensated in any way. The event was witnessed by a laborer on a nearby vessel.

The victims were:

Name Age Addre

1. A Maung 32 Rangoon
2. Kyaw Oo 27 Chaung Sone, Mon State
3. Than Zaw 27 Rangoon
4. A Shay Gyee 30 Moulamein, Mon State
5. A Nwe 20 Asin, Ye Township, Mon State
6. Phoe Tharr Lay 27 Asin, Ye Township, Mon State
7. Ko Ohm 25 Moulamein, Mon State
8. Pa Kyal 30 Rangoon
9. Ka Larr 26 Tavoy, Tenasserim Division
10. A Ngal 25 Rangoon
11. San Oo 25 Pegu, Pegu Division
12. Wanna 25 Moulamein, Mon State
13. Htun Htun Oo (child) 12 not known
14. Minn Htite 20 not known
15. Zaw Win 30 not known (Source: Yoma3)

13 Migrant Workers killed by SPDC and DKBA troops after repatriation from Mae Sot

Between November 8 and December 25, 2000, at least 12 Burmese Muslim migrant workers repatriated by the Thai authorities in Mae Sot, Tak province, were killed after being returned to Burma. According to a migrant worker (name withheld) who escaped, military authorities led by Lt. Soe Win of LIB 206 under LID 22, and Bo Chit Thu of the DKBA killed the 12 workers. (Source: MICB)

1. U Ya Sin, age 40, killed on November 8, 2000, from Ladawei Village, Pa-an township, Karen State.
2. U Thya, age 34, killed on November 15, 2000, from Kyondoe, Kawkareik township, Karen state
3. U Maung Win, age 30, killed on December 11, 2000, from Thayet Taw, Pa-an township, Karen state
4. U Kasem, age 37, killed on December 11, 2000, from Bilin, Mon state
5. U Soe Myint, age 27, killed on December 16, 2000, from Kyaik Hto, Mon state
6. U Maung Oo, age 30, killed on December 25, 2000, from Kaw Yin, Pa-an, Karen state
7. U Kyi Lwin, age 35, killed on December 25, 2000, from Moulmein, Mon state
8. U Zubair, age 29, killed on December 25, 2000, from Mudon, Mon state
9. U Sulaiman, age 37, killed on December 25, 2000, from Mee Karen, Pa-an township, Karen state
10. U Shwe Thein, age 31, killed on December 25, 2000, from Apong Myo, Mon state
11. U Hassan, age 40, killed on December 25, 2000, from Thaton, Mon state
12. U Maung Myint, age 30, killed on December 25, 2000, from Thin zayet, Mon state
13. U Abdulla, age 27, killed on December 25, 2000, from Than Phu zayet, Mon state

Karen Woman Raped by Immigration Officers, Mae Sot

On December 25, 2000, immigration officers using a white Carry Boy Van arrested 20 Burmese people who were walking beside the Mae Sot to UmPhang road in Mae Sot. They drove them to the Detention Center beside the Moei river. The van stopped near the Mae Kuu police box and two police officers told a good looking 20 year-old Karen girl that they would release her there and to follow them. They took the girl into the police box and stayed there for 30 minutes. When they took her back to the van, the girl was crying and her face was red. It is believed she was raped while in the police box. At 5 p.m. the immigration officers took everyone to the detention center. When they put everyone into cells, one immigration officer hugged the girl and another one touched her hip. She didn't speak or eat anything in the cell for one day and one night. (Source: BLSO)

16.8 Personal Accounts

Name: Sawi Thanga

Age: 45

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Chin

Date of interview: August 25, 2000

Place of interview: Aizawl, Mizoram

Source: Joint Action Committee Reports

Note: Sawi Thanga left his home village Tuingo of Kalemmyo Township, Sagaing Division in 1997. He now earns a living as labour of wood cutting works in Mamit District (Aizawl West District) in Mizoram, India. He was arrested and deported to the border river and managed to later return.

Q: When was you arrested?

