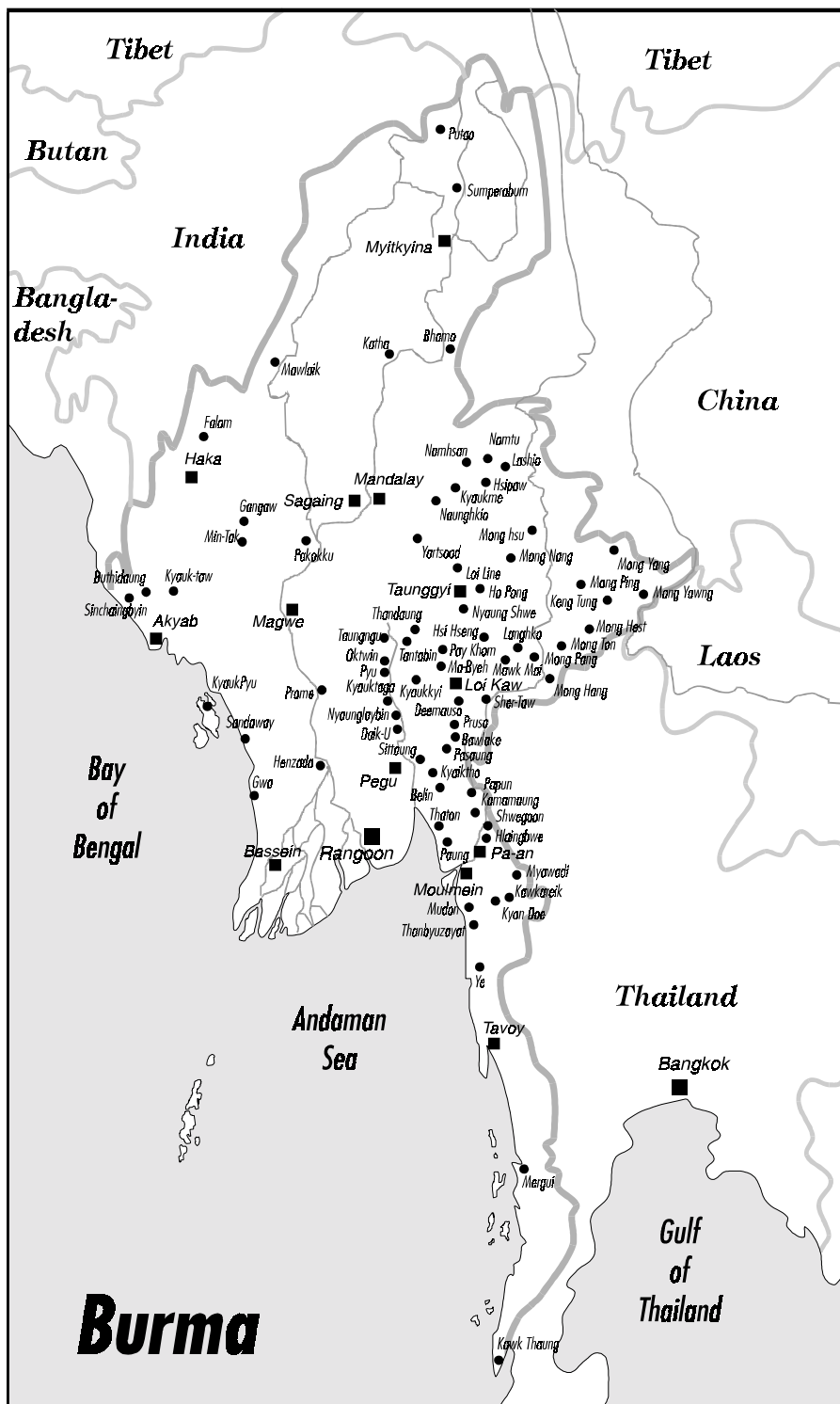


Townships in which Human Rights Violations were Reported



Headlines in Review

1996

- January 1:** Japan's Chiyoda Corporation states that it plans to be involved in development projects in Mandalay, Burma. The company will submit 60 proposals to Mandalay authorities, including plans for laying petroleum pipelines and for an oil refinery.
- January 2: Burmese troops take over the headquarters of opium warlord Khun Sa.
- January 3: A Karenni source announces that the SLORC captured a KNPP base at Doi Thai Sak, Thailand on January 1, 1996.
- January 5: The United States places a U.S. \$2 million reward on drug warlord Khun Sa and urges the SLORC to extradite him for trial in a U.S. court.
- January 6: A senior Burmese official states that Burma will not turn Khun Sa over to the U.S. to face narcotics charges partly due to the sensitive information Khun Sa could disclose to the U.S. authorities.
- January 7: Eight people, including comedians Par Par Lay and Lu Zaw, are detained for giving a performance at Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's residence on January 4.
- January 9: An Indian official meets with SLORC representatives to discuss curbing the illegal drug trade between the two countries.
- January 9: At least 20 DKBA renegades kill KNU retired Major-General Ta at Mae La camp in Thailand.
- January 24: A Ranong court sentences three Thai fishermen to 25 years in prison for murdering two Burmese crewmen and assaulting a third last August.
- January 28: Cambodia official media reports that Burma's Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw and his Cambodian counterpart Ung Huot signed an accord to form a Joint Commission for Bilateral Coopera-
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tion.

- January 28: Thailand accuses Burma of sticking stakes into the Moei River, a violation of a border agreement between the two countries.
- January 31: Three people, including a monk and a policeman, are killed when 100 DKBA soldiers of attacked a Thai border checkpoint and temple.
- February 1:** Daw Aung San Suu Kyi states that the ASEAN should set conditions for Burma's military leadership before welcoming it into the regional grouping.
- February 5: Thailand's Defense Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh states publicly that the Rangoon junta was unable to control the DKBA and is not responsible for the renegade attack across the border.
- February 7: A Thai aviation official states that the Thai government has endorsed a plan that will boost commercial airline flights between Thailand and Burma as much as 22%.
