1. Forced Labor, Portering, and Military Conscription

"Forced Labor: work or service which is extracted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered themselves voluntarily." - Article 2 of Convention 29, Forced Labor Convention

1.1 Background

Burma ratified the International Labor Organization (ILO) Forced Labor Convention 1930 (No. 29) in 1955. Despite this, in 2005, both multinational organizations and NGOs have provided extensive reports on Burma's continued use of forced labor. The use of porters to carry rations and other supplies for the military continued throughout 2005. Forced labor on infrastructure projects, such as the repair and construction of roads and bridges, and on the building and maintenance of military camps also remained widespread, as did the forced conscription of villagers into the military.

In 2005, both the ILO and the UN expressed concern about the continued widespread use of forced labor in Burma, particularly in ethnic border areas. Development project sites are of particular concern as they typically involve an increase in the number of army battalions in an area. The SPDC tends to heighten military presence in project areas under the justification of the need to secure the site. With an increase in the military presence in the area, there is typically an increase in human rights violations. Particularly where development projects are underway, villagers are recruited for forced labor tasks. Often villagers are not only forced to work on the project sites but also to construct and maintain military barracks. (Source: *Another Yadana: The Shwe Natural Gas Pipeline Project (Burma-Bangladesh- India),* ERI, 27 August 2004).

The methods employed by the SPDC authorities and the military to extract forced labor have changed in recent years. Previously, military officers sent written orders to the village headman demanding villagers for forced labor. More recently, fewer written orders have been issued. Instead, villagers are requested to attend meetings in which orders for forced labor are issued verbally by military officers or SPDC authorities. In some instances, villagers have been forced to sign statements that they have contributed their labor voluntarily. In 2004, it was reported that the term used by military officials and SPDC authorities when referring to forced labor had also changed. The SPDC authorities utilized the term "loh ah pay," a traditional Buddhist notion of contributing voluntary labor to gain merit, when referring to forced labor (source: *Enduring Hunger and Repression: Food Scarcity, Internal Displacement, and the Continued Use of Forced Labor in Toungoo District*, KHRG, September 2004). Throughout 2005, SPDC officers continued to use the term "loh ah pay" when demanding labor for porter duty, road construction and labor at military camps. A villager in Arakan State reported that villagers were threatened with punishment if they used the terms "laborer" or "coolie". The authorities stated that, "The villagers are not laborers. They are not coolies. Remember they are *loh ah* (volunteers)" (source: Arakan Project, 25 August 2005). Moreover, Soe Nyunt, the director general of the Labor Department of the Ministry of Labor, contended that elimination of forced labor would result in a "loss of culture" in Burma as it is a Buddhist tradition (source: "Military Junta Slams ILO," *Irrawaddy*, 16 March 2005). However, the Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG), a grassroots

human rights organization, has argued that this redefining of forced labor as traditional *loh ah pay* is just a pretense to make forced labor "sound nicer to foreigners" (source: *Enduring Hunger and Repression: Food Scarcity, Internal Displacement, and the Continued Use of Forced Labor in Toungoo District*, KHRG, September 2004).

While the SPDC continued to defend the use of forced labor, perpetrators of forced labor were convicted for the first time in 2005. In January 2005, local officials were found guilty of forcing villagers to work on a road building project and were given sentences of up to 16 months (source: "Officials Received Sentences for Imposing Forced Labor," AP, 4 February 2005). However, the complainant, Su Su Nway, was later convicted of "besmearing their reputation" and sentenced to 18 months in prison. The SPDC authorities have charged a number of other complainants under accusations of providing false reports of forced labor to the ILO (source: "More Burmese Villagers Sued for Helping Report Forced Labour to ILO," DVB, 20 October 2005).

Throughout 2005, the SPDC's relationship with the ILO deteriorated as result of the ongoing widespread use of forced labor as well as the SPDC's lack of commitment to cooperate with the ILO in eradicating the practice. In February 2005, an ILO very High-Level Team cut short its visit to Burma to evaluate the SPDC's commitment when top generals, including Sr. Gen. Than Shwe, failed to keep pre-scheduled meetings. In March 2005, the Governing Body of the ILO gave Burma until June 2005, when the International Labor Conference (ILC) was due to meet, to make concrete steps towards the elimination of forced labor. Failing to do so, the ILO threatened reactivation of measures adopted in the 2000 ILC resolution under Article 33, which include trade and other sanctions. In June 2005, the ILC concluded that the military regime had not made real progress towards the eradication of forced labor and contemplated calling on member states to reactivate and intensify measures under Article 33. In November 2005, the Governing Body was gravely concerned about cases of victims of forced labor being prosecuted in Burma and criticized the SPDC's attempts to pressure and intimidate the ILO, including through death threats against the ILO Liaison Officer, Richard Horsey. The Governing Body gave Burma until March 2006, when the Governing Body's next session would take place, to resume an effective dialogue with the ILO, cease the prosecution of victims of forced labor and take action against perpetrators of forced labor. The Governing Body concurred with the ILC's conclusion that the only way forward is to place the issue on the ILC's 2006 agenda in order to revisit the measures adopted in the ILC's 2000 resolution under Article 33. (Source: "Conclusions Concerning Myanmar," *249th Session of the Governing Body of the ILO*, November 2005).

In November 2005, the lawsuit against Total in France came to a close when Total agreed to an out-of-court settlement of US$6.12 million. Legal proceedings were filed in a French court in 2002 on behalf of 8 citizens of Burma who had been forced by the military to work on Yadana gas construction sites in which Total had investments (source: *Campaign Report: Totalitarian Oil: Fueling the Oppression in Burma*, The Burma Campaign UK, February 2005). The Total settlement followed the settlement of lawsuits against Unocal in the U.S. in December 2004. The Unocal case was originally filed in 1996 on behalf of villagers who were the victims of forced labor and other human rights abuses at the hands of the military during the construction of the Yadana gas pipeline (source: "Unocal Plans to Settle Human Rights Suits Stemming from Pipeline Project in Burma," BNA, 14 December 2004).

Forced Portering

Throughout 2005, ethnic minority villagers living in areas with active armed resistance continued to be conscripted as porters for the military. However, in areas where ceasefire agreements have been reached, the rate of conscription for portering duties has reportedly decreased (source: *Myanmar Leaving Home*, Amnesty International, 8 September 2005). As beatings, illness and killings have remained common accompaniments to portering duty, it is considered one of the most dangerous forms of forced labor. Calls for porters may occur as frequently as three times per month in some villages. In the event that a village is unable to supply the required number of men, women and children are sent instead to meet the military's demands. Porters are often used to transport military rations and supplies. Monthly or bi-monthly military camp rations are delivered by truck to central locations and then distributed to baskets, which the villagers are made to carry to the various military camps in the area. The process of delivery of camp supplies usually endures for a day or two and can require an excess of one hundred villagers. Furthermore, forced laborers are not provided with any food or accommodations throughout the duration of their term of service. The risks involved in porter duty, together with the fact that porter duty directly affects villagers' ability to attend to their fields and livelihoods, leads some villagers to hire itinerant laborers to work as porters in their place. However, itinerant laborers are relatively expensive and are beyond the means of most villagers.

The SPDC armed forces also use porters during their military operations to carry ammunition and other supplies. This form of porter duty is considered more dangerous as villagers can be taken from their villages for weeks at a time and can be placed directly in the line of fire during military offensives. While demands for "operation porters" typically go through the village head, it is not unusual for SPDC soldiers to capture villagers from their villages or in the surrounding fields. Porters caught this way are forced to serve immediately and are consequently ill equipped, not having had the opportunity to pack food or other necessities for the trip. Furthermore, as the soldiers are under pressure to reach their desired location on time and are fearful of attack, "operation porters" are often treated very harshly. In addition, operation porters are required to carry heavier loads than normal porters, sometimes as much as 30 viss (49 kg.) for men and 20 viss for women (33 kg). They are given little opportunity for rest, little food and water and no accommodations. Illness, as a result of such harsh conditions, is common among operation porters, as are beatings and mistreatment by the SPDC soldiers. Porters who become too ill or weak to continue are left behind. Operation porters have also been forced to walk in front of soldiers as human shields and mine sweepers. Those who attempt to flee have been shot. (Source: *Eastern Pa'an District: Forced Labour, Food Security and the Consolidation of Control*, KHRG, 23 March 2004).

Forced Labor

The SPDC military has routinely forced civilians to work on construction and maintenance projects. Infrastructure projects where forced labor is used include the building and maintenance of roads and bridges, the construction of "NaTaLa" or model villages for new settlements in the ethnic minority areas, as well as projects aimed at boosting economic potential. Throughout 2005, reports of forced labor for various infrastructure projects continued to emerge, particularly in the ethnic border areas. For example, approximately 600 villagers in Matupi Township in Chin State were forced to construct a 39 mile road in May 2005 (source: "SPDC Forced 600 Villagers to Engage in Road Construction," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 8 June 2005). In Tenasserim Division, 800 villagers were forced to work on a

regime shrimp husbandry project in May 2005 (source: TWU, 2005). In Arakan State, SPDC authorities continued to force villagers to provide labor for the construction of "NaTaLa" villages (source: Forum-Asia, 26 May 2005).

Typically, the SPDC authorities demand villages near the project site to provide one person per household to work on the project. Households that are unable to provide a laborer are often fined. Villagers are required to provide their own tools, food supply and often building materials, such as stones and sand, for road construction projects. Villagers do not receive any remuneration for their labor. As a result, villagers have consistently reported facing economic hardships as a direct result of compulsory labor projects.

Throughout 2005, SPDC military presence in ethnic border areas continued to result in the conscription of forced labor to repair and maintain existing military camps as well as to build new ones. The construction of new military camps involves the building of barracks and bunkers, digging trenches, erecting fences, cutting firewood, carrying water, cooking cleaning, delivering messages to other military camps and clearing the ground in and around the camps. Similar work is also performed at existing military camps. In some areas, each village is required to send several people on rotating shifts for a duration of one to ten days for miscellaneous work at the military camp. This is sometimes referred to as “patrol.” In Arakan State, villagers have also been forced to work on a golf course on a NaSaKa compound where they had to pick up balls, carry golf clubs, serve tea and snacks to players and maintain the grounds (source: Arakan Project, 25 August 2005). In rural areas, especially those with a history of insurgency, the presence of a military camp usually means the seizure of land near the camp for the cultivation of rice and other crops. Local villagers are then forced to work the land to produce food for the camp. In the event of excess building materials or crops being produced by the villagers, these are considered the property of the SPDC and are sold for their profit. Outright demands for food from nearby villages are common.

Villagers are often forced to build sentry posts in around the military camps for which they may be required to provide sentry duty. In August 2005, it was reported that a significant number of sentry posts had been constructed in northern Arakan State. Each household was then required to perform six to 12 nights of sentry duty per month. As armed resistance activity has been virtually non-existent in the area, the increased demand for sentries is believed to be a method of persecution. Night patrols of NaSaKa personnel punish sentries if they do not respond when the troops approach. However, sentries who do respond to approaching NaSaKa are also subject to penalties for not identifying the troops. (Source: Arakan Project, 25 August 2005).

Forced Prison Labor

Both the ILO and human rights organizations have reported an increase in the use of prisoners for forced labor in recent years. While prison labor is not specifically prohibited by the ILO’s Forced Labor Convention, the ILO does not support the practice (source: “Outside ILO Jurisdiction,” *Irrawaddy*, March 2005). Human rights organizations have identified over 50 prison labor camps within Burma where prisoners, including woman and young girls, are forced to work on agricultural and infrastructure projects (source: “Forced Labor Still a Problem in Burma,” *Irrawaddy*, 10 June 2004). For instance, from January 2005, approximately 220 prisoners were used to construct a hospital of 400 beds in Hakha Township, Chin State.

The living conditions, food supply and treatment of prisoners is reportedly worse in prison labor camps than in prison. Work is often arduous and dangerous. Labor tasks include blowing up rock faces, digging at cliff-sites and plowing fields in the place of animals. Prisoners are also forced to work while wearing iron shackles. Furthermore, reports of torture are common, as are reports of inadequate or non-existent healthcare. (Source: "Forced Labor of Prisoners in Burma," AAPP, May 2002). Prisoner laborers from the seven camps in Tamu District, Sagaing Division are reportedly forced to work from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm with only a 15-minute break for lunch. In Khamauk Taung camp in Sagaing Division, prisoners must subsist on a diet of boiled banana tree (source: "Death of Prisoners at 'Gulags' in Burma's Tamu District," DVB, 21 October 2005). These harsh conditions lead many prisoners to pay large bribes to prison officials to avoid being sent to prison labor camps.

Prisoners have increasingly been used as porters in frontline military operations. In Karen State, villagers have reported that they have been summoned less to work as porters and road workers as convict labor has been used instead (source: *Papun District: Forced Labour, Looting and Road Construction in SPDC-Controlled Areas*, KHRG, 10 May 2005). Convicts from prisons throughout Burma are sent to "Won Saung" or porter battalion camps where they are readily available for immediate use by military units in the region (source: *Seeing Through the Smoke of Ceasefires*, KHRG, 9 June 2005). Called "kaung" by the military, a term reserved for animals, convict porters are used for indefinite periods, often extending past the end of their prison sentences. Many convict porters believe that they are forced to serve until they die or escape. Due to the harsh conditions, many convict porters die from weakness, illness or exhaustion. Prisoner porters are also beaten or killed on the slightest pretext. Some prisoner porters have been summarily executed because they were no longer able to carry their loads. Like civilian operation porters, convict porters are also forced to serve as human shields and minesweepers. (Source: KHRG, 27 May 2005).

Prisoner laborers have also been exploited by private businesses. For example, inmates in Tharawaddy prison have been used to produce joss-sticks for the Lotaya-Kyantaingaung Company working in conjunction with Myint Swe, the prison governor. The company owners as well the prison governor concurred that the production of joss sticks by prisoners was more profitable for their companies. The company reportedly has plans to manufacture more of its products using labor from prisons and police-controlled hard labor camps. (Source: "Gulag: Burmese Joss-Sticks Made by Prison Slave Labour," DVB, 20 December 2005).

A myriad of human rights advocates have argued that the SPDC has attempted to deflect ILO and international criticism of civilian forced labor by substituting it, in part, with prison labor. Perhaps providing evidence to this argument, villagers have reported an increase in the number of arbitrary arrests and arrests for petty offenses. Those arrested are then sentenced to a prison term and forced to porter. The KHRG has documented claims that the authorities have taken people from the streets, sent them to prison then directly to "Won Suang" (source: KHRG, 27 May 2005). However, political prisoners and those with long sentences are spared from prison labor camps out of fear that they may escape.

Forced Military Conscription

In 2005, SPDC military authorities continued to implement compulsory military training for civilians in several states and divisions. For example, in December 2005, young Paluang men in Shan State were forced to attend military training in preparation for forced participation in a local junta-sponsored militia (source: "SPDC Forced 50s Palaung Youth to Attend Military Training for Forming Local Militia," PYNG, 16 December 2005). In Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, approximately 500 female family members of NaSaKa personnel were similarly forced to attend military training to become reserves for the SPDC military (source: "Military Training for Burmese Female Army Reserves Starts in Border Areas," *Narinjara News*, 19 August 2005). In some cases of compulsory military training, villagers were required to provide their own food, water, transport and uniforms.

Forced conscription of both adults and children into the army and people's militia also continued throughout 2005. It was reported that the junta continued its policy of not allowing soldiers to leave the army at the end of their enlistment without first recruiting three or four replacements, even if this meant forced recruitment. (Source: *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2004*, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, Labor, U.S. Department of State, 25 February 2005). (For more information see Chapter 6 Rights of the Child).