A: I was at a teashop near Aizawl Market when the policemen arrested me. I was here to buy daily needs. It was on 1st August. I was taken to police station and put me in lock-up for one day. The magistrate convicted me the next day and sentenced me for 20 day imprisonment. My jail term was to over on August 20 but as it was Sunday, I was taken out on August 18. I was immediately made to board a bus and set off for Tio.

Q: How many of you?

A: We were taken in 3 private buses. There were 27 people in our bus. So, I think we would be about 80 people altogether. Two armed policemen escorted each bus.

Q: When did you reached the river?

A: We had dinner at Seling village. We reached Tio river early morning of August 19. The policemen forcefully made us cross the river.

Q: How many of you crossed the river?

A: I am not sure how many people really crossed the river but I think about 20 people had crossed. They boarded a boat that was pulled from the shore.

Q: Was there any Burmese soldiers at the other side?

A: Yes, there were some soldiers and a few immigration personnel watching us.

Q: How could you manage to escape?

A: I had a feeling that I would be arrested if I cross to the Burma side. So, when the policemen were busy taking video and photograph of those who were boarding a boat, I could manage to sneak among the local people who were closely watching us.

Q: Did you hear about the news of those who crossed the river?

A: I heard hear-say that they were taken to Falam and sentenced 3 years imprisonment with hard labor.

Name: Vai Lian Zing

Age: 47

Sex: Female

Ethnic group: Chin

Date of interview: September 9, 2000

Place of interview: Aizawl, Mizoram

Source: Joint Action Committee Reports

Note: Vai Lian Zing is wife of Hmun Nei Thang, age 53, of Falam, Chin State. Her husband was arrested on July 31, 2000 at their rented house. He was deported on August 19 and arrested by Burmese authorities.

Q: What do you do in Mizoram?

A: My husband was a Burma policeman. As his salary was insufficient he quit his job. We then opened a small variety store in Falam. Since our store business was not good we decided to start crossed-border trading. It is our first trip. We reached Aizawl on June 26. Since we cannot receive money from the buyer of our goods as we expected we rented a room so that we can save hotel rents.

Q: When was your husband arrested?

A: Policemen along with a few YMA members came to our place on July 31 at around 5 in the evening. As I was not feeling well and lying on my bed, the policemen arrested my husband and four of our visitors.

Q: What happened then?

A: He was put in lock-up for one day and was sentenced 20 days imprisonment. I could have visited him in jail seven times but I was not allowed to talk with him. I was only allowed to give eatables to him through a jailer.

Q: When was he deported?

A: On August 18 at 2 in the afternoon, he was taken out of jail along with other Burmese. They were made board a bus. I was not allowed to talk nor give anything to him. I was aware that the buses were heading for Tio river.

Q: Did you hear about your husband then?

A: I do not hear anything about him except the fact that he was arrested by Burmese authorities at Tio and taken to Falam. I need to be here to wait for the money.

The Situation of Migrant Workers from Burma



A young migrant worker laboring in the weaving industry of Mizoram, India. There are about 10,000 migrants from Burma who work illegally in this state of India. (Photo: Aung Myo Min)





One of the many factories located in the Mae Sot, Thailand area which employs Burmese workers for low wages (Photo: BLSO)



Migrant workers from Burma typically live in areas of poor sanitation and overcrowding. This picture shows a migrant living area in Mae Sot, Thailand. (Photo: BLSO)



The Police arresting Burmese at a temporary checkpoint in Mae Sot, Thailand. The people arrested are often allowed to go if they pay the police a certain amount of money. Otherwise they are taken to the immigration detention center to wait for deportation to Burma. Arrested people are forced to squat like this for extended periods of time until they are taken away by truck. (Photo: Erwin)



Out of fear for arrest, deportation, or loss of money to police, many migrant workers hide out in fields or forests near their place of employment if they hear of police arrest operations. Here the shelter is often inadequate and people lack access to basic necessities. Pictured here is a temporary shelter in Mae Sot, Thailand. (Photo: BLSO)