- February 8: An attack on the French company, Total's, Kanbauk headquarters is launched, wounding five people.
- February 9: SLORC's FM Ohn Gyaw states that Khun Sa will be dealt with according to Burmese law and will not be extradited to any other country.
- February 11: Approximately 1,000 Burmese civilians flee to Tha Song Yang district in Thailand to escape fighting inside Burma.
- February 12: Thai Defense Minister General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh states that Thailand will not push back Burmese refugees across the border but will provide them with refuge until the situation in Burma allows for their safe repatriation.
- February 13: About 200 Shan civilians cross the Thai-Burma border into Mae Hong Son province in Thailand to escape harsh treatment by the SLORC troops.
- February 19: An official from the Italian Embassy states that a SLORC army truck "escorted" twelve Italian tourists out of a northern hill-

tribe village and sent them back to Rangoon on January 3, 1996.

February 26: Thai army deputy commander General Chetha Thanacharo has lunch with Burma's regional army commander Major-General Tin Htut at Tachileik in Burma.

February 27: Japan, through its embassy in Rangoon, donates U.S.\$ 99,405 to the Burmese Medical Association for HIV/AIDS prevention projects in Mandalay.

March 13: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is forced to cancel a trip to Mandalay to attend the trial of four NLD supporters due to supposed mechanical problems with the train.

March 16: Two Thai border checkpoints, at Mae Sai in Chiang Rai and Ranong, are officially reopened.

March 17: The Thai PM Barharn Silpa-archa and a 50-member delegation visits Burma. He is the first Thai premier to visit Burma in 16 years.

March 17: Burma rejects a Thai request to resume fishing ventures in its water during a visit by the Thai PM.

March 18: U Par Par Lay and U Lu Zaw, both comedians, and U Aung Soe and U Htwe, NLD members, are sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

March 19: Thai Cabinet approves U.S. \$150 million in credit facilities to finance the construction of the International Mandalay airport.

March 20: Australia's new conservative government announces A. \$2 million in new aid for Burmese refugees.

March 28: NLD members send a letter to SLORC General Than Shwe, charging the SLORC with harassing NLD members and supporters through seriously-flawed legal proceedings.

March 28: Twenty-two prisoners, including U Win Tin, all NLD members, are given additional prison sentences of seven years with hard labor for attempting to send a letter to the U.N. describing abominable prison conditions.