1.2 ILO Activities in Burma

In June 1999, the ILO approved a resolution that denounced Burma's widespread use of forced labor. In November 2000, the ILO, under Article 33, urged its 175 member governments to review their relationship with Burma and to impose both trade and other sanctions as a means to pressure Burma to discontinue the use of forced labor. Burma avoided the imposition of sanctions by agreeing to allow the ILO to open an office in Rangoon. Burma also issued a Supplementary Order to Order No. 1/99, which makes forced labor a criminal act. Order No. 1/99 states that "whoever unlawfully compels any person to labor against the will of that person shall [be] punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may be extended to one year, or with fine, or with both." The Supplementary Order also widened the pool of persons liable under the Order to include authorities, members of the armed forces, members of the police force, and public service personnel. In March 2002, the SPDC agreed to allow the ILO to appoint a liaison officer to Burma. On 27 May 2003, the SPDC and the ILO agreed on a joint Plan of Action with an agenda that included: the dissemination of information, awareness raising programs, a pilot project for non-forced labor local road construction, expansion of the use of animal transportation, enhancing public awareness of the mechanism for filing complaints, specific responsibilities for the newly created Field Observation Teams (FOT), and the role of the ILO facilitator in dealing with allegations of forced labor. The plan was to be implemented over an 18-month period beginning on 1 July 2003. However, implementation was twice suspended in the second half of 2003. The plan was first suspended following the 30 May 2003 Depayin Massacre and ensuing crackdown on members of the pro-democracy movement. The ILO considered that those events called into question both the will and the ability of the authorities to make significant steps towards eliminating forced labor. In November 2004, the plan was suspended again when three citizens of Burma were accused of "high treason" and sentenced to death for having contact with the ILO and the exiled labor group, the Federation of Trade Unions- Burma.

In March 2004, Burma agreed to allow an independent ILO-appointed facilitator to assist victims of forced labor in bringing their cases to the Burma court system. However, in November 2004, the liaison officer reported to the ILO a conflict of interest in the SPDC authorities' methods for investigating complaints of forced labor where instances of forced labor by the military were referred to the Minister of Defence. By November 2004, the ILO liaison officer had received 72 complaints and had referred 38 cases to the Convention 29 Implementation Committee. The ILO liaison officer received responses to 18 cases, all of which dismissed the allegations of forced labor. Moreover, in two of the dismissed cases the complainants were found guilty of defamation and sentenced to six-months imprisonment. (Source: "Developments Concerning the Question of the Observance by the Government of Burma of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)," *291st session of the ILO Governing Body*, Fifth Item of the Agenda, November 2004).

In October 2004, the ILO decided to send a delegation to Burma in order to evaluate the authorities' attitudes and commitment to cooperation (source: "ILO Revives Sanction Treat Against Myanmar," AFP, 19 November 2004). On 21 February 2005, the ILO very High-Level Team (vHLT), consisting of the Right Hon. Ninian Stephen, former Gov. Gen. of Australia, Ruth Dreifuss, former Pres. of the Swiss Confederation, and Hon. Eui-yong Chung, the former Chairperson of the Governing Body of the ILO arrived in Burma. The team was charged with a mandate to assess the regime's progress in eliminating forced labor practices and its cooperation with the ILO. The vHLT, however, decided to cut short the trip and left on 23 February 2005 after failing to secure the necessary meetings to fulfill their mandate, including a meeting with Sr. Gen. Than Shwe. The vHLT did provide the SPDC with an outline of the future steps that should be taken. Furthermore, the vHLT requested that the SPDC make a public executive directive "to give effect to the provision in Order Supplementing Order 1/99 that the Ministry of Defence should issue further directives to all units under its command not to requisition forced labour." The vHLT also requested a reconfirmation of commitment by the SPDC to both the joint Plan of Action and the role of the ILO Liaison Officer in Burma as well as the appointment of a high level representative from the military to address forced labor reports. (Source: "Statement by the ILO very High-Level Team Press Release", ILO, 23 February 2005). In response, the SPDC appointed eight senior military officers headed by Gen. Col. Khin Soe to establish a high-level focal point in the military on 1 March 2005. In addition, according to an SPDC memorandum, military personnel were instructed to adhere to bans on forced labor through orders from the Ministry of Defence and assorted levels of the military. (Source: "Special Sitting to Examine Developments Concerning the Question of the Observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)," *Ninety-third session of the International Labour Conference Committee on the Application of Standards,* June 2005).

Despite the SPDC's reactionary statements and reported action, the ILO Governing Body expressed dissatisfaction with the regime's overall efforts during its 292nd session in March 2005. The Governing Body also disapproved of the SPDC's treatment of the vHLT. Moreover, the Governing Body determined that the "wait and see" approach of member states could no longer endure. In April, the Governing Body shared its conclusions on Burma with ILO member states as well as international organizations in order to spur international action. (Sources: "Developments Concerning the Question of the Observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)," *292nd Session of the International Labour Organization Governing Body*, Agenda item 7, March 2005; "Special Sitting to Examine Developments Concerning the Question of the Observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)," *Ninety-third*

session of the International Labour Conference Committee on the Application of Standards, June 2005).

Nonetheless, on 26 April 2005, the SPDC Director General of the Department of Labor informed the ILO Liaison Officer that SPDC resources were being burdened by false allegations of forced labor. He further indicated that these "false" allegations were detrimental the dignity of the State. As a result, SPDC authorities took legal action against those who filed false reports under sections of the Penal Code. The SPDC Department of Labor continued to accuse politically motivated individuals of methodically lodging forced labor complaints with the ILO Liaison Officer in May and again threatened legal action. (Source: "Special Sitting to Examine Developments Concerning the Question of the Observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)," *Ninety-third session of the International Labour Conference Committee on the Application of Standards*, June 2005). This pattern continued throughout the year. For example, after villager Su Su Nway successfully sued local authorities in Htan Minaing and Mya Sinnai villages, Rangoon Division for perpetrating forced labor, she was counter-sued by the authorities under charges of "besmearing their reputation." Following an unfair trial, Su Su Nway was sentenced to 18 months in prison on 13 October 2005. (Source: "Political Prisoner Su Su Nway's Case Submitted to the UN," AAPP, 17 October 2005). Similarly, on 31 October, lawyer U Aye Myint was sentenced to 7 years in prison under Article 5(e) of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act after being charged with "dispersing false information." U Aye Myint had represented farmers whose land was confiscated by the authorities and had assisted the farmers in contacting the ILO Liaison Officer (source: "Lawyer Jailed for Representing Dispossessed Farmers," *Irrawaddy*, 1 November 2005). Furthermore, on 11 November, nine persons in North Okkalapa Township, Rangoon Division were sentenced to prison terms ranging from eight to 25 years for providing information to the ILO (source: "Nine People Given Lengthy Jail Terms for Contacting ILO in Rangoon," DVB, 7 December 2005).

During its 93rd session, the ILO Committee on the Application of Standards expressed particular dissatisfaction with the legal retaliation taken by the SPDC against those who reported forced labor. The ILO was also critical of the SPDC's failure to make progress in eliminating forced labor and to cooperate with the ILO. The Committee urged employers, international organizations, governments and workers to reconsider affairs in Burma. (Source: "Developments Concerning the Question of the Observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No.29)," *294th session of the ILO Governing Body*, Agenda item 6, November 2005). Moreover, the 294th session of the ILO Governing Body in November concluded that the ILC should reconsider the imposition of sanctions under Article 33 adopted in 2000. To this end, it was suggested that the issue be addressed in 2006 while concurrently calling upon the SPDC to "resume effective dialogue" and to halt the prosecution of victims of forced labor. (Source: "Conclusions Concerning Myanmar," *294th session of the ILO Governing Body*, Agenda item 6, November 2005).

In response to the ILO's growing condemnation, anti-ILO rallies were held throughout Burma coupled with a media campaign. From June to August junta-sponsored organizations, including the USDA, the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and the Myanmar War Veterans Organization, held rallies to protest the ILO interference in Burma. In addition, in August and September, the Liaison Officer received a total of 21 death threats, which the SPDC authorities refused to investigate. Compounded by intimidation of civilians by the authorities, the activities of the ILO were severely limited. Moreover, in late 2005, the SPDC

Minister of Labor U Thaung threatened to withdraw from the ILO. However, by the end of the year, these threats failed to materialize. (Source: "Developments Concerning the Question of the Observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No.29)," *294th session of the ILO Governing Body*, Agenda item 6, November 2005).

1.3 Forced Labor Resulting from International Joint Ventures

The Settlement of the Unocal Lawsuit

In 2004, the protracted lawsuit *John Doe v. Unocal Corp*. filed in U.S. federal and state court came to a close with an undisclosed settlement. EarthRights International on behalf of several villagers first filed the suit in 1996 from Burma implicating Unocal for their involvement in the Yadana gas project. Unocal Corp has a 28 percent stake in the Yadana gas project, which carries gas from an offshore oil field through Burma to Thailand. A 63-km. section of the pipeline was constructed through Burma's Tenasserim Division. Unocal's business partners in Burma contracted with the SPDC military to secure the 63-km. strip as well as build helicopter pads and an access road. During the pipeline's construction between 1993 and 1996, the SPDC engaged in widespread human rights abuses, including murder, rape and forced labor while fulfilling their contractual obligations to secure the pipeline area. The suits centered on Unocal's liability for the actions of the military perpetrated human rights violations. (Source: "Energy Giant Agrees Settlement with Burmese Villagers," *The Guardian (London)*, 15 December 2004).

The federal case was first filed in 1996 in Los Angeles, California. A federal judge found that Unocal could not be held liable and dismissed the suit in 1997. In reviewing the case on appeal, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals postponed the case in June 2003 until the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled on a separate but related Alien Tort Claims Act case, *Sosa v. Alvarez-Machain*. In June 2004, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Alien Tort Claims Act could be used by foreigners to file lawsuits in the U.S. courts system to address abuses overseas, including violations of certain international laws (source: "Court OKs Foreign-Abuse Suits," *Los Angeles Times*, 30 June 2004). This decision opened the door for an unfavorable verdict for Unocal. To spare their public image and avoid a faultfinding decision, Unocal agreed to an out-of-court settlement on 13 December 2004. (Source: "Unocal Plans to Settle Human Rights Suits Stemming from Pipeline Project in Burma," BNA, 14 December 2004).

In tandem with the federal court case, a case was also brought before the California Superior Court for the County of Los Angeles under California state law. In this case, the plaintiffs accused Unocal of being liable for involuntary servitude in violation of the state constitution, unfair business practices and unjust enrichment under the Business and Professions Code (source: "Unocal Plans to Settle Human Rights Suit Stemming from Pipeline Project in Burma," BNA, 14 December 2004). On 23 January 2004, Superior Court Judge Chaney ruled that Unocal was not directly liable for the human rights abuses. While she noted that "Unocal knew or should have known there were human rights abuses in Burma," Unocal's five subsidiaries operating within Burma were separate entities and that they were responsible for Unocal's share in the gas pipeline. (Source: "L.A. Judge to Issue Oral Ruling on Unocal's Liability in Human Rights Case," *L.A. Times*, 24 January 2004).

In March 2005, Unocal announced the settlement. Although the terms of the settlement remain confidential, Unocal indicated that the settlement would compensate the plaintiffs and provide funds to enable the plaintiffs and their representatives to develop programs to improve living conditions, healthcare and education and protect the rights of people from the pipeline region. (Source: "Press Release – Settlement Reached in Yadana Pipeline Lawsuit," Unocal, 21 March 2005). In August 2005, a dispute over legal representatives' fees delayed the allocation of settlement funds to the victims (source: "Wrangle Prolongs Allocation of Unocal Payout," *Irrawaddy*, 17 August 2005).

The Settlement of the Total Lawsuit

In 2005, both the French and Belgium lawsuits against Total concluded. Total, is the multinational French gas company who, along with Unocal, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and the Thai company Petroleum Authority of Thailand Exploration and Production Public Co. Ltd., was responsible for the development of the Yadana gas field and pipeline in the 1990s. Legal proceedings were brought against Total in a French court in 2002. According to the French Sherpa Association, a human rights group representing eight citizens from Burma who lodged the case, Total benefited from forced labor that had been organized by the SPDC military. (Source: *Total Pays 5.2 Million Euro to Settle Claims of Forced Labour Use in Myanmar*, AFX News, 29 November 2005). The plaintiffs claimed that the military, nicknamed by the workers as the "Total battalions," forced villagers to work on the construction site by using death threats as well as physical and verbal violence and they deprived workers of medicine and food. The plaintiffs further claimed that Total executives were present at the site and witnessed the actions of the military. The charges brought against Total's Pres. Dir. Gen. Thierry Desmarest and Herv Madeo, Director of the On-Site Operation, included recruiting and paying battalions of the military and promoting a situation of forced labor on the construction site. On 11 January 2005, on the basis of the investigating judge's instruction, a three-judge panel in a Nanterre court decided to proceed with the case. (Source: *Campaign Report: Totalitarian Oil: Fueling the oppression in Burma*, The Burma Campaign UK, February 2005).

The Total case in France was brought to a close at the end of November 2005 when Total reached a 5.2 million euro (US$6.12 million) out-of-court settlement with eight nationals from Burma. Under the terms of the settlement, Total agreed to pay 10,000 euros (US$12,000) to each of the eight claimants who in turn consented to drop the charges brought against Total. In addition, Total representatives reported that 4 million euros (US$4.7 million) would be reserved to support flood protection, professional training, sanitation, and water supply efforts for refugees from Burma living in Thailand. A further 1.12 million euros (US$1.32 million) will be allocated to persons who prove they were subject to forced labor during the pipeline project. Despite these concessions, Total continued to refute accusations of responsibility, directly or indirectly, for the events that transpired during the pipeline's construction. Furthermore, Total denied the use of forced labor by either themselves or sub-contractors. (Source: "Why Total Agrees to Compensation in Forced Labor Suit," *Irrawaddy*, 1 December 2005).

The case against Total in Belgium commenced in April 2002 after four refugees from Burma filed a lawsuit alleging that Total provided financial and logistical support to the military regime while being fully aware of the human rights abuses and the systematic use of forced labor employed by the regime during the construction of the pipeline. A magistrate opened an investigation pursuant to a controversial Belgian human rights law that claims universal

jurisdiction. This was the first investigation conducted under the human rights law to involve a company rather than an individual. (Source: *Campaign Report: Totalitarian Oil: Fueling the Oppression in Burma*, The Burma Campaign UK, February 2005). The investigation was suspended, however, pending a court ruling on whether a refugee had the same rights as a Belgian citizen to apply the law. Belgium had revised the law in 2003 to create greater difficulties for foreigners to use it for politically motivated or frivolous lawsuits after the Belgium court system experienced a flood of lawsuits claiming human rights violations against world figures, such as U.S. leaders. In April 2005, an arbitration court granted that right to use the law to one of the plaintiffs on the basis that he had resided in Belgium for three years (source: "Belgium to Reopen Rights Probe on Total in Myanmar," *Reuters*, 14 April 2005). However, at the end of June 2005, the Supreme Court of Appeals found the refugees did not have the same rights as a Belgian citizen to file the complaint and dismissed the suit (source: "Belgian Court Stops Human Rights Probe of Total Oil," Reuters, 1 July 2005).

Potential Use of Forced Labor on Internationally Sponsored Projects

During 2005, a number of extensive road, rail and bridge agreements were either being discussed or had been reached between Burma and neighboring Bangladesh, India, Thailand and China. Several development projects were also underway during the year. As development projects usually coincide with human rights violations, these agreements raised serious concerns regarding potential for human rights abuses, including the practice of forced labor and portering.

Tamanthi Dam

In October 2004, the SPDC and the Indian Government established a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the construction of the Tamanthi Hydroelectric Power Project (THPP) on the Chindwin River in western Sagaing Division by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC). According to the MoU, 80 percent of the power generated by the dam will be exported to India. (Source: "Tamanthi Dam in Burma. Yet Another Weapon in the Hands of the Military Junta. The Indian Government and the NHPC Are the Accomplices," KSDF, 31 August 2005). While the exact location of the dam is proposed to be in Leovomjang village, it is believed that the dam construction will necessitate the relocation of 35 ethnic Kuki villages in the area, the confiscation of 17,000 aces of land and will result in threats of forced labor against the Kuki villagers. In August 2005, farmlands were confiscated from some farmers while others were instructed to refrain from raising crops in the dam project area (source: "Burma's Thamanthi Hydro Projects Evicts Farmers from Their Land," *Mizzima*, 30 August 2005).