Migrant workers hiding in the forest near Mae Sot, Thailand in December 2000 during a police arrest operation. (Source: BLSO)



Migrant workers awaiting deportation in Halockni camp, Thailand. (Photos: Aung Myo Min)



Migrant workers being herded into a police jail van for deportation in December 2000. They had been arrested the day before and spent the night in cramped conditions at a compound near the police station. (Photo: Ma Aindra)



A cattle truck full of arrested migrant workers heads across the "Friendship Bridge" between Mae Sot, Thailand and Myawaddy, Burma. It is typical practice to force as many people as possible into these trucks, so that acute overcrowding and injuries often result. (Photo: Erwin)

Special Report # 1

Landmines in Burma

Landmines are weapons that kill and maim indiscriminately, whether it be civilians, soldiers, elderly, women, children or animals and cause injury and death long after the official end of a war. Contrary to trends in the rest of the world, rather than reduce or abolish the use of landmines, the SPDC has actually increased production of anti-personnel landmines and at least in the case of the Burma-Bangladesh border, is actively maintaining minefields. In Asia, Burma is currently second only to Afghanistan in the number of new landmine victims, surpassing even Cambodia and the SPDC was one of only three government military forces in Asia to use anti-personnel landmines in 2000, the others being Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The SPDC has not signed the Mine Ban Treaty and abstained from the 1999 UN General Assembly vote on the treaty, saying, "A sweeping ban on landmines is unnecessary and unjustified. The problem is the indiscriminate use of mines, as well as the transfer of them." Although the SPDC is not known to export landmines, mines from China, Israel, Italy, Russia and the United States have been found planted inside Burma, indicating past or present importation of them. By their own admission, accepting transferred (imported) landmines makes them part of the problem.

In 1999 alone there were 1,500 mine victims according to *Landmine Monitor Report 2000*. Of Burma's 14 states and divisions, 10 of them are affected by landmines. Evidence suggests that in Karen State there is one landmine victim everyday. Civilians become landmine victims in two ways. One way is their use as human minesweepers (see below), another is accidentally stepping on landmines planted in areas where civilians reside. In efforts to block supply routes for armed ethnic organizations, the SPDC plants mines on supply and escape routes used by villagers and refugees. Villages from which people have fled or have been forcibly relocated from are also mined to prevent the villagers from returning as well as to block access to food, supplies and intelligence to opposition groups. Landmines have also been planted along streams, paths, roads and passes that are used by civilians, including those fleeing Burma. It is estimated that there is one civilian death for every two military casualties associated with landmines. In a particularly troubling statement, the Myanmar Red Cross stated that "the problem [of landmines] is going a way" and that resources should not be wasted on this issue.

Human Minesweepers

The use of landmines has taken an even uglier turn in Burma, as the SPDC has been known to use villagers, as well as animals, as live minesweepers. This specific targeting of civilians is contrary to the claims of the SPDC that landmine use has not been directed against civilian populations. Civilians conscripted for forced portering in conflict areas are sometimes sent ahead of the troops so that they will detonate mines. In 1999 and 2000 there were reports that human minesweepers were being used in Dooplaya District, Karen State, south of the Karen State capital Pa-an, during military assaults on SSA positions near Tachilek in Shan State and in operations against God's Army in the Tenasserim Division. A survey of refugees along the Thai-Burma border by a Danish medical group found that forced portering and forced minesweeping accounted for half of landmine casualties (Burma Debate, Winter 2000/2001).

Border Areas

The border states and divisions of Burma are the most heavily mined areas in the country due to the civil war being fought with ethnic groups living along the border. The border areas already have problems with security and adequate health care and mine pollution only compounds these problems. The presence of landmines means that ethnic people cannot engage in everyday activities, such as farming, gathering food or traveling without fear of being killed or losing limbs due to landmines. In addition, as previously mentioned, villagers who have been forcibly located cannot safely return to their original villages to collect property, food supplies or check on their homes.

