Burma Issues Newsletter

Volume 1 Number 4

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Civil War

It is believed that this year, the junta's primary objective is to occupy Manerplaw, the headquarters of the Karen National Union (KNU) as well as the base for other dissident groups. Many reports indicate that the government troops are morally and physically breaking apart because of heavy casualties and a shortage of food.

Shan State

The Pa-O National Army has accepted a cease fire with the junta and many of the Pa-O leaders have surrendered in the Shan State. The Pa-O are one of the ethnic dissident groups under the umbrella organization of the Democratic Alliance of

Burma. Last year, on the 25th of December, the Pa-O and the junta held discussions on a cease fire, and on the 23rd of March this year, PNO members formally accepted a cease fire with the junta.

Karen State

On March 10th, government troops from battalions No.22, No.44, and No.66 started their offensive to attempt to occupy Manerplaw, the headquarters of all the dissident groups fighting against the military regime. The government forces, backed by the air force, could occupy some of the outposts of Manerplaw. The serious battles were on 27, 28 and 29 of March around the Manerplaw area. The KNU could cut the supply routes of the government's troops who then had to withdraw from all their mountain top outposts on 30 March. Following the battles around Manerplaw, the KNU discovered 76 bodies of government troops and confiscated a lot of German-made G-3 and G-4 assault rifles.

At the present time, the junta's troops are pounding Manerplaw with heavy artillery. The junta added some more regiments under control of battalion No.33 for the new offensive in the Karen State.

The KNU and student joint forces attacked the junta's army transportation train near Kamasai and more than 100 troops were either wounded or killed.

The Burmese troops have crossed the border into Thailand and set up positions to strike the Karen strongholds from the rear. Thai military officials were negotiating with Burmese troops to pull back from Thai territory but it is impossible for the Burmese troops to withdraw form Thai territory since they are determined to occupy the Karen strongholds before the rainy season starts. The Thai government also may allow the Burmese troops to stay in Thai territory temporarily because Thailand wants to promote the border trade between the two countries.

Mon State

On the 23 of March, Regiment No.111 of the New Mon State Party, led by Commander Nai Min San, clashed with the junta's troops from Regiment No. 61 led by commander Ba Thein near Khaw Zar village in southern Ye. The junta's troops fired artillery into the village and one villager was wounded. A lot of homes were burnt down by the junta's troops and the villager's were forced to abandon their homes. Three NMSP were killed and two wounded in the battle. At least eight of the junta's troops were killed and eleven were wounded including

company commander, Aung Kyi. Following the battle, the junta looted goods from the small shops as well as the personal belongings of the villagers. The junta forced the villagers to carry the wounded soldiers to the hospital and as revenge, they killed one Mon porter.

On the 3rd of April, the soldiers from regiment No.61 led by Commander Saw Khin Maung Gyi, looted villagers near Khaw Zar village as they were walking to sell their goods at the nearby market.

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Politics

New Constitution

According to the junta, the 1947 and 1974 constitutions of Burma are no longer in existence. Therefore, a new constitution is essential for the country, but that constitution has to accepted by not only the elected representatives of the people, but also by all the nationalities because Burma is united by several nationalities.

This is an obvious trick of the junta. Since 1974, the junta has operated a "School for the Ethnic Peoples" which tries to convert the ethnic people into local organizers of the Burma Socialist Program Party (BSPP) in the rural areas. These ethnic local organizers become the leaders at the village level as well as the leaders of the local defence forces in the rural villages. Ethnic leaders of this type are ready to cooperate with SLORC to draw up the new constitution which will protect the junta's power and wealth. Their participation does not mean that the ethnic people have a voice in the writing of the new constitution, as these leaders are simply the tools used by the junta to attract world sympathy. The junta is exploiting the sincerity of the ethnic people in order to maintain and protect their political goals.

Opposition

The National League for Democracy party has formally removed the popular leader General Secretary Aung Sann Su Kyi and Chairman U Tin Oo from its membership according to a Rangoon Radio report on the 23rd of April. U Aung Shwe has replaced U Tin Oo and U Lwin has replaced Aung Sann Su Kyi in the assembly of NLD and both of the new elected leaders are ex-military men. It is believed that the Slorc put tremendous pressure on the 12 members of the Central Executive Committee of NLD to force them to carry out this move. U Win Khet, member of the Central Organization NLD said that the Central Organization Committee based in Manerplaw does not recognize either of the two new Central Executive Committee members.