- April 10:** A Dutch couple are robbed at gun point and the woman is raped by Burmese soldiers at a border village near the Moei River.
- April 10: A Mitsui official states that a consortium of Mitsui & Co, Total, and Unocal had signed an MOU with the SLORC to become the official joint partners for the Yadana gas field project.
- April 17: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi strongly urges the international community to join the struggle in support of the Burmese people in a video statement presented at the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva.
- April 19: A 10- strong DKBA band fires AK-47 rounds at a pick-up truck between km. 78 and 79 of the Mae Ramat-Tha Song Yang highway in Thailand, killing one Thai woman.
- April 19: Bangkok-based diplomats state that 65-year-old Leo Nichols, who also served as honorary consul for several European nations, was arrested in Rangoon.
- April 22: San Francisco, a U.S. city, passes a “selective purchasing” law banning or restricting contracts with companies that do business in Burma.
- April 23: Pepsi announces that it will shed its 40% stake in the Burmese franchise after facing heavy public pressure in the U.S.
- April 23: Oakland, a U.S. city, passes “selective purchasing” laws banning or restricting contracts with companies that do business in Burma.
- April 24: Thein Tun, chairman of Pepsi Cola Products, Myanmar states that it had agreed to buy out the U.S. company’s interest in Burma following its decision to pull out of the country.
- April 25: Approximately 15 armed DKBA members encircled Ban Panorkhi, Tambon Tha Song Yang, Thailand and steal 13,000 baht in cash and valuables worth about 23,000 baht.
- April 26: Lieutenant-General Kyaw Ba publicly states that Khun Sa, the infamous drug lord, is a free man and will not be tried for his crimes.
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- May 1:** In his May Day message, General Than Shwe urges workers to “exert their utmost efforts” to forge a modern nation, building on what he described as government successes.
- May 2:** A refugee worker states that about 5,000 Burmese refugees living in a camp on the Thai border are facing a serious food shortage after Thai authorities blocked supplies reaching them.
- May 10:** The pending membership of Burma and India in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is approved.
- May 12:** UN special human rights rapporteur Professor Yozo Yokota resigns from his post to protest against his continuous battle for funds to carry out his work.
- May 14:** A senior U.S. State Department official states that Burma, the world’s leading producer of opium and heroin, is “a narcotics disaster area.”
- May 16:** Six Rangoon University students are arrested in Rangoon for organizing people in support of the planned NLD congress.
- May 17:** Mr. Nichols is sentenced to three years imprisonment for the alleged use of illegal telephones and fax machines.
- May 20:** More than 100 Karen civilians flee to the Thai border village in Tha Son Yang district to escape fighting in Burma.
- May 21:** U Win Htein, personal officer to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, was taken from his home to an unknown place.
- May 23:** Daw Aung San Suu Kyi publicly states that the SLORC has detained 191 NLD activists, to thwart a key opposition meeting; she also states that the meeting would proceed as planned.
- May 23:** The U.S. urges Americans not to travel to Burma due to the crackdown by SLORC against the NLD and states it will explore further sanctions with the U.S. Congress.
- May 28:** South Korean President Kim Young-sam expresses deep concern over the arrests of over 250 political activists in Burma.
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- May 28: The NLD wraps up a congress and announces its intention to draw up a constitution.
- May 28: The SLORC steps up its denunciation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and stages mass rallies of government employees in a bid to demonstrate popular support.
- June 1:** Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt denounces democracy activists as “power-hungry stooges of imperialists” and calls on Burmese people to crush their “destructionist” efforts.
- June 4: SLORC Minister of Rail Transport, U Win Sein, tells reporters that “peoples’ labor” was no longer being used in the construction of railway lines, effective as of May 31, 1996.
- June 5: SLORC issues a new regulation which requires journalist visas be approved directly by the Foreign Ministry in Rangoon and requires that journalists must travel within seven days of the visa’s issue.
- June 7: SLORC issues an order, signed by General Than Shwe, authorizing the Home Ministry to ban any organization violating laws against unlawful gatherings or obstructing the development of a constitution through the government’s National Convention.
- June 7: Singapore’s Lee Kuan Yew states that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi may not be able to govern her country and would be better off remaining a political symbol.
- June 10: A senior Thai Foreign Ministry official states that U.S. President Clinton expressed deep concern over the situation in Burma in a letter addressed to Thai PM Banharn.
- June 19: The U.S. State Department warns the SLORC against arresting Daw Aung San Suu Kyi amid published reports they may be preparing for her detention.
- June 20: The U.N. international labor agency condemns forced labor in Burma and establishes a three-person commission to investigate the issue and to seek permission from Burma to visit the country.
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- June 22: Mr. James Leander Nichols is found dead in his cell at Insein Prison in Rangoon.
- June 24: The governments of Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Switzerland make separate calls for Rangoon to investigate the death of Mr. Nichols.
- June 25: The State of Massachusetts, U.S. becomes the first American state to sign the “Selective Purchasing Law” on Burma.
- June 29: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi tells her supporters at a rally that the SLORC had coerced leading members of her party to resign.
- July 2:** Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt accuses international, social, and religious organizations of interfering in Burma’s internal affairs, during his speech at a refresher course for local Red Cross Society executives.
- July 3: Two men are injured when DKBA soldiers fire on an official’s house and a border patrol police unit in Tha Song Yang district, Thailand.
- July 3: A bomb explodes at a propaganda billboard opposite the U.S. Embassy in Central Rangoon; no injuries were sustained and the bomb failed to topple the sign.
- July 9: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi calls for foreign tourists to boycott visiting her country during an interview with a Japanese news agency.
- July 9: The Danish brewing giant, Carlsberg, announces its withdrawal from Burma.
- July 10: Official SLORC newspapers state that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi must cease her activities and leave Burma if the U.S. wants to discuss matters of mutual interest with the SLORC.
- July 10: Heineken announces the withdrawal of its U.S. \$30 million investment in Burma.
- July 11: Burmese journalists working for the foreign media are urged by SLORC Information Minister Aye Kyaw to be “unbiased” about
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the achievements of the SLORC and to serve the national interests when reporting.

- July 15: Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas states that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had written to ASEAN heads of state asking them to intervene in the stand-off with the SLORC.
- July 16: The KNU rejects SLORC's demand that it lay down its arms before signing a peace agreement.
- July 16: About 10,000 businessmen [after being coerced by the SLORC] join a mass rally in Rangoon to support official moves to open up the economy and denounce the political opposition.
- July 18: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi calls for international sanctions against Burma to force political change in the country, in a video statement made public by members of the European Parliament.
- July 20: The Asean group formally receives Burma as an observer. SLORC Foreign Minister attends the meeting held in Jakarta.
- July 21: SLORC Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw, at a press conference, states that he believes Asean will not contact the Burmese opposition in Burma and will observe the principle of non-interference in other's internal affairs.
- August 2:** U Hla Than, NLD MP from the Coco Islands, is transferred to Rangoon General Hospital while serving a prison sentence in Insein prison, Rangoon.
- August 12: SLORC Senior General Than Shwe begins a five-day visit to Malaysia.
- August 15: U Win Htein, along with seven other NLD supporters, is slapped with a seven-year term for his role in the production of a video tape of arid rice fields aimed at countering the government's rosy agricultural projections.
- August 24: Don Pa Klan refugee camp in Thailand is raided by about 15 DKBA renegade troops before dawn.
- August 25: Two Thai officials are ambushed by a unit of DKBA renegades
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at a border village in Tha Song Yang district, Thailand.

August 26: About 30 armed DKBA soldiers open fire with six rounds of mortar at the Huay Bong refugee camp in Thailand.

September 3: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi reports that her personal assistant, Win Htein's jail term was doubled to 14 years.

September 4: The U.S. company, Unocal, states that its joint venture natural gas project in Burma is unaffected by a lawsuit filed by the NCGUB.

September 26: The NLD states it will hold a congress on September 27 and 28 to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the party's founding. SLORC arrests about 500 NLD supporters in an apparent attempt to prevent the congress.

September 28: SLORC's riot police prevent Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's weekend speech for the first since her release.

October 2: Philippine President Fidel Ramos states that Asean might review its "constructive engagement" policy towards Burma after its most recent crackdown on democracy activists.

October 3: A class action lawsuit accusing Total, Unocal, and SLORC of "egregious human rights violations" is filed by 15 plaintiffs in U.S. federal court in Los Angeles.