It is thought that the majority of people injured by landmines die before they get medical treatment. Mine victims often have limited or no access to healthcare facilities and may have to walk for days to find medical care. Sometimes the security situation can mean that no treatment is available for a long period of time. In some cases landmine victims have been turned back by the SPDC before they could reach a hospital.

Thailand-Burma Border

It is reported that the SPDC regularly mines areas inside Thailand. Landmines planted in 1999 and 2000 killed and injured several Thai military forces while patrolling the border and Thai authorities have cleared mines in several areas along the border. In the past 20 years, there have been 1,000 Thai landmine victims.

Eastern Burma is thought to be the most heavily mined part of the country. In the states and divisions in Burma that border Thailand, southern Shan State and the banks of the Salween river, Dweh Loh Township in Karen State, and the Tenasserim Division from Amalakee southward were all mined by the SPDC or their allies in 2000. Among the ethnic armed groups the KNLA and KA are thought to be the biggest users of mines and have planted them in Karen and Karenni States. Landmines have been used in conflicts between government troops and armed ethnic groups and in conflicts between armed ethnic organizations in disputes over territory and "business interests". (Landmine Monitor Report 2000)

Bangladesh-Burma Border

The Bangladesh-Burma border, 270 kilometers comprised of dense forests, hills and 60 kilometers of sea, is the longest minefield in the country, with mines running almost the entire length of the border north up to the Indian border. Mines have been laid since the 1991 mass exodus of 250,000 Rohingya Muslims from Arakan State. The SPDC has said that the minefields are necessary to stop cross-border movement by armed ethnic opposition groups, however they also prevent or make it extremely dangerous for refugees to cross the border and impede cross-border economic activities.

The landmines affect Burmese and Bangladeshi citizens, as well as animals. In some cases mines are planted inside Bangladesh because of poor border demarcation and thick vegetation. In July of 2000, a Bangladeshi organization that works with handicapped people held a press conference in which they said that between 1995 and 1999 more than 500 Bangladeshi nationals been killed by landmines while cutting bamboo inside Arakan State in Burma. They also said that more than 120 Bangladeshis had been disabled between 1998 and 1999 due to landmines and that 24 people from Arakan state along 26 wild elephants had been killed from landmine explosions. The government of Bangladesh has repeatedly

asked the Burmese government to remove the landmines from along the border, however it is believed that SPDC military engineers are actively replacing old or exploded mines along the border.

On April 20 of 2000, a captain from the Na Sa Ka (SPDC Border Forces) told Bangladeshi nationals that over 10,000 landmines had been planted in the forests along the border. He apparently told them this to reassure them that insurgents could not cross the border. He explained that the landmines were made in China and could last for up to 70 years in the ground. On December 5, 2000, it was reported that landmine explosions along the border had killed seven Bangladeshis and 4 Burmese nationals in the previous month.

Partial List of Incidents

During the 1999-2000 dry season the SPDC completed the construction of a strategic car road from Kyauk Kyi to Hsaw Hta which passes through the Loo Thaw Township in Mu Traw district. SPDC troops set up sentry posts along the strategic road about 150 meters apart. Land mines have been laid between the sentry posts. As a result, this fortified road has cut Mu Traw district in two making travel between the southern part and the northern part of Mu Traw district very difficult. In addition, an old car road has been re-constructed from Papun to Dah Kwin and Papun to Kyauk Nyat. SPDC troops have also planted land mines along this car road and adjacent traveling paths. (Source: CIDKP)

On April 22, 2000, three IDPs from Klaw Beleh, Hsoe Tasha district, Karenni State stepped on a landmine that had been planted by SPDC troops near the border with Thailand. Khu Su Reh, 25, died immediately and two others were seriously wounded. (Source: KNAHR)

On June 2 2000, a combined force of troops from LIB 337 and the KNPLF entered Phukraku village, Kayla Township, Karenni State and ordered 5 villagers to carry rations to the Htarleh base. On their return, one of the porters, Pray Reh, age 43, stepped on a landmine and his leg was seriously injured. After this incident, a LIB 337 officer arrested 7 Phukraku villagers and tortured them. (Source: KNAHR)