On the 22nd of April, Maj-Gen Tin U, Secretary 2 of Slorc, said, "at the present time we can not find any organization that can govern the country in a peaceful and stable manner." It seems that the Slorc will not turn over power to any civilian government to rule the country. Even though the NLD won 80% of seats in the previous election, state power will not be handed over to them by Slorc.

On the 22nd of April, Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Than Shew also formally announced over Rangoon radio that it is impossible to hand over the power to the winning political parties because some of the parties are trying to disrupt the country.

On the 25th of April, the junta announced that twelve opposition politicians, including seven candidates, have fled abroad or gone underground with ethnic insurgents and all of them now must face charges and have been declared fugitives from justice. "The courts have declared all of them absconders from the law."

Oppression on Government Staff

The junta is now forcing the government staff to fill in a questionnaire which asks such questions as:

"Would you accept U Tin Oo, U Kyi Maung and Aung Sann Su Kyi as leaders of NLD?"

"Do you want your country to be ruled by foreign nations?"

"Would you vote for Aung San Su Kyi who married a foreigner as a leader of the nation?".

Although the people do not want to fill in the questionnaires, they must do so for their survival under the junta's persecution.

Reopening the Schools

On the 25th of April, the junta announced they would reopen the universities in Burma and that "no unrest would be tolerated once universities resume their activities." The junta currently has set aside about US$28 million (Kyat more than 200 million) for the renovation of all universities and colleges all over the country.

The junta also is forcing the parents of all students, including kindergarten students, to sign the contracts to resume school. The parents must sign it under threat of the Military Intelligence.

Singapore Delegation

A Singaporean military delegation, led by Gen. Michel Tiyo, Chief of Staff-Air Force, arrived in Rangoon in March to hold discussions with the junta's senior officials, especially with Deputy Gen Tin Tun, Chief of Staff of the Burmese air force. The Singapore delegation left from Burma on 7th March. The junta did not express details about the discussion. It is believed, that the three-day discussion was about purchasing arms for the Burmese air force from Singapore which is a cheaper arms market for the Burmese. The junta has already purchased a lot of ammunition such as heavy artillery shells from Singapore. These munitions were brought to Burma by the State-owned Five Star Shipping Company, in 1989. This information was given by a Burmese Navy captain who was responsible for one of the ships which carried the military supplies to Rangoon.

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Economics

Thailand's Investments

Thailand plans to lay a 500-kilometer pipeline from a gas field in Moulmein Burma to Kanchanaburi province in Thailand. Mr. Tongchat, president of PTT Exploration and Production, led a mission on March 7 and 8 to Burma to discuss details of the plan with the Burmese junta and how to provide protection for the pipeline inside Burmese territory. The dissident groups have asked Thailand to make payment for running the pipe line through their territory, in addition to what Thailand has to pay the Burmese military. Gas reserves are estimated by the junta to be as high as 3.6 trillion cubic feet. The PTTEP's project will cost US$1 billion and the gas will be provided for Thailand's electric generator in Kanchanaburi Province.

Unocal Oil

Unocal Mynmar started a drilling program in concession Block F for oil which will be supplied to Thailand. Thailand's PTTEP owns 10%, Unocal Canada 50%, Petro Canada 30% and Unocal 10%. The total expenditure is US$29 million, but US$20 million has already been spent for the exploration work on the track.

Border Trade with Thailand

At the present time, Thailand wants urgently to formally promote border trade with the junta. Most of the border trade is now done through the KNU who are fighting against the junta. Chinese products can now compete with Thai products because Chinese products are cheaper and also enter Burma through legal trade routes.

In 1988 the highest trade deficit along the Thai/Burma border was 45.43 million US dollars (1,135.5 million baht). The trade between Burma and Thailand has fallen from 20 million baht to 5-6 million baht a day as the Burmese junta has raised its import tax by twenty times. Thai traders can cut their export expenses by two-thirds if they smuggle their goods through the KNU territory and another way they can cut cost is by sending goods through Ranong (Thailand) to Victoria Point in southern Burma, and then on to Mandalay and Moulmein and Rangoon. Therefore, Thailand recommended three things:

1. A joint committee between Thailand & Burma should be set up.

2. Exchanging trade information should be arranged.

3. Joint investment in trading and production should be carried out.

Wood Export

The junta estimates that Burma will cut down 350,000 tons of teak wood and another 130,000 tons of hard wood before the end of 1991. Almost all the wood is being imported into Thailand. There is now wide-spread deforestation in Burma.