Shwe Gas Development

In August 2000, the South Korean company Daewoo International partnered with the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) to explore and potentially develop offshore natural gas deposits in the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Arakan State. In 2004, Daewoo International announced the discovery of a large offshore natural gas field off the coast of Sittwe, the capital of Arakan State. The new gas development project was subsequently named "Shwe," meaning "gold" in Burmese. The discovered gas field comprises several blocks of gas, all of unconfirmed size. The A-1 gas block is the largest of six and is estimated to contain between 2.88 to 3.56 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, with an estimated market

value of over US$80 billion. There are preliminary plans to develop all six gas blocks in the Bay of Bengal.

Production of gas block A-1 is expected to begin in 2010 through the Shwe Gas Project Consortium, which consists of both private and state-owned companies from South Korea and India. Daewoo International is the largest stakeholder holding a 60 percent share in the project while the remaining 40 percent is divided between the Korean Gas Corporation with 10 percent, India's state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) with 20 percent and Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) with 10 percent (source: *Another Snake in the Jungle? Shwe Gas Development in Western Burma,* Watershed, Vol. II, No.1, July-Oct. 2005; *Another Yadana: The Shwe Natural Gas Pipeline Project (Burma-Bangladesh-India),* ERI, 27 August 2004). The gas deposit has an estimated lifetime of 20 years with projected annual net earnings of US$86 million. The regime-owned Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) meanwhile is expected to receive an annual revenue of US$800 million to US$3 billion from the project (source: "Myanmar: Cheers Jeers over Giant Gas Find," Asia Times Online, 13 February 2004).

Initial plans slated the construction of an overland pipeline into India through Burma's western territory and Bangladesh. Negotiations stalled, however, when the Government of Bangladesh made several economic and territorial demands from India in order to allow the pipeline to pass through Bangladeshi territory. The stipulations included: (1) allowing the export of goods from Bangladesh to Nepal and Bhutan through Indian territory, (2) allowing transmission of hydro-electricity from Nepal and Bhutan to Bangladesh through Indian territory, and (3) pursuing measures to reduce Bangladesh's trade imbalance with India. (Source: "Primary Jolt in Burma-India Gas Pipeline Project," *Mizzima*, 19 January 2005). In January 2006, the Indian government hired Brussels-based consulting firm Suz Tractebel to conduct a feasibility study for pipeline options that bypass Bangladesh. The study is expected to be complete by May 2006 (source: "Consultant to Study Indo-Burma Gas Pipeline Routes," *Mizzima*, 8 February 2006).

With the India proposal on hold, in December 2005, MOGE signed a memorandum of understanding to sell A-1 Block Shwe gas to PetroChina, a privately owned Chinese oil and gas company. This deal includes preliminary plans to construct a gas pipeline through Burma to Kunming in China's Yunnan Province (source: David Fulbrook, "Gas Deal Fuels China's Plans for Myanmar," *The Straits Times*, 2 February 2006). This will require a pipeline through central Burma's "dry zone," where approximately 25 percent of Burma's population resides. MOGE guarantees there exists enough gas to supply the demand of both India and China; therefore the construction of two gas pipelines is expected.

The Shwe Gas Project is expected to be Burma's largest development project ever in terms of revenue and number people who could be adversely affected (source: ERI, 2005). Previous overland pipeline projects in Burma, the Yadana and Yetagun pipelines, were associated with severe human rights abuses, such as forced labor on the project's infrastructure, forced relocation, forced portering, as well as violence such as rape, torture, and murder (source: "Gas Deal Wins Kudos, But Activists Warn of Rights Abuses," *Irrawaddy*, 18 January 2005; *Another Snake in the Jungle? Shwe Gas Development in Western Burma*, Watershed, Vol. II, No.1, July-Oct. 2005; *Another Yadana: The Shwe Natural Gas Pipeline Project (Burma-Bangladesh-India)*, ERI, 27 August 2004).

Salween Dams

On 9 December 2005, a MoU was signed between the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) and the SPDC agreeing to the construction of series of dams along the Salween River. The first scheduled for construction is the Hat Gyi dam in Karen State (source: "Thailand, Burma Agree to Dams Project," *Irrawaddy*, 12 December 2005). Although construction of the Hat Gyi dam is expected to commence in 2007, EarthRights International reported that no environmental impact, social impact or feasibility studies have been conducted yet. Regardless, under the terms of the MoU, the SPDC and the Thai Government have agreed to keep all information and study results regarding the project confidential. Like other development projects in Burma, surrounding villagers are expected to be impacted by increased militarization, forced relocation, deprivation of livelihood, forced labor and other violations of basic human rights. Villagers living near the proposed project are preparing for potential starvation due to the environmental impact the dam is expected to have on the vegetation that villagers depend on for their survival. Furthermore, it is unlikely that villagers will derive any benefit from the dam, through either compensation or power production. (Sources: *Thailand and Burma to Sign MoU to Build Hydropower Dams on the Salween River Despite Grave Human Rights Concerns*, ERI, 8 December 2005; "Thailand and Burma to Sign Hydroelectric Dam Pact," *Bangkok Post*, 7 December 2005).

The Tasang Dam in Shan State is the largest of the proposed projects and is slated to be the tallest dam in all of Southeast Asia, measuring 228 meters high. Following feasibility studies in 1981 by the Japanese company Nippon Koei and follow-up studies by Thailand's GMS Power Company and Myanmar Economic Cooperation in 1998, MDX of Thailand signed a 2002 agreement to pursue the project further. The flood plan is expected to cover hundreds of kilometers. In preparation for the project, 300,000 villagers have been forcibly relocated from the area by the SPDC military. Although construction has not yet begun, there have already been reports of human rights abuses in the Tasang area. (Source: Salween Watch, 2006).

In 2004, Burma and Thailand were in the early stages of evaluating hydropower plants project sites at two further areas along the Salween River, conducting feasibility studies for the Weigyi Dam and the Dagwin Dam. These two dams are planned to be located on the Thai-Burma border where the Salween River forms the border between the two countries. According to Japan's Electric Power Development Company, the two dams would work in tandem with the smaller Dagwin Dam trapping water released by the Weigyi Dam and pumping it back up to the Weigyi Dam during off peak periods. Salween Watch estimates that the Weigyi Dam will have a generation capacity of 4,540 megawatts with a dam height of 168 meters while the estimates for the Dagwin Dam are considerably lower at 500 to 900 megawatts with a dam height of 49 meters. Meanwhile the project is expected to flood 700 to 1,000 sq. km. of land mostly in Karenni State. (Source: Salween Watch, 2006). In preparation for the Weigyi and Dagwin dams, the military has reinforced troop presence in the area by about 1,400 soldiers, increasing the likelihood of future human rights abuses in connection with the project. (Source: "Villagers Pray to Stop Salween Dam Project," *Mizzima*, 27 April 2005).

East-West Economic Corridor

Despite internal restrictions against providing financial support to the regime, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is sponsoring a major road construction project referred to as the East-West Economic Corridor that will traverse Burma. The corridor will connect Burma to an expanse of highways in Thailand, Laos and Vietnam, creating a transportation passageway running the entire width of mainland Southeast Asia covering a distance of 1,450 km. In Burma, the project will link Moulmein in Mon State to the eastern border town of Myawaddy in Karen State. In the first week of March 2005, construction began on a portion of the highway linking Thailand and Burma. Under the current proposal, construction in Burma is slated for completion by 2008. However, as of 2005, no social or environmental impact assessments (SIA or EIA) or feasibility studies had been publicized if even conducted. Furthermore the project threatens to facilitate increased human rights abuses in Burma, particularly in Mon and Karen States. Hostilities between the SPDC and armed resistance groups in Mon and Karen States have been ongoing. Meanwhile, the projected highway is likely to only ease the movement of SPDC troops and military supplies to the detriment of villagers who will be subject to increased militarization and associated abuses. UN research also indicates that the highway may lead to an increase in trafficking of women and the spread of infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS. (Source: *The East-West Economic Corridor: The Burma Road to Maldevelopment*, ERI, 28 June 2005; "Work Starts Soon on Burma Highway," *Irrawaddy*, 3 February 2005).

In conjunction with the East-West Economic Corridor, other large development projects are under consideration that will likely have similarly detrimental affects on the local population. The ADB has proposed renovating a series of highways inside Burma known as the "Western Loop." The loop is comprised of a 158 km. strip of roads from Myawaddy to Kawkareik to Pa-an to Thaton and another strip of roads measuring 200 km. from Myawaddy to Kawkareik to Mudon to Moulmein. With forced labor, forced portering and forced conscription already a problem in the areas surrounding these roads, the proposed construction projects raise fears of further abuses.

1.4 Forced Portering - Partial List of Incidents for 2005

Arakan State

Buthidaung Township

From February to August 2005, reports continued of forced portering of villagers from Ba Da Gar village by the military authorities. (Source: Forum-Asia, 26 May 2005; Arakan Project, 25 August 2005).

In April 2005, military authorities forced villagers from Kyin Tha Mar village to porter. (Source: Forum-Asia, 26 May 2005).

Maungdaw Township

In February 2005, authorities forced villagers from Tha Man Thar village to porter. (Source: Forum-Asia, 26 May 2005).

On 25 August 2005, it was reported that villagers from Ye Aung San Yak Phwai and Thinn Baw Kway village had been forced to porter. (Source: Arakan Project, 25 August 2005).

Mrauk U Township

On 12 November 2005, SPDC LIB 377 forced 70 villagers from Mrauk U Township to serve as porters. The porters were required to carry military supplies and 3 kg of rice for their own consumption approximately 10 miles to Kala Ma Mountain. (Source: "Chin Villagers in Arakan State Forced to Become Army Porters," *Narinjara News*, 5 December 2005).

Paletwa Township

On 27 August 2005, the VPDC of Mrite Wa village conscripted 2 porters and provided 4 extra nighttime sentries while SPDC LIB 20 camped inside the village following clashes with the ALA. (Source: "Burmese Army Camped Inside Village Due to Fear of Attack," *Narinjara News*, 27 August 2005).

Ponna Gyan Township

On 1 November 2005, a 35-year-old man from Tharat Cho village, Ponna Gyan Township died after becoming seriously ill while serving on a forced labor project constructing military bases under the command of SPDC Battalion 550. The man died 2 days after returning home from the labor project. (Source: "Forced Labour by Army Kills Arakanese Man," *Narinjara News*, 7 December 2005).

Chin State

Maputi Township

On 15 May 2005, it was reported that Second Warrant Officer Kyaw Sein chief in charge of SPDC LIB 140 in Lailenpi village forced Satu villagers to transport rations and supplies from

Matupi Township for the construction of a new military camp in Satu village. One person from each household was required to transport supplies from Bawi Ring village to Satu village, a distance of 20 miles. The villagers did not know the amount of time they were required to serve or the amount of rice that was necessary to bring for their own sustenance. Although villagers were told that they would be exempt if they each gave 38 tins of rice to the military, villagers who provided the rice were still forced to porter. (Source: "New Military Camp: Anguish For The People," *Khonumthung*, 15 May 2005).

On 15 July 2005, Battalion Comdr. Sgt. Tin Soe of SPDC IB 305 based in Matupi 10 forced primary school children to carry rations and supplies. Commencing in Sabawngte army camp, different groups of villagers were responsible for transporting rations from one village to the next with the ultimate destination of Laienpi army camp. Ten students and 5 civil servants were conscripted in Mala village. The students carried the rations 12 miles before 2 became too tired to go any further and encountered 5 Laienpi villagers who took their places. The children were forced to carry the following:

1. 10 tins of rice;
2. 10 bottles of cooking oil;
3. 10 viss of fish paste; and
4. 5 viss of dried chilly. (Source: "SPDC Forced Primary School Children to Porter," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 8 August 2005).

Karen State

Dooplaya District

In January 2005, each company from SPDC Military Operations Command 19 had 5 prisoner porters when they came to Kya In Township. The troops sometimes requisitioned an additional 15 villagers to also serve as porters or as guides to the subsequent village. Villagers were occasionally forced to porter for nearly 3 days depending on whether new villager porter or guides could be conscripted in the villages where they went. (Source: *Dooplaya District: Fighting and Human Rights Abuse Still Continue After Ceasefire*, KHRG, 18 February 2005).

Toungoo District

In 2005, Comdr. Aung Mya U of SPDC IB 30 Column 2 forced villagers from Kaw They Der village to carry food supplies. (Source: BI, 2005).

Between 15 and 16 January 2005, Lt. Lwin Oo of SPDC IB 73 based in Kaw Thay Der camp demanded the following women from Kaw Thay Der village to carry military supplies to Naw Soe camp:

1. Naw Ya Yah,
2. Naw Sha Ree Ki,
3. Naw Kee Ki
4. Naw Lu Po.
5. Naw Kyu,
6. Naw Sha Ree Ki,
7. Naw Ka Der and
8. Naw Ni Doe. (Source: BI, March 2005).

On 21 January 2005, 17 SPDC military trucks arrived at Kler Lah (Baw Gale Gyi) SPDC army camp carrying 60 porters and supplies for the resupply of camps on the Toungoo-Mawchi and Toungoo-Kler La-Busakee roads. Forced labor was also used to clear the roads. (Source: FBR, 2005).

On 24 January 2005, Lt. Lwin Oo from SPDC LIB 73 forced 1 female and 3 male villagers from Kaw They Der village to carry supplies to Naw Soe SPDC military camp. (Sources: BI, Mach 2005; FBR, 2005).

On 24 January 2005, Aung Htay Win Second-in-Command of SPDC LIB 439 based at Tha Aye Ta camp ordered the following villagers from Ga Mu Der village to purchase items at Baw Ga Lee village and transport them to Tha Aye Ta camp:

1. Saw May Ler,
2. Saw Ler Mu,
3. Saw Eh Paw and
4. Saw Way Htoo. (Source: BI, March 2005).

On 8 February 2005, Comdr. Mya Zaw of SPDC LIB 439 Column 1 based at The Aye Ta camp forced the following villagers from Ga Mu Der village to porter:

1. Saw Ray Moo (male);
2. Saw Le Pee (male);
3. Saw Doh Koh Khee (male); and
4. Naw Paw Wah (female). (Source: BI, 16 February 2005).

On 14 February 2005, Comdr. Win Min Tun of SPDC IB 92 Column 2 based in The Aye Ta village forced villagers Saw Mu Tu and Saw Law Maw from Ga Mu Der village to carry soldier kits from Kler La village to the The Aye Ta military camp. (Source: BI, 16 February 2005).

On 14 February 2005, Comdr. Lwee U of SPDC IB 73 based at Kaw Thay Der camp forced 2 women, Naw Ah Ma and Naw Mu Mu, of Kaw Thay Der village to carry soldier kits to military camps at:

1. Kaw Thay Der,
2. Yae Tho Kyi,
3. Naw Soe, and
4. Maung Tain Kyi. (Source: BI, 16 February 2005).

On 23 February 2005, Col. Hlaing Tint, column commander of SPDC IB 60 “forced villagers to carry sacks of beans for him without payment, then claimed that some of the beans had disappeared in transit and fined the villagers by making them buy a tarpaulin for him for 12,000 kyat.” (Source: *Toungoo District: Civilians Displaced by Dams, Roads and Military Control*, KHRG, 19 August 2005).

On 8 March 2005, Camp Comdr. Than Hlaing Oo of SPDC IB 48 based at Ye Tho Gyi village, Tantabin Township ordered 4 women and 2 men from the village to carry army rations to Naw Soe (Aung Daing Gyi). The camp commander also demanded that village provide him with 500 bamboo poles, each measuring 7 cubits in length. (Source: KIC, 2005).

On 10 March 2005, Comdr. Win Bo Shine of SPDC IB 60 Column 1 based in Klaw Mee Der camp ordered 30 villagers from Le Kla Der village and 30 villagers from Kae Der village to

carry food and military supplies. They also asked for all bullock carts in Hu Mu Der village to transport food from Pae Lae Wa to Klaw Mee Der base camp. (Source: BI, March 2005).

On 14 March 2005, SPDC IB 48 forced 6 villagers, including a 14-year-old girl and a 56-year-old woman from Kaw Thay Der to each carry 16 kg of rations to Naw Soe military camp without payment. (Source: *Toungoo District: Civilians Displaced by Dams, Roads and Military Control*, KHRG, 19 August 2005).