On May 2, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 48 seized villagers from Baw-ga-li and Gor-thay-doe villages, Toun-goo District, Karen State and took them to Bu-sa-khee military camp as porters. The troops also forced them to find landmines and Saw Ta Tu from Baw-ga-li village lost a leg as a result of stepping on a landmine in Si-hkeh-doe area. (Source: KIC)

On April 30, 2000, at about 12:30 p.m., Saw Par Twe Maw of Tee-ko village, Ler-kla Village Tract, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State, was killed instantly by a landmine planted by SPDC troops. (Source: KIC)

During June of 2000, villagers in Tharn-dang and Tan-da-bin Townships, Toun-goo District, Karen State were in increased danger from landmines as the result of SPDC troops from Strategic Command No. 1 and No. 3 planting a large number of landmines near the villages. (Source: KIC)

According to the KNU, in the beginning of June 2000 the SPDC's Southern Regional Commander, Major General Tin Aye, ordered his units in Than Daung and Tantabin townships to lay more landmines. The order originated at Army Headquarters, Rangoon. Other reports indicate that more landmines have been laid in June 2000. When the road

building was temporarily halted at the beginning of the rainy season on the Mawchi road, many landmines were left in the Sho Ser area where the SPDC had not yet built a camp to secure the area. (Source: KHRG)

On June 2, 2000, 5 displaced villagers from Loi-Lem township were killed in a landmine blast, planted by members of UWSA (United Wa State Army) about 1 mile from Nam Hoo Khun village in Pung Pa Khem tract, Murng-Ton township. The victims were from Loi-lem Township and had been heading for Thailand. (Source: SHRF)

On June 8, 2000, two villagers were killed instantly by landmines planted by SPDC troops, between Weh-doe-ko and Doe-kah, Taun-goo District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On June 10, 2000, Saw Aye Kler, Saw Kree Lay and a woman from Ler-ker-doe-ko village, Toun-goo village, Karen State ran into troops from SPDC IB 20 while they were outside of the village. They ran away out of fear and hid themselves, after dropping their sling baskets. After the troops had left, they came out from hiding and came back to get their baskets. A bomb, placed by the SPDC troops at the bottom of one of the baskets, exploded killing the two men, Saw Kree Lay and Saw Aye Kler, on the spot, while wounding the woman. (Source: KIC)

On June 16, 2000, Saw Maung Pwe, a villager from Saw-mu-plaw area, Lu-thaw township stepped on a land mine planted by SPDC IB 439 and he was killed on the spot.(Source: KAWU)

On June 18, 2000, Saw-mu-plaw villager Saw Maung Pway stepped on a land mine, in Lor-play-ko, Doo-pla-ya district, planted by the SPDC troops from LIB 439. He was killed instantly. (Source: KIC)

On June 23, 2000, a buffalo owned by Oo Keh Khee of Kyaukkyi Township, Karen State was killed by stepping on a land mine planted by SPDC troops. (Source: KAWU)

On June 25, 2000, two land mines planted by the SPDC army exploded at Mu Theh area, Kyaukkyi Township, Karen State and killed two buffalo owned by villagers. (Source: KAWU)

On June 25, 2000, troops from SPDC IB 235 planted land mines in areas of Tan-ta-bin township, Toun-goo district, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On July 2, 2000, Saw Shew Moo, age 50, from Pa Kaw Khee village, Kyaukkyi Township, Karen State lost one of his legs due to stepping on a land mine planted by SPDC troops near Hkeh Doe village. (Source: KAWU)

On July 2, 2000, two soldiers from SPDC IB 84 and a convict used as a porter were killed by stepping on their own land mines in Kyaukkyi Township, Karen State. (Source: KAWU)

On July 3, 2000, Ler-keh-doe-doh villager Saw Apoe was killed by a land-mine, planted by SPDC troops, between Ler-keh-doe-doh and Keh-weh village, Toung-goo District, Karen State. (Source: KIC)