South Korea Investment

South Korea is becoming one of the largest investors in Burma and it currently invests in the production of electronic goods, ready- made garments, oil production and the building of huge hotels.

The chairman of the Daewoo Corporation based in ROK, visited Burma in March 1989 and met with the Minister for Industry-1 and for Industry 2 Lt-Gen Sein Aung. During the visit he made overtures for establishing a joint venture company to produce electronic goods. The junta totally controls the profits, and Col Than Shwe is one of the members of the board of directors of the limited company.

The junta and Daewoo of South Korea also signed an agreement to establish the Daewoo Electronic Myanmar Company Ltd on 29 March 1990. The joint venture invested about US$4 million to produce electronic goods. The junta shared 45% and Daewoo shared 55 % of the total investment. The junta rented its former radio assembly factories to this company. It receives 50,000 US dollars a year as rental fees. It currently is producing televisions, refrigerators and other electronic goods to export to other countries. By March the first batch of products had already been sold.

Most of the factory workers in these factories are Burmese women. Different stages of inspection concering quality control are the responsibility of 9 Korean technicians. The directors of the joint venture are Mr. Sun Ryang Chung of Daewoo and Maj. Saw Nelson Khaing of the junta.

Under the militarization, laborers in Burma unfortunately are not allowed to form labor unions to protect labor rights and the laborers are being exploited by the foreign companies. Moreover, both tax and profits also will go into the military pockets for increasing the civil war against the Burmese people.

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Drugs

According to the Nation newspaper of April 7, 1991, the US has agreed to provide US$1 million to fund the campaign to suppress drug trading by Khun Sa's Maung Thai Army along the Thai-Burma border line. The campaign will be a joint program between Thailand and Burma, and will cost an estimated US$4 million. The UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) made the proposal in January of last year for this drug eradication campaign.

This represents the first US aid to Burma for narcotic suppression following the unarmed nation-wide demonstrations for democracy in 1988 which was brutally crushed by the Burmese military junta, and which resulted in the death of at least 8,000 unarmed and peaceful demonstrators. According to the an American who previously worked in the US embassy in Rangoon, the officials from the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in Burma have no interest in political issues of the country. They simply want to see some evidence that drugs are being destroyed by the Burmese military as this represents success for their efforts. Thus they praised the Burmese military's destroying of poppy plants and the burning of a few heroin refineries by the junta in the Shan State, even though this will have little impact on the total amount of heroin which will move from Burma to the US. Apparently their report to the US Congress on this "progress" resulted in the above mentioned financial support to the on-going efforts to "eradicate" drugs by the Burmese military who actually make a lot of their money through this drug trade. It is believed that several years ago, the US provided 30 helicopters for the drug eradication program, but which the junta's air force uses to suppress the Burmese dissidents and ethnic rebels who are fighting to get rid of militarization in Burma.

Even if the US can clean out drug lord Khun Sa who has at most 6,000 forces along the Thai-Burma border line, the drug trading will continue in the region because one of the infamous drug kingpins, Lo Hsing-Han, is still involved in drug trading in Burma. He was a home guard commander in the Kokang area of Shan State in the 1960s. At that time, the Burmese government permitted the Kokang forces to trade in drugs in exchange for their fighting the insurgents in Shan State. Drug lord Khun Sa was also one of the Kokang-home guard commanders in Shan State.

Drug king pin Lo Hsing-Han is now living in Lashio city in Northern Shan State. The Slorc takes care of his security in Lashio and a squad of soldiers is posted permanently at his residence at 6 May Lay Street, Block-2, Lashio. Tel-21371. Army vehicles have also been provided for his group. According to a resident in Rangoon, some of the "Lo" guards often stay at one of the best hotels in Rangoon, the Tha Ma Da.

Another Kokang leader, Pheung Kya-Shin is also still involved in drug trading in Shan State but he has agreed with the junta for co- operating in the anti-narcotic campaign. He has two refineries in Kokang and Nam Kyan of Shan State. Pheung Kya-Shin's Kokang forces mutinied against the central body of the Communist Party of Burma in March 1989. Therefore, the junta started to coordinate with Pheung Kya-shin to further their own political goals and ignores any drug trading by "Pheung".

According to students from Mandalay (the central trade junction city of Burma), the drug dealing is now much larger than before. The police and customs officers along the road from Kokang to Mandalay are not allowed to search the trucks of the drug king pins.

At the present time, the junta is promoting the drug issue to divert the people's attention away from their struggle to get rid of the military dictatorship and build democracy in Burma. Moreover, the junta is trying to get international recognition through their "drug eradication program". Therefore, the US and the UN should carefully observe any deals and stop all their aid until the appearance of the people's elected government in Burma.

According to Drugs, the U.S., and Khun Sa, by Francis W. Belanger, the US has not always played a truly constructive role in discouraging opium growing in Burma.

"The mid-1960s marked the peak of the European heroin industry, and shortly thereafter it went into a sudden decline. In the early 1960s the Italian government launched a crackdown on the Sicilian Mafia, and in 1967 the Turkish government announced that it would begin phasing out culivation of opium poppies on the Anatolian plateau in order to deprive Marseille's heroin laboratories of their most important source of raw material. But, unwilling to abandon their lucrative narcotics racket, the Corsican syndicates -- and the American Mafia -- shifted their source of supply to Southeast Asia, where surplus opium production and systematic government corruption created an ideal climate for large scale heroin production.

"And once again American foreign policy played a role in creating these favorable conditions. During the early 1950s the CIA had backed the formation of a Nationalist Chinese guerilla army in Burma, a group which still controls as much as half of the world's opium supply, and in Laos the CIA created a Meo mercenary army whose commander manufactured heroin for sale to, among others, Americans in South Vietnam. The State Department provided unconditional support for corrupt governments known to be engaged in the international drug traffic. In late 1969 new heroin laboratories sprang up in the tri-border area where Burma, Thailand, and Laos converge, and unprecendented quantities of heroin started flooding into the United States. Nurtured by a seemingly limitless flow of heroin, America's total number of addicts skyrocketed." (page 70)

The US should, therefore, take a serious look at their plan to provide another US$1 million to a corrupt government for a program to eliminate the very thing which that corrupt government produces to feed itself. This investment will do nothing to lessen opium production, but will do a lot to encourage more oppression of the Burmese people.

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Porters

The use of civilian porters by the Burmese regime has become more wide-spread in Karen State as the Burmese troop's intensify their dry season offensives and need a lot of porters for the combat areas. The regime admits that the Burmese army uses civilians to serve as porters but they bitterly deny their physical assaults on porters. The regime's defence is that the government pays for the porter's services and never forces the civilians to serve as porters, claiming that some of them serve voluntarily.

In fact, the innocent civilians along the eastern boundaries of Burma suffer from the military government's systematic harassments. When the government forces arrive in a village or a township, they ask local authorities to arrange for the specific amount of porters that they need. If the local authorities do not arrange for the porters, the people must contribute money to pay the "porter fees" and the amount depends on how much the army wants. This is the only way to save civilians from the porter service. However, the people can not pay the porter fees demanded by the government's army because the amount is much higher than their earnings from their farming or raising animals. The people, especially the men, finally have to stay away temporarily from their villages to escape from portering when the government troops come in the villages. If the army can not find the men in the village, they arrest the women, even pregnant women, to serve as porters or human shields in the combat zones. The army especially selects the Karen women in Karen state to be used as human shields as this is the best way to get revenge against the Karen guerrillas.

On the 15th of February, soldiers, led by Lieutenant Aung Soe Than of Company No.5 from Light Infantry Regiment No.6, came into Myat Lay village in Belin township and arrested four women whose names are Naw Mu Gay, 35, Daw Pu Lone, 45, Ma Ohn Pin, 25 and Naw Var Hla, 16. The soldiers then took the four women to be used as human shields in the combat zone. On the 19th of February, the soldiers clashed with Karen guerrillas near Kwin Da La Village. Naw Mu Gay escaped but Daw Pu Lone, 45 died and the two other women were wounded during the shooting of both sides.

On the 18th of February, the soldiers from Infantry Regiment No.96, arrested women from Ti Win, Ah Win Gyi and Shwe Yaung Pya villages to serve as porters. One of the women was quite old. The soldiers told the women, "We have to punish all of you as the men fled from the village". The women then carried heavy rocks ten miles distance to make a road. Moreover, the soldiers sent the message to

the heads of these villages to take two young women from each village to sleep for one night. One of the young women escaped and informed the Karen guerrillas.

Private Chit San, a defector from the government army, said that he State to sleep for one night. Corporal Aung Nu Maw raped a pregnant woman in the village. At that time, her husband and other men fled from the village to escape being porters by the army. Although some of the women informed an officer of the raping, he took no action on the corporal. After three days, this corporal was killed in one of the battles.

Right now, the government army sent an ultimatum that if there is one battle near any village, the villagers in that village have to give compensation to the army.

On the 20th of February, the army clashed with the joint forces of KNU and students near Palantaung and Noahlar villages. Each of the families from the two villages were suppose to give one bag of rice as compensation to the army.

On the 4th of February, the soldiers from company No.5 Light Infantry Regiment No.6, attacked Kauk Hel Kalay Village. The reason for the attack by the army was that they needed to send the battle field report to their headquarters and the attack on the village was created in order to make a field report by the army. The attack caused one death and four wounded. In fact, the dead and wounded people from the village were used to make a good report by the army. The four innocent people were listed as rebels in the file of the junta.

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Women and Prostitution

There are several brothel gangs in Thailand and Burma, especially in Thailand's border city Ranong opposite of Burma's Victoria Point, which prey on young Burmese women. At the present time, young women in Burma are seeking jobs as the economy in Burma is getting worse under tight militarization caused by the civil war of the past 40 years. Most of the young women are around 16 years of age. The Burmese gangs persuade the young women to work on the Thai side as waitresses or as factory workers. In fact, these young women are to be sold to Thai brothel gangs.

Most of the girls are from rural areas in Burma. When they arrive at the brothel, most of them are still not aware that they will be forced to work as prostitutes. However, when they realize their fate, it is too late as they will have no opportunity to escape from their house arrest in the Thai brothels. Even if they can escape from the brothel, they have no ID cards in Thailand. On the Burmese side, if they fall into the hands of Burmese police or army officials, they will be handed back over to either Burmese or Thai brothel gangs.

Security officials from both countries are involved in the brothel gangs. For example, the Burmese gangs reportedly give bribe money to Burmese police and army officers to smuggle the young women into Thailand. The Thai gangs also have to give bribe money to Thai local authorities in Ranong to ignore the illegal immigrant status of the Burmese girls.

At the present time, there are around 1,500 of this kind of Burmese prostitutes in Ranong, Thailand. They are put into prison-like rooms in the brothels. Their meals consist of boiled leaf soup for lunch at 9 o'clock and the same for dinner at 4 o'clock. Except for these two meals during the day, there is no food for them. They are fed fish soup or other cheap meat only one day per week.

The customers have to pay 50 baht to the Thai brothel for 20 minutes to sleep with the girls and 200 baht for sex with the girls for the entire night. However, the girls get only 200 baht (approximately US$8) as a monthly salary. Apart from the small salary, the girls get tips from the customers. When there are no customers, they have a time to rest in the detention hall.

Even when the girls are sick, they can not rest but sometimes they are given medical treatment which is not enough for them. Sometimes, the sick girls are reported to have been killed with a dose of some strong medicine by some brothels

as the medical care would reduce the brothel's net profits. The exact names of the brothels where this has happened has not yet been reported. If the girls try to escape from the brothel and are caught, they are tortured by the pimps and brothel owners.

In Ranong, although most of the women are sold by Thai and Burmese gangs, some are working as prostitutes for their survival. Therefore, most of the women need help for their escape. International friends need to take effective actions against the local authorities and brothels in Burma and Thailand.

There are more than twenty brothels, including hotels, in Ranong.

Some of the brothel's and hotels' names are: Nadi (1), Sinoretan, Bath 30, Wedar, Nadi (2), Victoria, Nault Mai, Lusi (1) and Lusi (2).

The problem is not simply an isolated incident in the small town of Ranong. More and more young girls from Burma, many of them from minority groups, and many of them as young as 10 and 11 years old, are being forced into an international slavery market.

An underground brothel in Bangkok was recently raided by the police and more than 20 young Karen girls from Burma were rescued. Most of them had already contacted the HIV virus which leads to Aids. All of the girls were illegally in Thailand, and none of them spoke Thai. They had been brought to the border area, perhaps by Burmese military personnel, and sold to a Thai gang.

After a time working in Thailand, the girls are sometimes sold to other cities in Thailand, or are traded overseas to countries like Japan, Singapore, Germany or Australia. One can only imagine what this is like for a young village girl who has no idea what exists outside the boundaries of her small mountain village.

The fate of these young girls once they are "rescued" is as sad as the situation they were rescued from. They will be sent back to Burma where they will probably be eliminated by a military regime which cares little for its own healthy people, and nothing at all for those infected with the HIV virus.

The gangs, especially those in Thailand, have no interest whatsoever in the lives of human beings. They buy and sell these young tribal girls like any inert commodity, use them, sleep with them, make money off of them, infect them with Aids, and then discard of them.

Unless there is a drastic change in Burma, the lives of more and more young girls will be destroyed for the enjoyment and profits of a few people who are protected and assisted by those in authority.

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Aids in Burma

Burma's first Aids case was discovered in December 1989. Tin U, Chairman of the Central Committee for the Prevention of Aids said that health officials have been testing for Aids since 1985 but no cases were found until 1988, however eighty-one percent of the patients in the Intravenous Drug Addiction Treatment Department, tested between May and December, were found to have the deadly virus.

Health officials in Burma found 1,358 people infected with the Aids virus as of the end of last year. Rangoon Radio's July 5th broadcast said 324 people had tested positive among 25,701 that had been given random blood tests. Most of them were drug addicts.

The junta has called for quicker action to check the spread of Aids. Gen Khin Nyunt told the health officials that "educative and preventive measures against the Aids disease must be accelerated more than at present and the fight against Aids is a national task, with first priority to be given to Burma's border areas with Thailand."

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Human Rights

Death Sentences and Imprisonment

The junta's military tribunal passed death sentences on three young men and various terms of imprisonment on 29 other people. All the people were involved actively in the nation-wide unarmed demonstrations in 1988.

The three people sentenced to death are identified as Gani (a) Myint than, Soe Lwin (a) Maung Soe, 20 and Win Naing, 25.

The military tribunal passed death sentences on Soe Lwin (a) Maung Soe and Win Naing on the 19th of October 1989 and Gani (a) Myint Than on the 20th of October 1989. However the junta only announced the sentences in the junta's Working People's Daily newspaper on April 9, 1991.

According to the junta's accusations, Gani (a) Myint Than was convicted of killing four people including one woman on 26th September 1988. According to some students who were involve in the demonstration, these four people poisoned the drinking water that was being given to the tired demonstrating civilians.

The junta accused Soe Lwin (a) Maung Soe and Win Naing of the killing of six persons including police warrant officer Kyi Mya on 10th September 1988.

The people placed on trial by the military tribunal have no right for any self-defense and almost all of the sentences are given without any eyewitness testimonies or specific evidence.

The addresses of two of the people who received death sentences are:

Soe Lwin (a) Maung Soe, No.19 Theikpan First Street, Ga Nge Ward in Thainganggyun Township of Rangoon.

Win Naing No. 5 Thanthuman Road, Ga Gyi Ward in Thingangyunn Township of Rangoon.

Repatriation

According to a report in THE NATION on May 1, 1991, 140 Burmese were taken from Bangkok's immigration jail on April 28 and bussed 470 kilometers to the wouthwestern town of Ranong. Forty-one of these Burmese were students who have been accepted by the UNHCR as "persons of concern" and are under the protection of the UNHCR.

In Ranong they were put on two boats to be taken to Kawthaung in Burma. They were under Thai police and army escort. Some of the students were kept in handcuffs while in the boat.

According to reports reaching Bangkok, one of the students suddenly began stabbing himself before jumping out of the boat into the sea. Another 30 students then also jumped overboard. About 21 of the students were arrested by Thai authorities when they reached shore, and some others were still missing.

Two of the students who remained in the boat were immediately arrested by Burmese authorities when the boat reached Burma.

Forced repatriation is of grave concern to UNHCR officials and other human rights groups.

In 1989 and 1990, more than 1000 Burmese were repatriated to Burma. Reports suggest that many of these have been arrested, some have disappeared, and many of the women have been raped by the Burmese military, or by BSPP officials.

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