On 16 March 2005, Column 1 Comdr. Maj. Zaw Win Aung of SPDC LIB 440 ordered the following women villagers of Tha Yet Tan and Jweh Lan village, Tantabin Township to carry military supplies to Hgar Mu Doe and Tha Aye Hta army camps:

1. Naw Thi Za Win, age 16,
2. Naw Yu Li Paw, age 16,
3. Naw Ku Tho, age 14,
4. Naw Sit, age 17,
5. Naw Mu Htoo, age 21, and
6. Naw Ah Nay Moo, age 45. (Source: KIC, 2005).

On 22 March 2005, Bo Way Pyo Paing of SPDC IB 60 Column 1 forced 34 women and 43 men of Ye Ta Gun village to transport 53 sacks of rice and 10 tins of cooking oil from Pa Let Wa to Ye Ta Gun camp, in Tantabin Township. The following day, Bo Way Pyo Paing along with Bo Hla Oo conscripted 21 women and 47 men from the same village to carry the remaining army rations at Pe Let Wa camp. They also commandeered 24 bullocks to carry 50 baskets of rice and 10 tins of cooking oil. (Source: KIC, 2005).

On 14 April 2005, Officer Mo Kyaw Thu of SPDC IB 92 led by Col. Pyo Way Hla, forced 7 villagers from Klay Soe Kee to each carry 24 kg of rations to the hilltop army post at Dee Tha Daw Ko. (Source: *Toungoo District: Civilians Displaced by Dams, Roads and Military Control*, KHRG, 19 August 2005).

On 16 May 2005, Company Comdr. Mo Kyaw Thu of SPDC IB 92 forced 6 Klay Soe Kee villagers to carry rations from Dee Tha Daw Ko camp on the hilltop. Some villagers were able to avoid the work by paying 1,000 kyat for a proxy. (Source: *Toungoo District: Civilians Displaced by Dams, Roads and Military Control*, KHRG, 19 August 2005).

On 7 July 2005, SPDC Army columns forced villager heads from the following villages to serve as guides:

1. Hu Mu Doe,
2. Hkhe Doe,
3. Mwee Lor,
4. Ler Kla Doe and
5. He Po Lor.

Moreover, the specific Hu Mu Doe villagers conscripted to be guides by Maj. Win Min Nyunt were:

1. Saw Maung Law Lay, age 60,
2. Pastor Saw Htoo Paw, age 59;
3. Saw Kler Htoo, age 30;
4. Saw Pa Thu, age 20;
5. Saw Kay May, age 40;
6. Saw Klae Tha, age 41; and

7. Saw Ta Blu, age 23.
8. Maw Ah Nom, age 42. (Source: BI, February 2005; KIC, 30 August 2005).

On 8 July 2005, a SPDC guerrilla unit forced 10 villagers from Hu Mu Doe village to carry supplies for them. (Source: KIC, 30 August 2005).

On 9 July 2005, SPDC IB 30 shot at villagers in the Ler Kla Der area and forced 9 villagers to be guides. One of the guides, Saw Lwa Yer, was beaten and left behind after he became too weak to keep pace. (Source: BI, March 2005).

On 27 July 2005, SPDC IB 30 staying at Kaw They Der village arrested 4 villagers and forced them to carry their loads to Naw Kyo camp. (Source: FBR, 2005).

From 13 August to 14 August 2005, Aung Myo Oo SPDC IB 30 column company forced 20 villagers to carry food from Noe Soe to Kawthuin Der. (Source: BI, 2005).

On 19 August 2005, Comdr. Yea Aung Zaw of SPDC IB 26 Column 1 forced 7 villagers from Klawmeeder village to transport military rations from Klawmeeder to Yulo military camp. (Source: BI, 2005).

In August/September 2005 SPDC IB 30 Column 2 under Comdr. Aung Mya Oo forced men and women from Klaw Me Der village to carry food supplies. (Source: BI, February 2005).

Mon State

Thaton District

On 22 January 2005, the following Ta Rei Khee villagers served as porters for Lt. Aye Lwin of SPDC LIB 376:

1. Naw Oh May,
2. Naw Pah Lah,
3. Maw Ma Doo, and
4. Hla Tin.

Villagers who reported late were handcuffed for 1 hour. (Source: BI, March 2005).

On 5 August 2005, Comdr. Nyan Soe and Company Comdr. Naing Aung Kyi of SPDC LIB 2 Column 2 demanded Per Wa Hta villagers to serve as guides each day they spent in the village. They also demanded 15 pyi of rice from the village head. (Source: KIC, 3 October 2005).

Ye Township

On 10 August 2005, villager Nai Win was forced to serve as a porter for SPDC troops, carrying ammunition and other provisions while walking in advance of the troops. It was reported that villagers in this area were forced to serve as porters and human shields on a weekly basis for SPDC troops. Portering duties could be avoided with a payment of 3,000 kyat. (Source: "Villagers Forced to Porter," *Kaowao News*, 28 August 2005).

Pegu Division

Mone Township

On 7 May 2005, SPDC TOC Col. Soe Twain forced 5 villagers to become porters to Tha Byin Nyunt military camp. (Source: FBR, 2005).

Nyaunglebin District

On 7 July 2005, Control Unit 33 of SPDC Battalion 11 forced 20 villagers from Noe Gaw to be porters in the Mu That area. (Source: BI, 2005).

Shan State

Nam-San Township

In December 2005, SPDC LIB 144 led by No. 1 Strategic Comdr. Col. San Shwe Thar along with SPDC LIB 130 and LIB 324 led by No. 2 Strategic Comdr. Lt. Col. Hla Myo forced residents in the Palaung area to porter, guide and build temporary military camps. One villager forced to carry a weapon box for 2 days and 1 night was beaten after being unable to continue. The townships subject to both calls for forced labor and looting were Nam-san Township, Namkham Township and Mong Mit Township. (Source: "SPDC Troops Ill-Treatment on Palaung People during Their Operation," PYNG, 25 December 2005).

Nam Zarng Township

On 9 February 2005, about 40 SPDC troops led by Maj. Khin Naing of Military Operation Management Command 17 forced Zaai Ti, (age 39) and Zaai Pan Ta (age 37) from Kaeng Kham Awn village, Loi La village tract to serve as guides. Two miles after leaving Kaeng Kham Awn village, Maj. Khin Naing asked the guides if they had seen Shan soldiers in the area and whether they had ever provided them with food to which the villagers replied that they had not. The Major then switched on a walkie-talkie and heard people talking in Shan. He accused the villagers of lying and beat them with a stick until they lost consciousness. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, April 2005).

1.5 Forced Labor - Partial List of Incidents for 2005

Arakan State

Buthidaung Township

In January 2005, it was reported that military authorities forced villagers from Ba Da Gar village to serve sentry duty from dusk to dawn. If anyone was caught sleeping, they were subject to a fine. Villagers were also forced to conduct routine maintenance of military camps. (Source: Forum-Asia, 26 May 2005).

In March 2005, military authorities forced villagers from Tat Min Chaung village to plough paddy fields. (Source: Forum-Asia, 26 May 2005).

In April 2005, military authorities forced villagers from Kyin Tha Mar village to do routine maintenance of their camps. (Source: Forum-Asia, 26 May 2005).

On 23 June 2005, it was reported that LIB 565 stationed at Kum Dai village required the following village tracts to provide about 20 laborers to work at the military brick kiln, which generates income for the military:

1. Sein Nyin Wa,
2. Kum Dai,
3. Wun Htun,
4. Kan Bai Chaung, and
5. Hta Min Chaung. (Source: "Forced Labor for Army Brick Kiln," *Narinjara News*, 23 June 2005).

From July 2005 to the date of this report, 25 August 2005, the NaSaKa and SPDC military forced the following villages to work on their paddy fields in northern Buthidaung:

1. Ba Da Gar,
2. Tin May,
3. Goat Pi and
4. Nyi Kyi Dauk. (Source: Arakan Project, 25 August 2005).

On 22 December 2005, construction of a 40 ft. wide, 4.5 ft. high and 4 miles long road connecting Maung Gyi Taung and Chaung village resumed. As a result, the military forced 40 to 50 Rohingya villagers to labor on the road each day without compensation or provision of food. The military also collected items such as rice, vegetables, dried fish and livestock from villagers. Villagers who were unable to meet the soldiers' demands were forced to work for 2 days as opposed to 1. About 48 acres of villagers' land had also been confiscated by the military for road construction and army establishments. (Source: "Army Resumes Forced Labor for Road Construction in Northern Arakan," *Kaladan News*, 22 December 2005).

Kyauktaw Township

On 17 December 2005, it was reported that the Military Operation Management Command based in Down Taung Yoe ordered regimes to harvest paddy but sanctioned the use of forced laborers from the following villages to do the work:

1. Down Taung Yoe,
2. Jelingun,
3. Kyauk Thalong,
4. Lanmataw,
5. Minthar Taung,
6. Mrauk Taung,
7. Shewthaley,
8. Tayetpin and
9. Yormapin. (Source: "Villagers Forced to Harvest Paddy for the Military," *Narinjara News*, 17 December 2005).

Maungdaw Township

Between October 2004 and May 2005, villagers from Ye Aung San Yak Phwai, Phur Wut Chaung and Hla Poe Kaung.villages were required to work at military camps and carry letters and messages between military camps. (Source: Arakan Project, 25 August 2005).

In January 2005, authorities forced residents of villages surrounding the center of Maungdaw Township to clear roadsides. (Source: Forum-Asia, 26 May 2005).

From January through February 2005, Inn Din, Mya Kyan Pur, and Nasagro villages were ordered to erect 6-ft high bamboo fences around their villages. The villagers were required to supply the building materials. While the reason for the construction of the fences was allegedly for protection, villagers felt that the fence was an attempt to control their movements. (Source: Forum-Asia, 26 May 2005).

From January to April 2005, villagers from the following villages in Maungdaw Township were forced to stand as lookouts through the night:

1. Thinn Baw Kway,
2. Hlaing Thi,
3. Tha Man Thar,
4. Inn Din,
5. Nu Rul Lah,
6. Myinn Hlut, and
7. Gaw Ya Khar Li. (Source: Forum-Asia, 26 May 2005).

From February 2005 to April 2005, various authorities forced villagers from Hlaing Thi, Myinn Hlut and Gaw Ya Khar Li. to conduct routine maintenance of their camps. (Source: Forum-Asia, 26 May 2005).

In March 2005, military officers ordered members of the VPDC and some secondary level students of Taungbro to erect fences around village tracts on the northern side of Maungdaw Township. (Source: "Military Order Villagers Erecting Fences in Northern Arakan," *Kaladan News*, 26 March 2005).

In May 2005, the NaSaKa forced 30 villagers from Ngar Kyu Ta village tract to clear the jungle and dig holes to prepare the land for planting. (Source: Arakan Project, 25 August 2005).

During the period of mid-May to mid-August 2005, villagers from the following villages were forced to do roadwork:

1. Ye Aung San Yak Phwai,
2. Phur Wut Chaung and
3. Thinn Baw Kway. (Source: Arakan Project, 25 August 2005).

During the period of mid-May to mid-August 2005, villagers from the following villages were forced to repair bridges:

1. Pa Da Kah Dai Wah Nah Li,
2. Pa Da Kah Way Thit and
3. Wed Kyain. (Source: Arakan Project, 25 August 2005).

During the period of mid-May to mid-August 2005, villagers from Thu Oo Lah and Maungdaw Town were required to repair a VPDC office. (Source: Arakan Project, 25 August 2005).

During the period of mid-May to mid-August 2005, the following villagers were required to clear jungle areas and dig holes for planting trees as well as provide sapling trees for planting:

1. Ye Aung San Yak Phwai,
2. Nga Sar Kyeu,
3. Nga Khu Ya,
4. Thu Oo Lah and
5. Thinn Baw Kway. (Source: Arakan Project, 25 August 2005).

During the period of mid-May to mid-August 2005, Myinn Hlut and Thinn Baw Kaway villagers were required to supply bamboo poles and material for making flags for the VPDC offices. The name of the village tract was printed on each flag, which villagers were responsible for raising along the roadside, standing guard at during the day, removing them at night and restoring them to the VPDC office. (Source: Arakan Project, 25 August 2005).

Mrauk U Township

On 14 April 2005, it was reported Mrauk U authorities targeted the following villages to work 6 hours per day, 4 days per month clearing bushes and cutting down trees in the surrounding hills under threat of fines:

1. Aung Dat,
2. Die Gyi,
3. Mrot Thik,
4. Aung Mingalar and
5. Baung Duat.

It was also reported that villagers were ordered to maintain the road in front of their houses using their own money. (Source: "Forced Labor in the Last Ancient City of Arakan," *Narinjara News*, 14 April 2005).

Palawa Township

On 14 September 2005, it was reported that LIB 289 Column 2 ordered villagers from 5 village tracts near the Palawa to Abung Tha to work on the road construction project. Each village tract was responsible for building 4,000 ft. of the road. Villagers had to provide their own food and work from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each day. The village tracts subject to the order were:

1. Kha Wai,
2. Yet Chaung,
3. Abung Tha,
4. Fat Chaung and
5. Ray Tan Kun. (Source: "Forced Labour Used in Road Construction in Burma," *Narinjara News*, 14 September 2005).

Ponna Kyunt Township

On 14 April 2005, it was reported that regime was forcing villagers from the following villages to work in SPDC rubber plantations:

1. Yota Roke,
2. Moe Tin Byin,
3. Aung Pru Bryin,
4. Pan Nilar and
5. Inn Daw. (Source: "Forced Labor in the Last Ancient City of Arakan," *Narinjara News*, 14 April 2005).

Rathedaung Township

From September 2004 to the date of this report, 23 November 2005, the following villages were forced to provide construction materials and laborers for the construction of the new NaSaKa Regional 8 HQs in A-Ngu Maw village, which is comprised of 2 large buildings, smaller buildings and sentry lookouts:

1. A-Ngu Maw,
2. Son Pite,
3. Done Pite,
4. Kotan Kaunt,
5. Shaine Kalee, and
6. Mannkree Khaung. (Source: "Arakanese Villagers Forced into Labour for the Burmese Army," *Narinjara News*, 23 November 2005).

Chin State

Cikha Sub-Township

In November 2005, SPDC military forced 1 person from each household of villages in Cikha Sub-Township to clean the area, repair roads, cut the grass and construct a heliport in preparation for a visit by SPDC Prime Minister Lt. Gen. Soe Win. Other villagers were required to dance for Soe Win. The affected villages were:

1. Kan Sau Zang,
2. Khawdam,
3. Saunghoih,
4. Suangzang,
5. Manvum,
6. Khenman and
7. Khuavum.

Similarly, Mauvrom village was ordered to provide 500 bamboo poles. (Sources: "Ethnic Chin Forced to Clean up Cikha and Dance During Burmese PM's Visit," *Mizzima*, 8 December 2005; "The Prime Minister Visits Border Villages in Chin State," *Khonumthung*, 9 December 2005).

Hakha Township

From February 2005 to the date of this report, 20 May 2005, Col. Tin Hla chief of Tactical Command 1 forced all households of Hakha Township to work from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on the construction of a new public high school, Basic Education High School No. 3.

Households that could not comply were forced to pay a fine of 1,000 kyat. Some households were required to labor more frequently than other villages. Villagers were assigned to different task according to their skills and abilities. While the project reportedly had a budget of 400,000,000 kyat, the project construction engineer and laborers were not paid. (Source: "New High School Being Constructed with Forced Labor," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 20 May 2005).

On 13 December 2005, it was reported that residents of Hakha Township were being forced to serve as intern laborers at the golf ground road Hakha Township. (Source: "The Authorities from Haka Township of Chin State Practice the Forced Labor and Extortion on Residents," DVB, 13 December 2005).

Matupi Township

From 5 January to 26 January 2005, U Soe Nyunt chairman of the Matupi TPDC forced villagers from the following villages to construct a road between Matupi, Answe and Madu under the supervision of Deputy Comdr. of SPDC IB 305 based in Matpui:

1. Answe,
2. Madu,
3. Saton,
4. Antui,
5. Lungpan,
6. Lingtui,
7. Rung and
8. Rohtlang.

In Lungpan village, a total of 59 villagers provided labor, including 4 girls under age 18. At the project site, the villagers were divided into groups and responsible for digging a distance of 1/3 of a mile. Ten households were forced to pay for food and supplies when they were unable to provide labor. While the project reportedly had a budget of 8,000,000 kyat, the laborers were unpaid. (Source: "Forced Labor Increases Hardship for Impoverished Villagers," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 16 March 2005).