On August 6 2000, troops from IB 26 forced 29 people from Kaw Thay Day village, Toungoo Township, Karen State, including Naw Peh Lay Loo, age 38, and Naw Gah Naw, age 20, and Naw Say Gree to go in front of the troops along the Bosakee village road to

clear landmines. LIB 26, based in Toungoo District, are using villagers as human land mine sweepers. The SPDC troops are using these villagers in this way out of fear of landmines planted by opposition troops. (Source: DVB)

On August 8 2000, Naw Mae Ku (or) Naw Balu Htoo, age 50, from Pawel village, Toungoo District, Karen State was killed instantly by landmine planted by SPDC troops from IB 35 led by Aung Min Oo. (Source: KWO)

On August 16, 2000, at about 7 a.m., in Toun-goo District, Karen State, Par-waing villager Naw Mer Ku, 50, daughter of Saw Tee Thah, stepped on a land mine planted by the SPDC troops while she was on her way to her farm and was killed instantly. (Source: KIC)

On August 18, 2000, at about 7 p.m., Wa-tho-ko villager Saw Aung Thein Lay U, 31, son of Tar Pah Kler, who was serving as a porter for the SPDC troops, stepped on a land mine, in Plo-mu-doe area, Toun-goo District, Karen State and lost a leg. (Source: KIC)

On August 21, 2000, 5 relocated Shans were killed when they stepped on anti-personnel landmines planted by the UWSA in Mongton Township. They had come from Loilem - Namhukhoon village, Poompakhem Tract, Mongton Township on June 2 and were on their way to Ban Nawlae in Thailand. The victims were: Loong Zai, 47; Panti, 36, Zai Nyo, 31; Awngla, 28; and Zai Mon, 24. All were originally from Sanien Tract, Panglong Township and had been forced to relocate to Loilem on August 25, 1997. They were on their way to work in the fruit orchards in the Fang District of Thailand because they could not make a living in the relocation site. (Source: S.H.A.N.)

On September 22, 2000, Maw-ku-doe villager Saw Moo Ku, M, 20, son of Saw Ta Biba, stepped on a land mine planted by SPDC IB 20 between Maw-ku-doe and Kaw-thay-doe, Toun-goo District, Karen State and was killed instantly. (Source: KIC)

On September 25, 2000, Commander Khin Maung Sint from IB 48 captured Naw Gayaw Gayaw to serve as a porter. She then lost both her legs stepping on a land mine in Si Kee village, Taungoo District, Karen State. (Source: KWO)

On September 19 2000, Naw Lay Too from Tee Belah village, Nyaunglebin Township, Karen State was killed after stepping on a landmine while working in her paddy fields. The landmine had been planted by LIB 351. (Source: DVB)

At the end of September, a cow and a buffalo owned by Saw Moe Bah from Mae Ku Tah village, Papun District, Karen State were killed after stepping on landmines planted by LIB 356. (Source: DVB)

On October 1 2000, Saw Paw Hmu from Mae Ku Kee village, Papun District, Karen State stepped on a landmine planted by IB 19 while on his way to his hillside paddy fields. He died immediately. (Source: DVB)