October 3: U.S. President Clinton signs a ban on travel to the U.S. for members of the Burmese junta and others who benefit from its rule.

October 4: SLORC bars U.S. officials from entering Burma, in response to the U.S. decision to bar Burmese officials from U.S. soil.

October 4: Apple Computer Inc. states publicly that it has ended its business dealings in Burma.

October 5: Malaysia dismisses a Philippine proposal to review the "constructive engagement" policy towards Burma.

October 9: Burma Action Group announces that British Home Stores (BHS) have plans to stop sourcing in Burma.

- October 12: Philippine President, Corazon Aquino, urges U.S. officials and other international leaders to be prepared to support democracy in Burma.
- October 16: SLORC Senior General Than Shwe begins his official visit to Cambodia and faces protests led by Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy.
- October 17: Cambodia and Burma sign two cooperation agreements designed to increase tourism and travel between the two countries.
- October 22: More than 500 students in Rangoon protest against the SLORC's handling of a recent scuffle involving students at a food stall.
- October 23: The Deputy Chairman of the NLD, U Kyi Maung, aged 75, is arrested in Rangoon for allegedly helping to organize the protest of some 500 students.
- October 28: The European Union imposes a visa ban on all Burmese military leaders and their families.
- November 6:** Thai Army Chief Chetta Thanajaro leads a delegation on a two-day visit to Burma.
- November 9: A mob, organized by the SLORC, attacks the motorcade of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other NLD leaders.
- November 10: The U.S. embassy in Rangoon strongly condemns the attack on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and calls on the SLORC to ensure that future incidents do not occur.
- November 15: New U.N. human rights special reporter, Rajsoomer Lallah, submits a three-page statement to the U.N. General Assembly.
- November 24: Saya Chiel, an 84-year-old Burmese author and member of the Multi-party Election Commission dies.
- November 25: U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton, during her trip to Thailand, urges SLORC to start a serious dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
- November 26: U.S. President Clinton, during his visit to Thailand, praises Daw
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Aung San Suu Kyi and her supporters as “brave reformers” and blasts the military junta for refusing to honor its own pledge to move to multi-party democracy.

November 28: Japanese official media reports that Japan will grant 4 billion Yen (Bt 900 million) to SLORC as debt relief assistance.

November 31: Asean heads of government agree to admit Cambodia, Laos, and Burma into the regional group simultaneously.

December 2: About 1,000 students march from the Hletan intersection to downtown Rangoon to continue their protest against the SLORC’s recent handling of a scuffle in Rangoon and its decision to close the universities.

December 3: Myo Thant, a reporter for the Japanese newspaper, Yomiuri Shinbum, is beaten as police dispersed demonstrating students in central Rangoon. Several hundred students were detained by police as a result of the protests.

December 5: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi breaks three days of SLORC-imposed confinement and attends the National Day ceremony at U Tin Oo’s residence.

December 6: Students stage a sit-in protest in Hledan intersection; SLORC uses water cannons and riot squads to crush the peaceful protest. Clashes take place all over Rangoon and over 300 students are arrested.

December 9: Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer states that Australia will not impose economic sanctions on Burma, but criticizes the SLORC’s treatment of the opposition.

December 11: Students stage another sit-in protest at the Medical Institute-1 in downtown Rangoon. Similar protests take place in Mandalay.

December 12: The U.N. General Assembly denounces human rights violations in Burma after the U.S. ambassador brands the SLORC’s efforts at political dialogue as “a shame.”

December 13: SLORC stops a U.S. embassy official from meeting Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and labels his attempt to visit her during the cur-

rent unrest “provocative.”

December 17: In its official newspaper, SLORC states that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is a traitor conspiring with western governments and will be destroyed by the military.

December 18: The European Commission adopts a provision withdrawing the benefits of the Community’s GSP for Burma’s industrial sector.

December 22: The NLD states that 64 members were rounded up by SLORC following student demonstrations in Rangoon.

December 25: Two bombs explode at Kaba Aye Pagoda and the man-made Maha Pasana Cave; the second bomb kills five people and wounds 17 others.

December 26: The SLORC announces that it is canceling plans to proceed with the Seventh Rangoon Mayor’s International Marathon scheduled for December 30.