From May 2005 to the date of this report, 8 June 2005, Lt. Col. San Aung commander of SPDC Tactical 2 based at Matupi ordered approximately 600 people from the following villages to construct a 20 mile road from Lungngo to Lotaw and a 19 mile road from Lungngo to Tingshi:

1. Lungngo,
2. Senpi,
3. Balei,
4. Voti,
5. Kelong,
6. Tuphei,
7. Lawngdaw,
8. Nabung,
9. Ranti,
10. Darcung,
11. Khuaboi,
12. Cangceh (Sancet),
13. Suitawng,
14. Daidin,

15. Dinkhua,
16. Tingsi,
17. Tilat,
18. Longka,
19. Theisi and
20. Lungring.

The villagers were required to construct 200 ft of road per day and were not provided with food, medicine or tools. While the troops supplied a bulldozer, they did not provide petrol. The Christian villagers were forced to work everyday, including the Sunday day of worship, under the supervision of Capt. Htun Myint Mang and SPDC LIB 140. (Source: "SPDC Forced 600 Villagers to Engage in Road Construction," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 8 June 2005).

From July 2005 to the date of this report, 2 August 2005, Maj. Tin Moe, patrol column commander of SPDC IB 304, forced villagers from 20 villages in the area to build a military post at Dar Ling village. Villagers had to work everyday, including Sundays, from 5:00 am to 6:30 pm and supply their own food and tools. For example, from 16 July to 21 July 2005, 50 villagers and members of the VPDC from Hlung Mang village were forced to dig trenches and bunkers for the army camp. Maj. Tin Moe also ordered villagers to raise chickens, pigs and other livestock. (Source: "Mass Forced Labor Extracted to Construct New Military Camp," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 2 August 2005).

From November until early December 2005, Capt. Than Tahit Kyo, commander of SPDC LIB 140, forced villagers from the following villages to build an 8 mile road from Hlungmang to Sabawngte village to link military bases in Rizua.

1. Sabawngte,
2. Sabawngpi,
3. Hlungmang,
4. Chapaw,
5. Rezua,
6. Lailenpi,
7. Lungcawite, and
8. Lungcawipi.

Each village was forced to provide 6 to 7 workers on a rotational basis. Villagers were not supplied with accommodation, food, tools or transportation. Those who did not comply with the orders faced a fine ranging from 10,000 to 50,000 kyat. (Source: "Forced Labour in Road Construction," *Khonumthung*, 7 December 2005).

Paletwa Township

From 15 January 2005 to the date of this report, 2 February 2005, LIB 354 under the command of Lt. Thein Lwin forced villagers from Shinletwa village tract to relocate the army camp at Shinletwa where a Buddhist monastery would be constructed in its place. (Source: "Chin Christians Forced to Contribute Money and Labor for Construction of Buddhist Monastery," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 2 February 2005).

From 16 July 2005 to 19 July 2005, Platoon Comdr. Second Lt. Win Zaw Oo of LIB 289 forced 90 villagers from Salanpi, Saiha and Ma U villages to renovate the military camp. The villagers were required to supply tools and food for 5 days. They were also forced to gather

round bamboo and twigs for constructing a fence around the camp. (Source: "Villagers Forced to Renovate Army Camp," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 5 August 2005).

Rih Township

From 3 to 6 January 2005, Comdr. Lt. Col. Myint Tun of SPDC LIB 226 at Rih Township forced 150 villagers from Rih to work at a tea plantation. The villagers were divided into 2 groups with the first working from 7:00 am to noon and the second from noon to 5:00 pm. Villagers had to provide their own tools and food. Students were exempted from the order. (Source: "Forced Labor at Tea Plantation Farm," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 13 January 2005).

Thantlang Township

In January 2005, Thantlang Township authorities ordered 1 person from each household in 6 villages to provide "voluntary labor for self-support development project." A total of 250 villagers, including 20 women, were forced to construct a 7 mile road between Congthia and Hmawng Tiang villages. Each laborer was required to dig 20 ft. of land. Women, however, were responsible for cooking for the other laborers. While the Public Work Department reportedly approved a 10,000,000 kyat budget for the project, the laborers were unpaid. The following villages were subject to the order:

1. Hmawngtlang
2. Phai Khua,
3. Letak (A),
4. Letak (B),
5. Letak (C) and
6. Aibur. (Source: "Hundreds of Civilians Provided 'Voluntary Labor' to Construct Road," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 14 March 2005).

On 22 January 2005, it was reported that Inspector Mawng Tlang under the authority of Chief Inspector U Mya Thein of Thantlang Township ordered the following villages to set up fences around the 1,000 sq. ft. Hmawng Tlang police camp:

1. Aibur, 60 villagers;
2. Hmawng Tlang, 100 villagers;
3. Cawng Thia, 100 villagers;
4. Le Tak (A)(B)(C), 100 villagers; and
5. Phaikhua, 40 villagers.

In addition, the villagers were responsible for cutting the wood and transporting it from the forest for building the fences. (Source: "Mass Forced Labor Used to Fence Police Camp in Chin State," *Khonumthung,* 22 January 2005).

From 11 to 16 July 2005, Maj. Tin Moe, patrol column commander of IB 304, temporarily stationed at Dar Ling village, forced 50 villagers and the village headman from Thantlang Township to dig a 150 ft. long drain measuring 3 ft. wide and 4 ft. deep at their military post. (Source: "Mass Forced Labor Extracted to Construct New Military Camp," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 2 August 2005).

Tiddim Township

Starting in the beginning of 2005, residents of Tiddim were required to work on the junta's tea plantation gathering twigs, planting tea, roofing plantation beds and weeding once a month as per the orders of TPDC Chairman U Sai Maung. The work was compulsory for everyone including students and civil servants. Those who failed to report for the work were fined 500 kyat. Students were also told to bring 1 viss of manure to the TPDC office each month. (Source: "SPDC Forced School Children and Civilians to Labor at Government's Tea Plantation," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 25 July 2005).

Irrawaddy Division

Einme Township

On 6 March 2005, it was reported that the chairman of Einme Township ordered residents of the following villages to build and provide a 400 kyat donation for a bridge over the Einme-Myaungmya stream:

1. Innthami,
2. Kyondaye,
3. Kyokone,
4. Tamang Taung, and
5. Thapyekwin. (Source: "Forced Labour Continues in Delta Burma," DVB, 6 March 2005).

Kachin State

On 7 October 2005, it was reported that Maj. Gen. Ohn Myint ordered all buildings, homes and temples in Myitkyina to have green roofs and white wooden fences. The order was thought to be part of preparations for an Air Bagan Ltd sponsored golf tournament. (Source: "Myitkyina Clean-Up Order," *Irrawaddy*, 7 October 2005).

From October 2005 through to 8 December 2005, each household of Hsangoung and Ziyadan villages in the Putao region were forced to provide one laborer each week to construct a road leading to Phonkanrazi Mountain, one of the highest in Burma, to improve access for tourists. Villagers were responsible for organizing their own accommodations and food. A tourist in the area observed approximately 500 villagers, including children and the elderly, cutting trees, clearing bushes and hauling large rocks. (Source: "Forced Labor Reported in Scheme to Open Up Ski Area," *Irrawaddy*, 8 December 2005).

Karen State

Pa-an District

From October 2004 to the date of this report, 16 February 2005, the DKBA was forcing villagers from the following villages in the Mae Plae Toe area to construct the Mae Plae River Bridge:

1. Paw Baw Koh village,
2. Per Naw Klae Kee village,
3. Htee Wa Blaw village,
4. Htee Law Thit village,

5. Gaw Koh village,
6. Kwee Lay village,
7. Ger Gaw village,
8. Htee Sa Ra village,
9. Thay Doh Kwee village,
10. Pan Klue village,
11. Loe Baw village,
12. Thay Ker Ti village,
13. Toe Thu Kee village,
14. Mae Plae Wah Kee village,
15. Day Law Pya village,
16. Per Wi village,
17. Htee Wah Klay village,
18. Htee Kaw Taw village and
19. Ko Ko Htoo village. (Source: BI, 16 February 2005).

In January 2005, SPDC LIB 547, 558 and 549 forced villagers in central Pa'an District to cut and send firewood. (Source: *Pa'an District: Food Security in Crisis for Civilians in Rural Areas*, KHRG, 30 March 2005).

On 1 February 2005, it was reported that the police forced persons from Zar Tha Pyin village to the Kyaikkami Pagoda living along the Rangoon-Ye road in Karen and Mon States to paint their fences white and clear bushes in front of their homes in preparation for Moulmein-Mutama bridge opening ceremony. (Source: "People Forced to Paint Fences in Front of Houses for Bridge," IMNA, 1 February 2005).

It was reported in March 2005 that Maj. Aung Sun Lay and Aun La Soe of SPDC LIB 102 Column 3 forced the following villages to construct a car road by 29 July 2005:

1. Kru See village,
2. Noh Aung La village,
3. Ta Thu Khee village,
4. Kyaw Kay Khee village,
5. Ha T'Reh and
6. Noh Law Plaw village. (Source: BI, March 2005).

On 30 March 2005, it was reported that Chairman Leh Htun of the Myawaddy TPDC ordered the following villages to engage in dry season paddy cultivation even though the villagers were not educated in this technique and the soil was not properly prepared:

1. Kway Sha,
2. Htee Wah Blaw,
3. Bpaw Baw Koh and
4. K'Naw Kleh Kee. (Source: *Pa'an District: Food Security in Crisis for Civilians in Rural Areas*, KHRG, 30 March 2005).

On 30 March 2005, it was reported that Col. Maung Chit Thu based at Koh Koh, Comdr. Pu Weh Der based at Gka Lu Mountain and Comdr. Po Kyeh Yu based near Meh Pleh village ordered villagers to build a motor road from Koh Koh to Meh Pleh village and a bridge at the entrance to Meh Pleh village. A minimum of 10 persons from each village have been required to report for work, however, larger villages must send more workers. (Source: *Pa'an District: Food Security in Crisis for Civilians in Rural Areas*, KHRG, 30 March 2005).

From May 2004 to the date of this report, 16 February 2005, DKBA forced about 60 Mae Plae Toe villagers every day to work on the road construction project between Mae Plae village and the DKBA Special Force Battalion 999 military camp at Ko Ko. Some villagers were forced to work for 5 days. The DKBA punished those they observed resting by beating them or putting them in stocks for 1 day. Villagers who could not work were forced to give 20,000 kyat. (Source: BI, 16 February 2005).

Papun District

In January 2005, SPDC LIB 350 Column 1 forced villagers to cut and clear grass and undergrowth around the perimeter of Meh Way camp in Dweh Loh Township. In the same township, officer Tin Maung from SPDC LIB 359 required that each village provide 2 bullock carts to transport his 50 soldiers' bags and other supplies to the next village as the troops patrolled between Tee Tha Blu Hta and Ka Dtaing Dtee villages. Upon arrival, new carts were requisitioned. (Source: *Papun District: Forced Labour, Looting and Road Construction in SPDC-Controlled Area*s, KHRG, 20 May 2005).

On 25 January 2005, 20 DKBA soldiers led by officer Aung Than conscripted the village headwoman from Kwih T'Ma village to serve as their guide for 2 days. The headwoman was also requisitioned to procure 50 villagers for the purpose of transporting log rafts from Ma Lay Ler to Kwih T'Ma and then down to Wah Mu. The village headwoman was threatened with a 1,000 kyat fine for each villager that failed to report for the work. The villages subject to this order were:

1. Wah Mu,
2. Poh Kheh Hta,
3. Nya Hsa Gaw,
4. Ku Thu Hta,
5. Kwih T'Ma and
6. Ma Lay Ler. (Source: *Papun District: Forced Labour, Looting and Road Construction in SPDC-Controlled Areas, Karen Human Rights Group Report from the Field*, KHRG, 20 May 2005).

Toungoo District

From 16 December 2004 to the time of this report, 14 January 2005, SPDC IB 73 ordered every family in the Klay Soe Kee to provide 1 person to work everyday on the roads without pay. (Source: FBR, 2005).

From 17 December 2004 to the time of this report, 14 January 2005, Aung Tin Win commander of SPDC LIB 439 Column 1 forced 29 villagers, including a 13-year-old boy, from Klay Soe Kee to clear the road from Kaw They Der (Yee Tho Gyi) to Naw Soe. One boy, Saw Tha Po Dee aged 15, stepped on a landmine and lost his lower leg and foot. (Source: FBR, 2005).

From December 2004 to January 2005, SPDC officers ordered villagers in Kaw Thay Der and Klay Soe Kee to clear scrub along the Kler Lah-Bu Sah Kee road everyday. Villagers were also ordered to carry rice and rations as well as gather firewood and vegetables from the forests by the road. (Source: *Peace, or Control? The SPDC's Use of the Karen Ceasefire to Expand Its Control and Repression of Villagers in Toungoo District, Northern Karen State,* KHRG, 22 March 2005).

On 1 January 2005, Hlai Tin column commander of SPDC IB 60 Column 2 fined the following villages after the villagers refused to work in Htee Lo village:

1. Sha See Bo village, 20,000 kyat
2. Yae Sha village, 20,000 kyat
3. Zee Pyu Ko village, 10,000 kyat and
4. Taw Ku village, 10,000 kyat. (Source: BI, 16 February 2005).

On 3 February 2005, SPDC Comdr. Htun Hla U from the Sha See Bo base camp forced 25 women from the village to work for him (source: BI, February 2005). On the following day, he ordered 12 women and 12 men from Ye Shan village as well as 14 men and 16 women from Zee Pya Gon village to work in his army camp in Tantabin Township (source: KIC, 2005).

On 7 February 2005, Camp Comdr. Htun Hla Oo of SPDC IB 73, based at Sha Zee Bo camp in Tantabin Township demanded 10 men and 6 women from Sha Zee Bo village as well as 7 men and 4 women from Zee Pyu Gon village to repair the army camp (source: KIC, 2005). The following day, 5 men and 8 women were forced to work on the camp (source: BI, 2005).

On 15 February 2005, SPDC troops forced villagers, including women and children, from the following villages to participate in constructing a new army camp at Yae Way, between Bon Ma Ti and Htee Lor in Tantabin Township:

1. Mae Tin Tai;
2. Taung Gyi;
3. Peh Taw Day;
4. Sha Zee Bo;
5. Ye Shan;
6. Zee Pyu Gon; and
7. Taw Gon. (Source: KIC, 2005).

On 3 March 2005, Comdr. Sun Win of SPDC IB 60 Column 1 forced the following villagers from Pe Taw Day village to accompany them to a new camp at Kwin Lay, to build a hut, bunker and communication trench:

1. Saw Say Loh,
2. Saw Wah Wah Paw,
3. Saw Pa Htoo Aye,
4. Saw Hit Ter Ler,
5. Saw Taw Nay Moo and
6. Saw Ko Ro. (Source: BI, March 2005).

On 16 May 2005, Officer Kyi Win of IB 48 forced villagers from Kaw Thay Der village to do building work at the Naw Soe military camp. (Source: KHRG, 19 August 2005).

On 24 June 2005, Comdr. Aung Kyaw Myat of SPDC IB 39 based in Klaw Mee Der base camp, forced 30 households of Klaw Mee Der village to cut bamboo. (Source: BI, March 2005).

On 27 June 2005, Comdr. Khin Tain Soe of SPDC IB 53 forced 15 men and 2 women from Klaw Mee Der village build the camp for the military. The next day 12 men and 13 women were called to work on the camp. (Source: BI, March 2005).

On 10 July 2005, a SPDC column demanded from the Hteh-doe village head, 45 villagers to clear their army camp at Hu Mu Doe. (Source: KIC, 30 August 2005).

On 4 September 2005, Battalion 48 in Sayakygi ordered villagers to cut down every small bridge that connected the river to shops and ordered villagers not to leave the village. The Battalion also ordered that every shop on the road to be closed and forced villagers in the Noetakun and Thinkyat sites to clean the military grounds. (Source: BI, 2005).

On 9 September 2005, Comdr. Hun Tun of SPDC IB 30 Column 3 forced villagers from Klaw Me Der village to build a bridge. (Source: BI, 2005).

On 19 October 2005, SPDC IB 48 led by Comdr. Kyi Mya from Sha Si Bo military base forced 1 woman from Sha Si Bo village and 13 women from Yae Sha village, Tantabin Township to build and clean the military camp. (Source: BI, October 2005).

Karenni State

On 15 December 2005, it was reported that SPDC IB 337 Division 55 with Kalalaya forced villagers to construct and provide materials such as wood and bamboo to new military camps in the area of Dawmagyi village, Dimawhso Township and Takwiso village, Phru-so Township. Five to 10 villagers from 20 villages were forced to work. The villagers had to provide their own food. Villagers were threatened with punishment if they failed to attend work or pay 1,000 kyat for hiring a substitute. (Source: "SPDC Practice the Forced Labor on the Karenni Villages," DVB, 15 December 2005).

On 28 December 2005, it was reported that middle and high school students in Dawtamagyu village tract were forced to "dig trenches and carry logs" for the locally based SPDC military unit. (Source: "Burmese Army Subjects Karenni Students to Forced Labor," DVB, 28 December 2005).

Mandalay Division

On 11 April 2005, it was reported that soldiers at Tatkone Township were forcing villagers to build an extension to the local army base. On 5 April 2005, Kyokyarpin village authority Chairman U Sien Aung and Padaukkone village authority member U Tin Ohn ordered each household to send 1 person to repair an old track for army trucks to use. (Source: "Burma Army Forcing Villagers to Build Base," DVB, 11 April 2005).

Mon State

Mudon Township

On 2 February 2005, village headman Nai Sein ordered 300 villagers in Kyait Roi village, Mudon Township to clean up bushes along a road in Nyounngo, Paingkamar, Kwaid-one, Kyati Roi and Thaw-guu, in preparation for a visit by military leaders. Villagers were required to labor from 6:00 am until 1:00 pm. Failure to comply resulted in a fine of 5,000 kyat per family. (Source: "Authorities Forced More Than 300 Villagers to Clean Bush," IMNA, 4 February 2005).

Thanbyuzayat Township

On 25 January 2005, it was reported that SPDC authorities and IB 62 forced villagers to build a fence around the pipeline, fill in the ground where the pipeline was uncovered and clear bushes around the Kanbuak – Myaingkalay gas pipeline. Owners of orchid plantations in close proximity to the pipeline were similarly required to clear bushes on their plantations. The laborers were not provided with food and were occasionally subject to beatings by SPDC soldiers patrolling the area. The villagers were also required to provide 2,000 kyat per month per household or 5,000,000 kyat per month total for security fees. The following villages were subject to the order:

1. Chork-pa-line,
2. Kalaing-pa-taw,
3. Sakharn,
4. Wae-kha-meat,
5. Wae-kha-dard, and
6. Ywa-thar-aye. (Source: "Five Million Kyats Per Month Demanded for Gas Pipeline Security Fee," IMNA, 25 January 2005).

On 9 November 2005, it was reported that the SPDC Military Operation Management Command 12 led by Col. Myo Win were forcing villagers from Thanpyuzayart and Kya-in-seik-kyi Township to work at their military base. Wae-Ka-Li and Wae-Kha-Dike villagers were forced to cut trees and bamboo groves for constructing a military base in the village. Villagers were also required to transport the troops and their supplies with their own vehicles. (Source: "Villagers Allege Forced Labour in Fresh Military Operation," IMNA, 9 November 2005).

Thaton District

On 22 January 2005, Lt. Lweh of the DKBA demanded from the following villagers from Ha Ta Rai village tract in Pa-an Township to work on the construction of a pagoda:

1. Kru See,
2. Noh Ta Ray,
3. Pwa Gaw,
4. Noh Law Plaw Poe,
5. Kyaw Kay Khee,
6. Ta Kaw Boe,
7. Baw Ta Pru,
8. Htee Po Neh,
9. Le Hket Kaw,
10. Kwee Ta Kaw,
11. Htee Meh Baw,
12. Noh Kaw Waw,
13. Kaw Ta Gyi,
14. Mae Pu and
15. See Kyaw. (Source: BI, March 2005).

On 24 January 2005, Poo Lee of DKBA forced the following villagers in the Thaton Township to work on the construction of a pagoda at Taunggyi:

1. Noh Naw Wah village,
2. Ker Ka Kya village and
3. Tee Ta Lay Kho village. (Source: BI, March 2005).

Ye Township

On 11 January 2005, it was reported that SPDC troops under the command of Tactical Comdr. Col. Nyi Nyi forced each household to provide one laborer each day to build public high schools. The laborers had to bake their own bricks and provide their own food. Each household was also ordered to supply 1 cow cart of wood under threats of fines. (Source: IMNA, 11 January 2005).

On 26 June 2005, it was reported that the SPDC Battalion 61 and the SPDC authorities were using forced labor for the construction of the Khawzar-Kalort motor road. The villagers were reportedly instructed not to share information about the forced labor under threat of death. (Source: "Villagers Fear For Lives After Threats," *Kaowao News*, 16 June 2005).

On 10 August 2005, SPDC LIB 31 led by Capt. Myint Kyaw ordered Mi Deah Wut and other women to guard their village in Ye Township against resistance fighters during the night. (Source: "Villagers Forced to Porter," *Kaowao News*, 28 August 2005).

Pegu Division

On 31 December 2004, the SPDC LIB 599 began construction of a new military camp in Mawdalaw, Mon Township, requiring villagers to dismantle their homes and build the camp. As of 3 January 2005, construction was ongoing. (Source: FBR, 2005).

On 27 June 2005, it was reported that TPDC authorities ordered inhabitants of Pegu Town to conduct security patrol at least once a month up to 3 or 4 times per month. Residents were reportedly able to hire proxies for 500 kyat. (Source: "Pegu Residents Patrol Town under Forced Labor," IMNA, 27 June 2005).

Aunglan Township

From 5 to 7 December 2005, the VPDC chairperson of Padaukgone group ordered residents of Tapoe, Panpada and Paduakgone villages to clear bushes along the road. (Source: "Forced Labor in Aunglan Forestry Department," DVB, 11 December 2005).

Nyaunglebin District

From 11 June 2005 to the date of this report, 26 June 2005, Operation Command 2 Comdr. Khin Soe Naing of SPDC Southern Command HQs forced villagers from the following village tracts in Kyauk Kyi Township to clear bushes and weeds on both sides of Shwe-kyin-gyi motor road:

1. Mar Ta Lar,
2. Ler Doh,
3. Noe Gaw,
4. Thu Ka Pe and

5. A Net. (Source: KIC, 26 June 2005).

On 6 July 2005, SPDC LIB 439 demanded 7 carts from Noe Gaw, Thue K'Bee, and Pa T'lah village tracts to transport construction supplies. (Source: BI, 2005).

On 7 July 2005, SPDC LIB 439 forced villagers to construct their military camp at Khoe Poe. (Source: BI, 2005).

On 14 July 2005, Comdr. Saw Lien of SPDC IB 60 ordered 20 Hsaw Mi Lu villagers from Mone Township to clean and repair the old buildings in the military camp. (Source: FBR, 2005).

On 16 November 2005, Battalion Comdr. Zaw Taun of LIB 349 forced villagers from the following village tracts in Ler Doh Township to clean the Ler Doh and Saw Hti motor road.

1. Pa Ta La,
2. Wae La Daw,
3. Thu Ka Bee, and
4. Aye Net. (Source: FBR, 17 December 2005).

Pegu Township

From 2004 up until 27 June 2005, the time of this report, SPDC township authorities forced residents of Pegu Township to perform sentry duty for over a year as well as pay a 50 kyat monthly security fee to the TPDC. (Source: "Pegu Residents Patrol Town Under Forced Labor," IMNA, 27 June 2005).

On 14 December 2005, it was reported that 1 person from each household of Pegu Township was forced to perform sentry duty along the highway from Kamanch to Seinthalong villages following a bomb blast in Kamaneh village. Every night, 2 villagers were posted at each electricity post. Households unable to serve or also hire a proxy were forced to pay a 1,500 kyat fine to the VPDC. (Source: "Villagers Are Forcibly to Serve as the Sentry Duty due the Reasons of Security of Pegu Township in Pegu Division (sic)," DVB, 14 December 2005).

Sagaing Division

Kalay Township

On 13 December 2005, it was reported that VPDC Chairperson U Aung Khin and VPDC Secretary U Aung Kyine from Nan San Bu ordered residents and their cattle to work on chilly farms owned by the military forcing farmers away from the work in their own fields. (Source: "SPDC Troops from Kalay Township Practice the Force Labor on the Residents and Their Animal (sic)," DVB, 13 December 2005).

Shan State

On 11 April 2005, at 10:00 am, TPDC Chairman San Win ordered 75 villagers, including women, from the following villages each day to transplant rice seedlings at SPDC paddy fields in Na Ten, Na Wan Sok and Na Tong Morn.

1. Wan Khai;
2. Wan Nong Hee;
3. Wan Nong Long Auk;
4. Wan Nong Mai; and
5. Mong Pan town. (Source: *FBR Relief Team Report,* Shan Free Burma Rangers, June 2005).

Kae-See Township

In January 2005, SPDC troops in Kae-See Township forced local villagers to cut 220 trees and transport them to their military camp to be used as electric lamp posts. Those who could not provide trees were forced to pay 10,000 kyat for each lamppost, to hire SPDC troops to do the job. The trees cut needed to be from 7 and half to 9 yards long, at least 9 inches in circumference and straight. Although most villagers could cut the trees themselves, many did not have the means to transport them. Therefore they collected money amongst themselves to pay SPDC troops to transport the trees to the military camp. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, May 2005).

Kun-Hing Township

From March 2005 to the date of this report, May 2005, troops from SPDC IB 246 forced 15-20 people from each village in Kun-Hing Township to work on roads between Kun-Hing Township and Kaeng Tawng area in Murng-Nai Township and between Saai Khaao Village in Kun-Hing Township and Kho Lam village in Nam-Zarng Township. The villagers were required to dig and split rocks for 7 to 8 days at a time on a rotational basis. Villagers had to provide their own food. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, May 2005).

La-Sio Township

In August 2005, it was reported that SPDC troops were forcing villagers from Nam Pawng village tract in La-Sio Township to work in their camp. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, August 2005).

Murng-Nai Township

In January 2005, troops of SPDC IB 248 forced villagers to grow rice on about 300 acres of villagers' rice fields in the area of Naa Khaan village. People with mini-tractors were forced to plough the fields while others had to sow the seeds and plant the seedlings. The villagers provided their own food and fuel however the SPDC provided the seeds. At the same time, villagers were also required to work in military camps where they cleared bushes and grass, cleared trenches, planted flowers, built fences and ran errands. Mini-tractors passing through checkpoints near military camps were often also forced to transport bricks, water and sand. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, March 2005).

On 1 March 2005, troops of SPDC LIB 569 ordered residents of quarter numbers 1 and 2 in Kaeng Tawng area to cultivate rice for them. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, May 2005).

On 1 March 2005, troops of SPDC Regional Training Unit 3 ordered residents of quarter numbers 3 and 7 in Kaeng Tawng area to cultivate rice for them. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, May 2005).

On 2 March 2005, troops of SPDC LIB 574 ordered residents of quarter number 4 in Kaeng Tawng area to work at their base, including building fences, barracks and trenches. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, May 2005).

On 2 March 2005, SPDC authorities of Kaeng Tawng sub-township forced people of quarter number 5 to construct their office building. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, May 2005).

From 3 March 2005 to 4 March 2005, troops of SPDC LIB 576 forced residents of quarter number 6 in Kaeng Tawng area to do construction work at their base. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, May 2005).

Murng-Pan Township

From January 2005 to the date of this report, March 2005, SPDC troops forced residents of Murng-Pan Township to stand guard with the SPDC troops at the pagoda at Loi Noi village. Ten persons were required for 24 hours at a time, on a rotational basis. Those who could not work were required to pay 1,000 kyat for a proxy. Ten persons from each of the town quarters were also forced to undergo 10 days of military training. Residents who were not members of the militia were required to pay 1,000 to 3,000 kyat per month, according to their financial status. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, March 2005).

From March 2005 to the date of this report, May 2005, Aung Paan Nyo, leader of the Pa-O ceasefire group stationed in Murng –Pan ordered village tract leaders in Murng-pan Township to provide them with free labor. Each day 10 persons from each village on a rotational basis had to cut and clear jungle and prepare ground for members of the ceasefire group to grow crops, including opium. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, May 2005).

Muse Township

In August 2005, it was reported that SPDC troops were forcing villagers from the following villages to work in their camps:

1. Tong Khaan,
2. Kawng Khaan,
3. Kawng Kkaang,
4. Hoi Tai and
5. Hoi Nur. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, August 2005).

Namkham Township

In August 2005, it was reported that SPDC troops forced residents of the following villages to work in their camp:

1. Nawng Zaang,
2. Nawng Turn,
3. Saai Khaao,
4. Nawng Ma Na Lam and
5. Mawng Ma La Leng. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, August 2005).

On 30 December 2005, it was reported that USDA, fire forces, militias and the SPDC military summoned 40 villagers from the following villages to serve sentry duty for the Shweli Bridge connecting Namkham to Banmaw:

1. Wanapon,
2. Kwunpon,
3. Wanpon and
4. Waneh. (Source: "The SPDC Practice Forced Labor in Namkham Area," DVB, 30 December 2005).

Nam-Tu Township

In August 2005, it was reported that SPDC troops stationed at Murng Yean village were forcing villagers to work regularly in the upkeep of their camp, supplying water, gathering firewood, cutting bamboo, fixing and building fences and buildings, clearing the compound and doing sanitation work. Villagers' vehicles such as mini-tractors were occasionally used to transport troops and rations. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, August 2005).

Nam-Zarng Township

From 16 January 2005, troops from SPDC Military Operation Management Command 21 forced 100 Kho Lam villagers each day for 6 days to repair and clear 20 miles of road between Kho Lam village and Nam Hoo village in Kae-See Township. The villagers took turns to work and provided their own food and tools including the tractors, drivers and fuel. Villagers unable to provide tractors and not conscripted to work had to pay between 3,000 and 6,000 kyat per household according to their economic status. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, April 2005).

From April 2005 to the date of this report, August 2005, SPDC troops of IB 248 had forced villagers from Loi La village to work without pay. They were also required to pay 1,500 kyat for passes to travel outside their village tract. In April and May 2005, villagers were forced to provide bamboo and build fences around the military camp east of Loi La village for 10 days. They had to supply their own tools and food. (Source: *SHRF Monthly Report*, SHRF, August 2005).

Tenasserim Division

From 2 August to 22 September 2005, the SPDC Battalions No. 282, 473, 558 and 410 forced residents, including widows and children, of villages along the road following the Yadana gas pipeline to build fences around bridges with 2 edged bamboo and clear bush from the area. (Source: "Forced Labor for Total Pipeline," *Kaowao News*, 11 October 2005).

Kawthuang Township

On 22 March 2005, it was reported that SPDC authorities of Tamaing Aung Thukka Ward in Kawthaung ordered 1 person from each household to "volunteer" in the rebuilding of the Paloketonetone Bridge, damaged by 26 December 2004 tsunami. Villagers who failed to comply were forced to pay 2,000 kyat. (Source: "Tsunami Victims Subjected to Forced Labour Practice by Burma Junta," DVB, 22 March 2005).

Long-lo Township

On 16 May 2005 the SPDC shrimp husbandry project in Ka-nyaw-pyin village was damaged by harsh weather. Eight hundred villagers from the following villages were summoned to repair the project:

1. Ka-nyaw-pyin village,
2. Chaung-phya-gyi village,
3. Kyauk-htauk village,
4. Aiek-ywa-hong village and
5. Kyauk-dwin-ywa village.

Each family was forced to provide 1 sand pack costing 300 kyat and 1 pebble pack costing 500 kyat. One person from each household was required to work beginning on 19 May 2005, providing their own food. Those unable to work were fined 1,500 kyat and had to hire a substitute for 2 days. The villagers also had to make 4 sentry camps and 6 villagers were required to perform sentry duty each day and night. (Source: TWU, 2005).

Mergui-Tavoy District

On 25 June 2005, it was reported that SPDC authorities had been forcing 20 villages from Myintta to work on the construction of township offices and hospitals construction projects. Those unable to work had to hire replacements and pay 1000 kyat to the SPDC authorities. (Source: KIC, 25 June 2005).

Thayetchaung Township

On 19 May 2005, it was reported that Thayetchaung Township, Tavoy District authorities were ordering 1 person per house to work in SPDC LIB 403, 404 and 405's sunflower fields. Children were not exempt and at least 7 children were known to have worked in accordance with the order. Persons who failed to comply with the orders were subject to fines of 500 kyat. (Source: "Burmese Children Still Subjected to Forced Labor," DVB, 19 May 2005).

Rangoon Division

Okkalapa Township

On 13 December 2005, it was reported that ward PDC member U Toe Kywe was forcing residents in north Okkalapa to participate in "volunteering" such as cleaning gutters every Saturday. Households unable to comply were forced to pay a fine of 10,000 kyat. (Source: "Forced Labour Continues in Rangoon," DVB, 13 December 2005).

1.6 Forced Prison Labor - Partial List of Incidents for 2005

Arakan State

Kyauk Pru District

On 4 March 2005, it was reported that 9 prisoners from Sittwe Prison were taken to a labor camp near Sabyin village of Mye Bon Township, Kyauk Pru District where they were forced to work from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. Most prisoners had to build embankments on shrimp farms, 2 of which are owned by the military. (Source: "Labor Camp Prisoners Used on Shrimp Farms," *Narinjara News*, 4 March 2005).

Commencing in the summer, the military authorities forced 300 prisoners mostly from Sittwe and Kyauk Pru Prisons to construct a road between Rangoon and Kyauk Pru. They were required to labor from 6:00 am to 12:00 pm and again from 1:00 to 6:00 pm and were guarded by a platoon from SPDC LIB 34. They were not supplied adequate food or water. Consequently 4 prisoners died at Kyauk Pru hospital. (Source: "Prisoners Forced to Work on Road Construction in Arakan," *Narinjara News*, 10 June 2005).

Chin State

Hakha Township

From January 2005 to the date of this report, 23 May 2005, the SPDC authorities utilized approximately 100 prisoners from Khauthar block and 12 prisoners from Zokhua hard labor camp to build a 400 bed hospital. The prisoners were forced to labor from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm each day and were inadequately fed. Some prisoners reportedly absconded from the project site and robbed the town residents. Despite an adequate budget, Col. Tin Hla, commander of SPDC Tactical 1, requisitioned 800 kyat from each family in Hakha Township for the project. (Source: "SPDC Use Prisoners for Construction of Hospital," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 23 May 2005).

Tiddim Township

On 5 August 2005, it was reported that 50 prisoners from Tiddim Zebet labor camp were being forced to build 30 miles of the Indo-Burma Trade Road No. 2 between Tiddim and Rih Townships. Prisoners were forced to work from 5:00 am to 6:00 pm everyday and were subject to inhumane working conditions. Approximately, 3 to 4 prisoners fled each week.

Those who have been recaptured receive 1 year extensions to their existing prison sentences. Civilians were also forced to provide their vehicles for the work. The Indian government provided the budget for the road construction. (Source: "Prisoners Engaged in Hard Labor on Indo-Burma Border Road," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 5 August 2005).

Karenni State

On 2 February 2005, prisoners Win Myine and his younger brother, Ko Latt were sent from Mandalay Prison to Ma Htaw Du Wan Sung military camp in Loikaw where they were forced to serve as porters during an SPDC offensive against Karenni resistance fighters. Win Myine was forced to carry a gun and 700 cartridges of machine gun ammunition from the Salween River to the eastern part of the battlefields, while other porters were forced to carry packs of rice, sugar and milk. Because he accompanied a unit officer, he was able to eat 2 meals each day, however, he had to fetch water, split firewood and cook. Other porters did not have sufficient food to eat. He witnessed the troops beat and shoot 8 porters to death, including his brother, who could not carry their loads. On 10 February 2005, Win Myine stepped on a landmine while fleeing and was receiving treatment at a Karenni army camp when the incident was reported on 20 February. (Source: "Injured Prisoner Porter Gets Treatment in Mae Hong Song Hospital," *Kantarawaddy Times*, 20 February 2005).

Pegu Division

Tharawaddy District

On 20 December 2005, it was reported that inmates in Tharawaddy prison were being used to produce joss-sticks for the Lotaya-Kyantaingaung company working in conjunction with Myint Swe, the prison governor. The company owners as well the prison governor concurred that the production of joss-sticks by prisoners would be more profitable for their companies. The company was reportedly preparing to manufacture more of its products with labor from prisons and police-controlled hard labor camps. (Source: "Gulag: Burmese Joss-Sticks Made by Prison Slave Labour," DVB, 20 December 2005).

1.7 Forced Conscription and Forced Military Training - Partial List of Incidents for 2005

Arakan State

On 17 December 2005, it was reported that the military began conscripting villagers from remote villages in Kyauk Taw and Plawa Township, to strengthen the miitary. Each village was ordered to send 3 persons between the ages of 15 and 25 to the SPDC Battalion 379 camp in Kyauk Taw. In Pe Htu village, the villagers were unwilling to comply with the order. As a result, the village was compelled to sell 10 heads of cattle in order to collect 30,000 kyat to pay for proxies. The following villages were subject to the recruitment order:

1. Pe Thu,
2. Pay Si,
3. Pan Zai,
4. Nga Saung Pha,
5. Pri Chaung,

6. Mi Letwa, Tah Raw Aie,
7. Miwa,
8. Let Pan Wa and
9. Mrit Wa. (Source: "Villagers Forced to Join the Burmese Army," *Narinjara News*, 17 December 2005).

On 20 December 2005, it was reported that the local troops compelled village administration committees to force villagers, particularly Rakhine villagers, to join the Civilian Militia, also known as the "Pyithusit." As of mid-December, the military reported 6,790 members from the 18 townships and 3 sub-townships of Arakan State. While only some groups were armed at the time of this report, it was reported that the SPDC intended to arm all members by the end of the year. The following is a breakdown of members per township in Arakan State:

1. Maungdaw Township, 120 villagers;
2. Buthidaung Township, 250 villagers;
3. Taungbro Wai Sub-Township, 10 villagers;
4. Akyab Township, 280 villagers;
5. Rathidaung Township, 540 villagers;
6. Ponna Gyun Township, 330 villagers;
7. Kyauk Taw Township, 400 villagers;
8. Mrauk U Township, 560 villagers;
9. Minbya Township, 560 villagers;
10. Pauk Taw Township, 360 villagers;
11. Mraybon Township, 510 villagers;
12. Kyauk Pru Township, 320 villagers;
13. Rambree Township, 270 villagers;
14. Manaung Township, 300 villagers;
15. Ann Township, 250 villagers;
16. Thandwe Township, 580 villagers;
17. Taungup Township, 340 villagers;
18. Gwa Township, 250 villagers;
19. Plawa Township, 500 villagers;
20. Maeei Sub-Township, 120 villagers; and
21. Kyintali Sub-Township, 120 villagers. (Source: "Fear of Invasion Leads to Reform of Civilian Militia in Arakan by SPDC," *Narinjara News*, 20 December 2005).

Kyauk Taw Township

Starting in July 2005, SPDC troops based in Kyuak Taw Township ordered 35 villagers from each village to attend military training. Attendees were required to cover the costs of their food, transportation and uniforms. One training was scheduled to begin in the latter part of September and last for 1 month. (Source: "Burmese Army Summons Villagers for Military Training," *Narinjara News*, 25 September 2005).

Maungdaw Township

On 19 August 2005, it was reported that female family members of NaSaKa personnel continued to be required to attend 15 day military training in order to prepare them to be army reserve personnel. The trainings commenced in 2004 and by mid-August 2005, approximately 500 women had been trained. The trainings were expected to end on 1

September 2005. (Source: "Military Training for Burmese Female Army Reserves Starts in Border Areas," *Narinjara News*, 19 August 2005).

In November 2005, it was reported that 25 young men, including several 15-year-old boys, were taken from their homes near Maungdaw town to Sittwe and it is believed they were sent for military training. (Source: Arakan Project, 9 November 2005).

Sittwe Township

On 4 August 2005, it was reported that for the past year, wives and family members of SPDC soldiers were trained in basic military tactics. Eighteen to 60 members of the soldiers' families are part of reserve forces. (Source: "Burmese Army Reserves to Consist of Soldier's Wives, Families," *Narinjara News*, 4 August 2005).

Chin State

Falam Township

On 3 January 2005, Capt. Thawng Lian and his platoon from SPDC LIB 268 conducted 1 week of military training for villagers from Leilet and Siallam. Battalion Comdr. Lt. Col. Win Bo of LIB 268 ordered the headman of Leilet village to select 4 able-bodied young men from his village to serve as soldiers. As a result of the order, many students were reluctant to return to the village for the holidays. (Source: "Civilians Compelled to Take Militia Training, Conscription Order Issued," *Rhododendron News*, CHRO, 10 January 2005).

Karen State

Pa-an District

On 15 March 2005, Maj. Chit Thu of the DKBA special force battalion commander increased troop numbers by forced conscription of 50 villagers in the Mae Plae area. (Source: BI, March 2005).

Karenni State

On 23 July 2005, the SPDC military and the SNPLG ordered large villages to send 10 villagers and smaller villages to send 2 villagers to attend military training to be conducted by SPDC LIB 424 at Ka-law City. Villagers were ordered to arrive at Naung-htaung battalion camp in Si-Sai City by 27 July 2005. (Source: "Authorities (Ya-la-la-pa) Forcible Collected the Villagers to Attend the Military Training," *Kantarawaddy Times*, 30 July 2005).

On 23 July 2005, the SNPLG began forcing the following villages to relocate to Leh Du Kaw, Daw Ta Naw and Daw Mu Leh villages for military recruitment:

1. Dee Leh village;
2. Daw Saw Leh village;
3. Daw Ta Lay village; and
4. Na Awun Lay village.

Three villagers from Daw Saw Leh village and 16 villagers from Daw Ta Kha village were forcibly conscripted while the numbers from the other villages were unknown. Villagers who

refused to serve the SNPLG were forced to move from the village. (Source: "Some Villages Forcibly Relocated Due to Military Recruitment," *Kantarawaddy Times*, 11 August 2005).

Ki-maw-sok Township

On 14 July 2005, it was reported that SPDC and SNLG troops forced 10 people, mostly single men, from each village from Lwoi Nan Pa and Nan Pei Kon areas to attend military training. The training was to be held at the SPDC Tactical Command HQ in Ywathit village. The villagers did not want to attend the training. However, they were too frightened to disobey. (Source: "Combined SPDC and a Negotiating Cease-fire Group Conduct Militia Training," *Kantarawaddy Times*, 14 July 2005).

Mon State

On 23 October 2005, the military authorities ordered more than 50 VPDC members from 10 villages to attend military training for approximately 2 weeks beginning on 24 October 2005. (Source: "Military Regime Adds Muscle for Security Reasons," IMNA, 4 November 2005).

On 10 November 2005, it was reported that tactical commander of SPDC Military Operation Management Command No. 19 chose at least 10 men from each of 15 villags in the Kaw Zaw town are by a lottery system to serve in the village militia. Militia service could be avoided by payment of 200,000 kyat to the commander. (Source: "Villagers Forced to Join as Militias in Kaw-zar-town," IMNA, 10 November 2005).

Shan State

Namsan Township

On 20 October 2005, SPDC Northeast Strategic Comdr. Col. Than Oo and local USDA leaders forced 50 Palaung youth from Namsan and Maing Ngao Townships respectively to attend 4 months of military training in Lashio. Parents of the youth were forced to sign contracts permitting their sons to serve as soldiers in the SPDC army. (Source: "SPDC Forced 50s Palaung Youth to Attend Military Training for Forming Local Militia (sic)," PYNG, 16 December 2005).

In December 2005, SPDC Northeast Strategic Comdr. Col. Than Oo and Ngon Saing militia leader Htun Myat Lay forced 50 youth from the following villages to attend military training to form militias in the Paluang community:

1. Zalbangkok,
2. Zalthong Hong,
3. Phaya Gyi,
4. Kaya Larm,
5. Conhair,
6. Kyauphyu,
7. Man Mai,
8. Upper Man Loai,
9. Lower Man Loai,
10. Taung Ma,
11. Owmasong,
12. Namt Lynn,

13. Za Yan Gyi and
14. Arrum.

Htun Myat Lay requisitioned village chair and headpersons to recruit villagers for the trainings, which commenced on 10 December 2005. (Source: "SPDC Forced 50s Palaung Youth to Attend Military Training for Forming Local Militia (sic)," PYNG, 16 December 2005).

Tenasserim Division

The-Yet-Chaung Township

In May 2005, male villagers from Pyin Phyu village between the ages of 15 and 55 years were forced to attend military training. Villagers who could not attend training were fined 10,000 kyat. Company 1 of IB 405 led by Cpl. Aung San Win ran the training. (Source: TWU, 2005).

Starting in April 2005, villagers including women were forced to guard the road near the Yadana gas pipeline. In preparation, 1 person from each household in 10 Karen and Mon villages in Yebyu Township were required to attend a 1 month training led by SPDC LIBs 282, 409 and 410 to learn how to guard the pipeline. The attendees were required to supply food and water for themselves. Those who did not attend were forced to pay a bribe of 10,000 kyat. (Source: "Forced Security along Yadana Pipeline Road," *Kaowao,* 4 June 2005).

1.8 Interviews and Personal Accounts

Interview #1:

Source: Burma Issues
Interview date: 21 January 2005
Age: 20 years old
Sex: Male
Ethnicity: Burman
Residence: Mae La Township
Religion: Buddhist

I had been staying in Thayawaddy Prison for 2 years and saw many prisoners who did not have enough food. Furthermore, some were terribly sick.

While I was in prison, I met with ICRC who came twice to our prison, and who gave us humanitarian aid such as books, clothes, food, footballs, cane balls for exercising and writing to our families, relatives, friends. They [the authorities] took me out of Thayawaddy Prison and they sent me to the front line as a porter. I had to carry bombs, rations and other necessary foods that weighed 30 kgs. I was lucky because while I was carrying at the front line, I only witnessed old people and others being beaten.

Interview #2:

Source: Burma Issues
Interview date: 21 January 2005
Age: 44 years old
Sex: Male
Ethnicity: Karen
Residence: Kawk Moon Township, Rangoon Division
Religion: Buddhist

In October 2001, I was imprisoned in Myaung Mya Prison, Irrawaddy Division. There are 800 prisoners in Myaung Mya Prison. While in prison, I suffered many maladies. I contracted malaria but did not receive any medication. Moreover, we only received one and half spoonfuls of rice for eating which was not enough.

In October 2003, Burmese troops took me from Myaung Mya Prison to Insein Prison for 1 night, and then delivered me to Moulmein Prison to serve as a porter. While in the hands of the Burmese troops, they made us work in the fields as if we were cows and buffaloes. They kept us from sleeping and provided us with inadequate amounts of rice. Further, they threatened that we would be badly tortured until death if we fled to Karen soldiers' areas. I saw some friends, who could not carry loads because they were sick, get brutally beaten until their heads cracked and bled. The Burmese troops threatened that if we could not carry their loads we would also be beaten. There were 8 porters including me. Six of us escaped. I am not sure whether the 2 others were killed. I heard that one other was recaptured by Burmese troops and the other died in war.

Interview #3:

Source: Burma Issues
Interview date: 21 January 2005
Age: 40 years old
Sex: Male
Ethnicity: Burman
Residence: Mon Township
Religion: Buddhist

I had been imprisoned in Moulmein Prison.

Moulmein Prison has 1,000 prisoners and they were badly tortured until 2001. Since 2001, the torture of prisoners has decreased. Prisoners had to clean their feces every day by the jailers' orders. In addition, they ordered us to work every day, doing tasks such as cultivating and weaving. When jailers saw a piece of paper on the ground, they beat us inhumanely. I saw many friends who died from jailers' beatings and starvation. Ninety percent of prisoners received inadequate amounts of rice. The other 10 percent had good relationships with jailers. While I was in prison, I remembered that ICRC visited our prison 8 times during which I chatted with them.

I was not beaten while carrying loads as a porter on the front line. However, I saw other porters being beaten. Every porter had to carry 40 kg loads of rice and bombs. Burmese troops threatened that if we fled, we would be killed by landmines and Karen soldiers. When

we fled to the area of Karen soldiers, unexpectedly, every thing was different to what the Burmese troops had told us. I had first asked myself how long it would be before I got killed. Instead, the leaders of the Karen soldiers introduced themselves and treated me warmly. The attitude and mood between Karen soldiers and Burmese troops are very different. Because of this, I will never return even if my parents are still alive.

Interview #4:

Source: Arakan Project
Interview date: 27 May 2005
Age: 50 years old
Sex: Male
Ethnicity: Rohingya
Residence: Maungdaw Township
Religion: Muslim

Last month [April 2005] was better than this month. This month [May 2005] I had to work for 3 nights as a sentry and I had to work clearing the jungle – cutting bushes and burning them - with 30 villagers. The NaSaKa officer had issued an order to the VPDC to clear the hill and prepare the land for plantation. Over the last 20 days I was called twice to do this job. We were also told to dig small holes in the ground to put plants during the monsoon and these plants will have to be enclosed to protect them from animals. Widespread use of forced labor has just started now and it will increase in the coming months for the rest of the year.

In April, I was also asked to make two sections of a fence about 12 x 6 feet with 8 wooden poles. The VPDC Chairman told us this was an order from the army to enclose our village. I had to collect bamboo from the hills to make the fences. I spent one day to collect bamboo, one day to collect wooden poles, one more day to build the fences and one more day to fix them. Altogether I spent 4 days plus 200 kyat to get permission from the Forestry Department to go to the hills for 2 days.

Now the NaSaKa and the army are occupying all the highlands that we use as grazing land for our cattle. They have ordered us to leave and to clean the land for their plantations. The villagers who have money and many cows paid between 150,000 and 200,000 kyat to save their cattle-grazing land, but poor people like us who have no money are losing our grazing land for our animals.

Interview #5:

Source: Arakan Project
Interview date: 23 June 2005
Age: 50 years old
Sex: Male
Ethnicity: Rohingya
Residence: Maungdaw Township
Religion: Muslim

Since the end of February 2005, it has become impossible to make any profit. I buy, carry and sell chickens but all my profit goes into various taxes and bribes to the police and the NaSaKa. Moreover, I cannot work every day because the VPDC Chairman often calls us to work for the NaSaKa and the military as sentries in the night and also during the daytime. This is a new development in our area. Since May, the new NaSaKa establishment has been collecting sentries during the daytime.

When the MI was dismantled, the NaSaKa became powerless and all their business agents fled or were put in jail. We thought some real changes were taking place and the future would be better. But this dream was short-lived. It only lasted a little over 3 months. By late February it was over and we realized that we are worse than slaves in our homeland.

In late February the local VPDC Chairman ordered us to supply bamboo fences and wooden poles and fix them around our village. He gave us the measurements: about 6 x 12 feet and instructed to make a double layer. He also told us that we would have to maintain these fences in the future. The Chairman explained, "The new NaSaKa officer learned that some rebel groups have entered our area. For your own protection, he ordered your village to be fenced." We worked for 4 days on this fence: one day to gather bamboo in the jungle, one to collect the wooden poles, one day to construct the fence sections and finally one to fix them.

Many parts of those fences are already broken now and no one repairs them. Only the hamlets close to the NaSaKa camp are well maintained and people from those hamlets have orders to repair them regularly.

Many people from our village are day laborers and have no other means of subsistence. For them it is difficult to obey the orders of the NaSaKa and the VPDC, because if they work for them their families go hungry. It is okay for the wealthy and middle class, but a curse for people like us. But alas! We have no other option than following their orders. Or we must leave our village forever. Who wants to leave his native place forever?

Sentry duties have increased alarmingly in our area. Since May, the VPDC Chairman has ordered us to do sentry duty during daytime as well. This time I asked him: "Why do we need to do sentry duty in the daytime?" He replied: "I am carrying out the orders of the NaSaKa officer. I cannot answer your question. You may go to their camp in Nga Khu Ya and ask them!" Previously 4 sentries used to work in one sentry post. Now they want 8 to 10 sentries in each post at night and 4 during daytime. I have never seen any bandit entering our village and I cannot remember that any sentry post ever caught a thief, robber or rebel. But still we are ordered to do sentry duty. Now I have to work 6 to 8 times a month, whereas last year it was only twice a month.

In my village the NaSaKa has not decided to cultivate their paddy land yet. But recently I visited a village in North Buthidaung. I saw the VPDC collecting 1,000 kyat from each household in the village. A villager told me: "The NaSaKa post of Kyaung Taung is going to cultivate its paddy land and has ordered the villagers to work there and prepare the land for monsoon cultivation. We told our VPDC Chairman that we had our own land to cultivate and we cannot go. He discussed the matter with the local NaSaKa post and the next day he told us that those who cannot work will have to pay 1,000 kyat per family to the NaSaKa. The families who cannot pay must work and send one person at least for three days. We do not want to work for the NaSaKa because we have to cultivate our own land, so we pay.

To the east of our village, close to the hills, the NaSaKa acquired a huge tract of land that we villagers use as grazing land for our cattle. We were told that the Forestry Department and the NaSaKa are going to make a rubber plantation there. For the last 2 ½ months the NaSaKa has used forced labor to clear the jungle and prepare the land. I have worked three days since the work started. Almost all-poor peoples in our village have worked at least three days on this project and the work is still going on. I was told that I have to work more and dig pits to plant rubber saplings when the monsoon starts.

Interview #6:

Source: Arakan Project
Interview date: 26 June 2005
Age: 42 years old
Ethnicity: Rohingya
Residence: Maungdaw Township
Religion: Muslim

Sentry duty has increased considerably in our area. It is bad enough to be forced to work 4 to 6 nights a month as a sentry. But the worst are the false accusations followed by arbitrary fines. This is a common practice of the NaSaKa patrols. They come very quietly near the sentry posts every night. If we shout, "Who is there?" the NaSaKa complain: "Why are you shouting? We were chasing a thief. Now he has fled because you made noise. You did wrong. Come with us! You have to walk with us and we will see later what we will do with you! Once they take us with them, we have to give them a chicken or 1,000 kyat in cash. This happened to me last month. But if the NaSaKa patrol finds one of the sentries asleep, they also demand money or one chicken. Sometimes, they take all the sentries from that post to the NaSaKa camp and make all of them work for 2 or 3 days. Many villagers are tired from working for their living during the day and cannot stay awake all night. Sentry duty is a big problem for all of us. We have never seen any robber or any rebel in our area for the last 10 years and we are still forced to do this tiring duty.

Interview #7:

Source: Arakan Project
Interview date: 18 July 2005
Age: 58 years old
Ethnicity: Rohingya
Residence: Buthidaung Township
Religion: Muslim

Until recently, religious leaders, schoolteachers, widows and disabled persons used to be exempt from forced labor and sentry duty in my area. But, since the new administration of the NaSaKa was put in place in February, they do not care and no longer apply these rules.

Our village is located on high land close to the mountains and sentry duty is thus required a lot more than in other villages of North Buthidaung. The NaSaKa and the army often patrol my village and its surroundings as well. My village is under the jurisdiction of Kyaung Taung NaSaKa camp and when they send orders, it also affects us as much as other villages.

Troops from the Bagali army camp often visit our village and other villages around. During patrol they often use porters to carry their goods and equipment or to serve as guides. Last month, I was one of their victims. Around noon I went to the local market and met an army patrol. They called me and ordered me to carry their load and go with them to another village in the hills. I told them: "I am sick and not strong enough to carry a load over such a distance." They did not listen to me and just repeated that I had to go with them.

I also had to do sentry duty one night a week at one of the sentry posts in my village. Last year, it was not like that. But over the last 4 months, the NaSaKa has instructed the VPDC office to increase the sentry posts and the number of sentries, apparently for security reasons. Only widows would be spared. I was told that if I did not want to do such duty I could hire someone to replace me which would cost 2,000 to 2,500 kyat a month. I do not have extra money to spend and I decided that I would do sentry duty myself.

I am lucky that till now I have not been recruited to do forced labor in the NaSaKa camp. Many villagers had to go and repair their houses and fences, but they prefer to use day laborers for this purpose.

This year the NaSaKa also demanded 2,000 kyat from each paddy farmer, no matter whether they possess a small or a large field. Those who did not have cash had to sell their chickens or goats in the market. The VPDC office was very strict this time and no farmer could avoid paying this tax. They said that the NaSaKa plan to use this money to hire labor and buy seeds for their plantations. However, later, they still recruited forced laborers from the villages under their control. Whenever they need money, they give an order to the VPDC to collect it for any reason. Taxes have significantly increased in our village, even more than forced labor. In the past we never had to pay money for agricultural work for the NaSaKa or the military. But this year we had to pay as well as work. The situation in our village is well known to the UNHCR and NGOs working in our area.

Interview #8:

Source: Arakan Project
Interview date: 22 July 2005
Age: 20 years old
Ethnicity: Rohingya
Residence: Buthidaung Township
Religion: Muslim

When the MI was disbanded last year and the NaSaKa became less powerful, we thought things were going to improve and that taxes, persecution and forced labor would decrease, but finally everything increased even more than before. The NaSaKa is now under the direct supervision of the army and they are much stronger than before.

The use of forced labor by the Bagali army post and the Kyaung Taung NaSaKa camp is all too common. We are victims of both the army at Bagali and the NaSaKa at Kyaung Taung. As there is no road to carry the NaSaKa and army goods from the boat jetty to their camps, they always use porters for this. Whenever they need labor they instruct the VPDC office to recruit laborers. If it is urgent, they just grab villagers themselves on the spot, for example to carry rice from the rice mill or to carry goods from the market to their camp. They don't say that they need laborers, they say they need volunteers.

Last month [June 2005], I was sitting in front of the rice mill. Three army personnel arrived there and took two bags of rice from the mill. They ordered me to carry one of the bags and also collected three other passers-by. The four of us were told to carry the rice bags to their posts, which were about 3 miles away.

This year they said that they were not going to compel villagers to cultivate their paddy land. They collected money from the wealthy farmers. My family paid 3,000 kyat to the VPDC office. But when the rain started in late June, they forgot their words. The NaSaKa demanded the VPDC Chairman to send laborers and bullocks to plough their land inside the Kyaung Taung camp. End June to mid August is the busiest time for farmers in our area and also for day laborers, as they can get work almost every day. But the NaSaKa ignored their own commitment and used conscripted labor in their land. The laborers had to carry their own food while they worked in the NaSaKa camp.

The army of Bagali compelled us to buy black pepper plants. Each family had to buy at least one plant, which the army sold for 150 kyat.

Sentry duty also increased in our area. This is the duty I hate the most. Our family has to do it once a week and I go as a sentry on behalf of my family. It is very difficult to stay awake the whole night after working the whole day in our paddy fields and taking care of the cattle. I can't see any benefit in this sentry duty. They just impose it on us Muslims to remind us that we are not like others, that we are a second-class community.

Interview #9:

Source: Arakan Project
Interview date: 7 August 2005
Age: 22 years old
Ethnicity: Rohingya
Residence: Maungdaw Township
Religion: Muslim

We can neither sleep at night nor work during the day. At nighttime we have to do sentry duty and in the day we have to work either for the NaSaKa, the military or the VPDC office. Little time is left to work for ourselves.

There are sentry posts every 50 yards in my village and in each post 5 men have to do sentry duty every night. In my hamlet alone, there are 10 sentry posts and each night 50 men work as sentries. My turn comes every 5 days, which means I have to work 6 nights in a month. That would not be so bad if we were not also arbitrarily fined by NaSaKa patrols. It is not even clear to us what a sentry should do at night. We were told that if we see anyone moving in the night without a torch, we must stop and catch him. But the problem is the NaSaKa patrols generally move without any light. So, whenever we shout "Halt!" to them, they accuse us of not doing our sentry duty properly. They say: "How is it that you cannot see the difference between government people and criminals? Come with us. You will be fined for this." Then they fine us one chicken or one gallon of diesel and, if we fail to give them these or to pay the fine, they punish us by ordering us to work for one day in their camp without any food. When our relatives bring food, they refuse to give it to us.

On the other hand, if we do see a NaSaKa patrol moving and keep quiet, this is also a crime. Then the patrol says: "You were surely asleep otherwise you would have seen us! Come with us." Then again, we face a fine or extra labor inside their camp. The sentry duty they impose on us is just to extort money for their own pockets. And there is no reason to build sentry posts every 50 yards.

About 2 months ago the NaSaKa issued an order through the VPDC Chairman that each family of our hamlet must buy 2 tree saplings for 100 kyat, plant them on the roadside and care for them until they grow up. I had to work there for 2 days.

At the beginning of the monsoon I also had to work 3 days to repair the road starting from Maungdaw and continuing up to the Mayu River. Almost every family had to do this work or send someone to replace them. We were asked to repair the section of the road that passes our hamlet. So the people from each village and hamlet had to work.

Q. Can you remember how many days of forced labour you did over the last 3 months?

A. Yes. I can give you a list of the days I worked for the NaSaKa, the army and the VPDC over the last three months:
- 2 days for roadside plantation
- 3 days to repair the road
- 3 days inside the NaSaKa camp – This was a punishment for the sentry duty - 2 days to collect firewood from the jungle for the NaSaKa use

- 3 days inside the NaSaKa camp (one day each month: to fetch water and fill up the water tank in their bathroom; to clean their lawn and garden and to carry their purchases from the market to their posts)
- 18 nights as a sentry. After doing a whole night of sentry duty I cannot work during the day.

Over the last 3 months, I personally worked 13 days as a laborer and 18 nights as a sentry. In total, 31 days of forced labor!

Interview #10:

Source: Arakan Project
Interview date: 8 August 2005
Age: 17 years old
Ethnicity: Rohingya
Residence: Maungdaw Township
Religion: Muslim

My family has 5 *kani* [2 acres] of paddy fields but this is not enough to feed a large family. My father had a fishing boat and nets, which was our only source of income. But, in March this year, the NaSaKa and military introduced a new system of business licenses and the appointed agent wants a lot of money to grant fishing permission. My father is old and his health is not good, so he sold the boat to pay for treatment. When we had the boat, we employed a worker who was also doing all the labor and sentry duties on behalf of our family. After we sold it, we hired someone to do the forced labor but soon my father had no more money and he started doing the forced labor tasks himself. I was a high school student and I had a bicycle to cycle to my school, which is more than 6 miles away from my village. I sold the bicycle and started going to school on foot.

But, in June, my father fell ill again and he could not do the sentry duty and other work ordered by the NaSaKa. The VPDC office often called him. Their logic was: "If you are sick then your son can replace you or you must hire someone else. If you don't have money, how do you maintain your family and send your son to school?" So, I stopped going to school to replace my father for the forced labor duties. I even visited the local NaSaKa officer. I tried to explain our situation and begged him to spare my family. But he replied: "This is a general order to all villagers to help the government and sentry duty is for your own security. We cannot change the rule for one family. You must follow the orders. We can only spare the widows and old couples. Your father is old but he has an able son."

So I took the decision to stop my education. Meanwhile I was doing sentry duty at night and in the daytime carrying colored flags from the VPDC office to the roadside and fixing them. My mother did not want to see me as a laborer and as a slave of the authorities and she advised me to leave the country. She assumed that, if the authorities do not see me anymore in the village, they will not compel our family to do forced labor. So I fled last week.

I had to do 7 nights of sentry duty over 1 ½ months [since June to now]. I was lucky that I did not get fined by NaSaKa or army patrols. I also had to carry flags from the VPDC office to the roadside and fixed them there in the morning. Then, in the evening, I had to pick them up and bring them back to the VPDC office. I did this duty for two days. These flags bear the name of the village tract. I really wonder why each morning 20 to 25 people have to carry these flags and fix them along the road, then during the day two or three have to watch them

for the whole day, and then again in the evening, 20 to 25 people have to bring them back to the VPDC office. There are sentry posts every 50 or 60 yards during the night manned by sentries and no one would dare to steal the flags. I think this is simply to remind us that we are no more than animals.