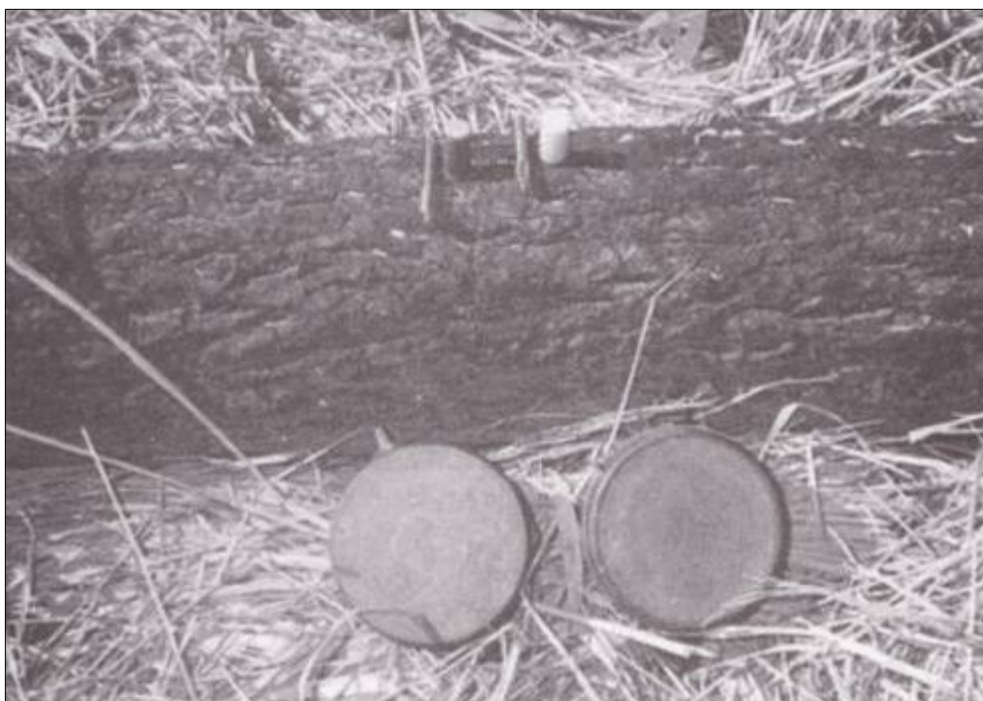
On October 2, 2000, 3 porters, who were being used as minesweepers, were killed in a landmine explosion at the front lines in Karen State. The porters, Ko Tin Maung Hla, age 23 from Mandalay, Ko Hla Yi, age 23 from Pa-an town, and Ko Nyan Tun, age 20 from Mandalay were being used as minesweepers by IB 203 led by Capt. Min Lwin Tun, under command of LID 22. (Source: MICB)

On October 9 2000, Saw Adah from Walocki village, Kawkereik Township, Karen State went outside his village to hunt for meat and collect vegetables. He stepped on a landmine. One leg was blown off, and the other was nearly blown off. He had to be sent to Myawaddy Hospital. As there was not enough medicine in the Myawaddy hospital, he had to be transferred to Mae Sot hospital across the border in Thailand. (Source: DVB)

On October 16, 2000, two Bangladeshi nationals were injured due to a landmine explosion on the Bangladesh-Burma border. They stepped on the landmine while cutting trees in a forested area near Nat Chuang Sayee in Bangladesh and Nantha Hills in Arakan State, Burma. The victims were from the Thet ethnic group and lived in Painhne Chuang village, Nat Chuang Sayee Township. One man was seriously injured in the right eye and the other suffered burns on half of his body. Two dogs that were accompanying them died instantly. (Source: Mizzima News Group)

On October 20, 2000, Saw Ler Yu from Doo-pa-lai village, Nyaung-lay-bin District, Karen State, stepped on a land mine planted by SPDC troops and died on the spot. (Source: KIC)

On December 28, 2000, the Rangoon-Martaban train hit a landmine and overturned near Hninpale Station in Bilin Township, Mon State. The police escort carriage next to the engine was hit the hardest and three police escorts died on the spot. Some passenger carriages were derailed but the exact number of casualties is not known. (Source: DVB)



Landmines found in Than Toun Township, Toungoo District, Karen State in 2000.
(Source: KIC)



This young Karen woman was used by SPDC troops as a human minesweeper. (Photo: KWO)



A woman who says she is about 19 years old from Tee Law Thi village in Southeastern Pa'an District, married with one small child. She stepped on a DKBA landmine while out looking for dogfruit, lost her left leg and was horribly wounded on her right leg. She was later treated by field medics and carried to a refugee camp in Thailand. [Photo: KHRG researcher]



Saw D___, a Karen villager in south-eastern Pa'an District whose left leg was blown off by a KNLA landmine when he was doing forced portering for SPDC troops in 1998. After the explosion the SPDC troops left him lying on the path. Later two villagers came along and asked them to carry him to the nearest village, but they dropped him and left him in a ricefield when they had to flee an SPDC patrol that saw them and opened fire on them. In the end he had to pay 20,000 or 30,000 Kyat himself to get treated at the nearest hospital. Saw D___ can no longer work well in the fields and is supported by his 3 sons and 2 daughters, who tend to people's cattle for money. *[Photo: KHRG researcher]*



Above 2 photos: ____, aged 9. She lost her leg to a landmine in 1999 and received a prosthetic from a foreign donor. (Photos: Mae Tao Clinic, and Ma Aindra)

Special Report # 2:

Tourism and human rights violations -

The Than Daung Gyi Project

In the beginning of 2000 the Than Daung Gyi tourist project, which the SPDC had originally hoped to build for 'Visit Myanmar Year 1996', was revived. Lt. General Win Myint, Secretary-3 of the SPDC, who came to Than Daung Gyi, Karen State along with Hotels and Tourism Minister Major General Saw Lwin and other officials in February 2000 to plan the project. According to the Burmese language newspaper 'The Mirror' dated 12/2/2000, Major General Saw Lwin remarked in his speech during the visit on the *"need to carry out the Taung Sakan Myo (Hill Camp Town) project to make it interesting for international tourists."* A day after Win Myint and Saw Lwin's visit, Colonel Myo Myint was ordered by the Southern Regional Command commander, Major General Tin Aye, to move the markets in the town and told where to house the soldiers' families, how to build the roads, how to use the bulldozers to dig the roads and where to build a communications center. Following the visit, the military confiscated the land, including the tea, coffee and dogfruit crops of the villagers, relocated the villagers, and began construction on new buildings. They have also started digging the town road.

The plan is to make Than Daung Gyi a tourist destination within one year. The Burmese press (see The Mirror, 12/2/00, and The New Light of Myanmar, 12/2/00) has reported that eighteen (unnamed) 'private' Burmese companies have invested in the project. A new hotel is being built for the tourists. According to the plan, the communication center will even have e-mail, an odd feature when even the internet cafes in Rangoon don't have email or internet access. Forced labor is being used for the construction of the buildings. The nearby Maw Koh hot springs in Ker Weh and another hot springs at Taw Bya Gyi village are also to be part of the project. Taw Bya Gyi is along the New Than Daung-Than Daung Gyi road, but a new road is being constructed to Ker Weh. Villagers in the Ker Weh area have been forced to clear the way for the bulldozers and to dig out any big stones. They are not paid for the work, nor are they given any food.

A new battalion, Infantry Battalion #124, set up its headquarters in Than Daung Gyi for the purpose of securing the town for the project. A large new camp, which the SPDC is calling 'Bayinnaung Town', is being built in the town to house the soldiers and their families. The military has confiscated the land for four miles around it to build on. This land included the tea, coffee and dogfruit plantations of many villagers. Security for the project has been deemed very important. Light Infantry Battalions #344, 349, and 439 and Infantry Battalions #20, 34, and 55 have been sent to the area around the town to maintain security. At least four battalions from Military Operations Command #6 were also sent to the area in January and stayed until the end of March for the purpose of guaranteeing security for the project. (Source: KHRG)

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Front Cover Photo

**Forced labour practices continue to thrive under different forms in
Burma today.**

(Forced labourers in Mon State, Burma in 2000).

Back Cover Photos

**Many people in non-Burman ethnic areas who do not flee the country
have also become internally displaced while trying to escape the
various forms of human rights abuses under military rule. (Internally
Displaced Persons inside Burma and one in refugee camps in
Thailand).**



The basic Human Rights of Burma's people remain in constant violation. This must not continue.



"RECOGNITION OF THE INHERENT DIGNITY AND OF THE EQUAL AND INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN FAMILY IS THE FOUNDATION OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND PEACE IN THE WORLD....."

EXCERPT FROM THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS