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Leaders of National Democratic Revolution honoured by Karen National Union.



The ABSDF Chairman Moe Thee Zun accepts Arms Offered by the KNU President Gen. Bo Mya on the 3rd. Anniversary of the (8.8.88) uprising while the(NLD)leaders look on.



A villager injured by enemy land mine.

Editorial

Burma is a multi-national country. The Karens, who are one of the major ethnic nationalities of the country now known as Burma, migrated into the land in three waves, the last being in the year BC 739. A prominent authority on the history of Burma, John F. Cady in his book, "The United States and Burma" said, "The most numerous ethnic minority group in Burma are the Karens. composed of two principal language communities; the Pwo and Sgaw, plus a half dozen smaller groupings. Karens were present in the lower Shan plateau, along the Sittang-Salween watersheds and down into the Tenasserim before the Tibeto-Burman ever arrived on the Irrawaddy."

The Mons, who migrated from the south-east, arrived later and set up a feudal system. The Burmans who migrated from Tibet through the eastern parts of India and Bangladesh, some centuries later than the Mons, set up a kingdom on the plains in the middle part of the country.

In the 11th Century AD, wars started to break out between the Mons and the Burmans, in the form of raids and counter raids. After many centuries, the Burman feudal lords managed to establish dominance over the Irrawaddy plains and Sittang valley. Some of the hill principalities, mainly the Shan and Rakhine, were subdued as vassal states. In the history of the Burmans, the system was referred to as a Burma empire. Fortunately, the nationalities like Chin, Kachin, Karen, Karenni and etc. remained virtually free by defending their areas with guerilla warfare and total dissociation.

When the British came, economic benefits, the maintenance of law and order by proper administration, better social conditions and freedom of movement broke down the barrier between the different ethnic nationalities. All were treated more or less equal and unified to some extent under one rule by being included in one international boundary.

We have to mention this, from time to time, to counter the SLORC and pro-SLORC historians, who have been attempting to project internationally the idea that Burma is ethnically homogeneous and there is no problems of indigenous peoples in the country. The policies and programs of SLORC stemming from this attitude have been a major part of the problems in Burma, politically.

Under the British, the Karens, to maintain and protect their identity and interest, formed the Karen National Association (Dawkalu) in 1881 led by Dr. T. Thanbya, the Karen National Association (KNA) endeavoured for the reinstitution of the Karen Land. In 1928, one of the KNA leaders, Dr. Sir San C. Po, published a book titled "Burma And the Karens" in which he advocated for the recognition of Tenasserim Division as the Karen Land, because the majority of the people in it were Karens.

Similarly, in 1946 before independence, four leaders of Karen Central Organization, Saw Sydney Loo Nee, Saw Po Chit, Saw Ba U Gyi and Saw Tha Din went to London to present the case of the Karen people to the British government. Much preoccupied with protecting British

economic interests in Burma, the British government just told the Karen leaders to "sort it out" with the Burmans after independence. This, in a way, shows the accusation of the SLORC that the Karen movement was instigated by the British is absolutely false.

Whatever the allegations may be, the fact is that the Karen National Union (KNU) leaders, out of sincere concern presented the Karen case to the AFPFL government led by U Nu and made the demand for a Karen state. On the other hand, the AFPFL government failed to address the question with good-will and positive attitude. In connection with this, a US congressional member Mr. Charles B. Deane, in his report to President Truman. said, "The immature attitude of the present government has been an important factor in stimulating schismatic revolts by communists and Karens, a large ethnic minority."

Prior to the outbreak of armed resistance, the KNU leaders did their utmost to preserve peace, unity, democracy and to realize the aspirations of the Karen people amicably. However, as the AFPFL government responded with inflammatory and groundless charges followed by armed suppression, the Karens had to take up arms in self-defence. The observation of Mr. Charles B. Deane, in the same report reads, "In January 1949, the Karens, Burma's largest ethnic minority, having grown increasingly dissatisfied with Burman rule and seeking autonomous rule over the eastern section of the country, also revolted." As to the arising of undesirable problems. he commented, "To some extent the internal unrest that now besets Burma represents the chaotic aftermath of a highly destructive war and the fruits of a sudden and an ill-prepared for independence."

However, the fundametal and major cause of the uprising of the Karens was due to the unjust policies and irrational attitude of the AFPFL government. Congressman Deane made a correct judgement of the situation who noted in his report, "The revolt of the Karens, at least, is an inevitable reaction to the intransigence and dictatorial method of the present government. For a year, before they rose in armed revolution, this powerful ethnic minority of two and a half million which, incidentally, displays strong Christian leanings, sought in vain to settle their grievances by negotiations with the government. Instead of tolerant treatment, however, they were made the victims of atrocities and many of their leaders were imprisoned without trial."

Even after the Karens were forced into armed revolution, the KNU leaders continued to make the effort to settle the question of instituting a Karen Land, peacefully, whenever opportunity arose. Thus, on three different occasions, the KNU leaders held talks with the successive governments. All the negotiations failed, because on every occasion, the Karen were asked to lay down arms without any discussion on their demand for a Karen state within a genuine federal union.

The people of Burma, in general, believe that the people and government of the United States stand for freedom, democracy and peace. This belief has been enhanced by the prominent role of the US in the Gulf war against aggression and irrational dictatorship.

The case of Burma is also crystal clear. Since the days not long after independence, the civil war has been

raging for almost 43 years in the country, because of the irrational politics, racial discrimination and wrong economic and social policies practised by the successive governments, in power. There has been increasing progress in the negative direction in matters of unity, the rights of the indigenous nationalities, democratic freedom, and social and economic development.

Daily, the SLORC and its troops are perpetrating the crimes of arbitrary arrests, torture, executions and imprisonments without trial, burning and looting, on a wide scale. The entire people have to live in constant fear and insecurity. The number of people uprooted and displaced by the civil war has been steadily increasing, and more and more are fleeing to neighbouring countries for refuge.

One serious problem that has been burgeoning in the country is the proliferation of the narcotic drug, heroin. It is a great danger to the future, especially, of the youths and, in consequence, of the country. That is why the Karen National Union (KNU) is totally against the production and trafficking of the narcotic drugs. On the other hand many SLORC army commanders are deeply involved in the production and trafficking of them.

There is the one and only way for the people of Burma to gain freedom from want, insecurity, arbitrary arrest, torture, extra-judicial execution and etc. That one and only way is toppling down the SLORC and its henchmen from power and the establishment of a democratic system of government.

Accordingly, all the indigenous nationalities, students, youths, Buddhist monks and those who sincerely value democracy and peace, have joined forces and are unitedly fighting for the achievement of democracy, and the establishment of a genuine federal union. In the fight, all the indigenous nationalities, the students, the Buddhist monks, and the people under oppression are on the one side, and the military clique, SLORC, on the other.

The situation being as such, we earnestly urge the governments of the world and international organizations, which value freedom, democracy and peace, to explicitly and unitedly stand on the side of the people of Burma, and impose effective pressure and sanctions on the tyrannical and irrational SLORC government politically, economically and financially.

(We would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Keith Lorenz of the East-West Center, Hawaii, for sending a copy of the report made by Congressman Charles B. Deane to President Harry S. Truman, after an intensive study tour of the Far East.)

We whole-heartedly welcome such rare and valuable documents on the Karens and their struggle for freedom and survival as a people, from our readers and interested scholars. The Editor, KNU Bulletin.)

To,

The Chairman
Human Rights Commission
United Nations Organization

August

1991

Subject: Submission Regarding Human Rights Situation in
Burma

Dear Sir,

Burma gained independence from the British on January 4, 1948. Soon after independence, civil war broke out. It has dragged on until the present time. The out-break of the civil war in Burma has its roots in the political cause of the loss of civil rights on a wide-ranging scale. In the civil war of Burma, the Karen people, like the other nationalities, are fighting for their birth rights as a people.

In the more than 40 years of civil war, thousands of villages were reduced to ashes, because of the scorched-earth policy of the Burma Army, in the military operations under the direction of Gen. Ne Win, known as Takapaw, Alinyaung, Min Yan Aung, Aung Maw Aye, Aung Maga, Yan Aung Myin Hsin Min, Aung Sit Thi, Moe Hein, Shwe Lin Yon, Aung Soe Moe and etc. Hundreds of thousands of people have been uprooted and forcibly moved in relocation. Tens of thousands of people have been arrested, tortured, executed and subjected to other injustices. Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced by the Burma army to serve as porters and mine-sweepers at the front lines.

As the Burma Army troops practice the facist policy of kill all, burn all and destroy all, at the front lines, many villages in the nationality areas have been burnt down for 3 or 4 times, in the 40 years. At the front, the Burma Army troops are allowed to commit all forms of crimes however serious they may be. Accordingly, the troops have been committing the grossest offences, at will, in various areas of the front lines.

After the 1988 democracy movement, tens of thousands of students, Buddhist monks, civil servants and civilians left the towns and cities, and joined forces with the revolutionary forces of the nationalities, to fight against the dictatorial regime led by Ne Win-Saw Maung military clique. After the 1990 general election, the elected representatives of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and NLD members came to join hands with the revolutionary forces in the jungle, and continued to oppose the military dictatorship. With the support of the various revolutionary forces, the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), a parallel government, was formed on December 18, 1990.

Since 1990, the military offensives launched by the Ne Win-Saw Maung military clique have become more brutal than ever. Old people, pregnant women, girl students and even children are forcibly seized and used as porters in battle areas. Villages are relocated by force, civilians arbitrarily arrested, tortured and executed, properties of the people are robbed or destroyed and the women are raped



KNU Chairman Gen. Saw Bo Mya delivered a speech at the Human Rights Day.

by the front-line troops of the Ne Win-Saw Maung Army, on an extensive scale. They are collecting money, from villages in the battle areas or near their camps, in the form of porter fees and fines. On accounting of this, people in the rural, as well as in the urban areas, are experiencing various hardships on a scale unprecedented in the history of Burma.

We believe that all the member countries of the UN are under the obligation to abide by the UN Charter and the principles in the Declaration of Human Rights promulgated in 1948. In case of failure by a member country, the country concerned must come under the investigation by the H. Rights Commission. As the Ne Win-Saw Maung military clique has extensively violated not only the provisions of the UN Charter and the principles of Human Rights but it has also affronted the representative sent by the Commission in 1990 to Burma, it is necessary for the UN Human Rights Commission to lodge a strong protest and take serious action.

We would like to urge the UN Human Rights Commission to maintain a close watch on Burma and take appropriate actions, as all the indigenous national minorities of Burma are denied their fundamental human rights, as the leaders of NLD which won a land-slide in the general election are being arrested and detained, and as the whole country is facing various dangers and difficulties.

In conclusion, we call upon the UN Human Rights Commission to continue monitoring human rights violations in various parts of Burma and take appropriate actions, and to send investigative teams to the KNU and other armed revolutionary areas. If investigative teams were sent, we promise that we would do our utmost to provide every possible assistance to them.

Cordially,

sd/ (Saw Bo Mya)
Karen National Union

Statement Of The Karen National Union To The Ninth Session Of The United Nations Working Group On Indigenous Populations (Geneva, 22 July - 2 August 1991)

Madame Chairman,

The military regime of Burma has on many occasions stated that serious problems of indigenous populations do not exist in the country. The truth however is that atrocities, persecutions, and mistreatments of the indigenous populations by those in power have been a common occurrence since the country was granted independence in 1948. Today, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, the official name of the military regime in power, is ruthlessly annihilating the indigenous populations by carrying out the scorched earth policy systematically and relentlessly in its genocidal war against the Karen, Kachin, Shan, Mon, Arakanese, Karenni and Chin nationalities who are the main indigenous populations of Burma.

Madame Chairman,

Allow me to mention just a few examples of atrocities and persecutions committed by the military regime against the indigenous populations recently and during the past year.

South-East Burma

On 26 and 27 March this year, four fighter bombers from the Burma air force flew eight missions and bombed and machinegunned eleven indigenous Karen villages. These were all villages of poor and innocent Karens who had never been involved in any political activities of the country. The bombing killed three innocent civilians, including a seven years old boy, and wounded seventeen and drove 4,000 inhabitants to flee into neighbouring Thailand to seek refuge.

On 7 May Burmese soldiers from number 318 regiment came to Hteepardoeta village and executed seven villagers. It was a Karen village in Belin Township 200 kilometers east of Rangoon. Besides the seven a total of 27 indigenous Karens in the township were primarily executed by the Burmese soldiers. Nine of them were women and they were sexually molested before the executions.

North-East Burma

The indigenous populations of North-East Burma are suffering the same fate as their bretheren the Karen, Mon and Karenni of South-East Burma.

During the period starting from January to March 1991, the military regime troops perpetrated fearful crimes of atrocities in the Palaung ethnic people's area. Twenty one villages, consisting of 2342 houses and 12 Buddhist monasteries, were burnt down. Seventeen monks, including six abbots, were arrested and beaten up. 194 people were tortured and killed. Twenty one women, including six nuns and seven school teachers, were raped by the troops. Nineteen of the women died from the injuries, and the

remaining two had to be hospitalized. These atrocities have forced 100,000 villagers to flee for their lives and take refuge in deep jungle. The value of jewelleries, cash and valuable looted by the soldiers amounted to more than 50 million kyats. The value of houses burnt down amounted to more than 16.8 million kyats and the total value of other properties lost amounted to more than 22.3 million kyats. As a result, the overall value of the material losses suffered by indigenous Palaung populations amounted to about 90 million kyats.

The indigenous Kokhan Shan are also being persecuted by the Rangoon military regime. To escape persecution and starvation, these people are fleeing to Thailand and China to seek temporary refuge. The sad story of the flights of the Kokhan Shan populations appeared in Thailand's English news paper, The Bangkok Post, on 17 June 1991. A descriptive line of the story reads,

"Very few Kokhan Shan are reported left in their native land - those who cannot afford to travel."

Western Burma

Madame Chairman,

In Western Burma, thousands of Burmese Muslims known as "Rohingyas" are entering Bangladesh each month to escape persecution by the Rangoon military authorities. The Rohingyas youths are being herded to labour camps, their crops sized, villages looted and destroyed, women molested, and their movements restricted. Even their mosques were demolished for making new military barracks. Burmese soldiers raped Halima Khatun, an 18 years old Rohingyas girl, after she was forcibly taken away from her home last November and she died a week later. Reuter reported Anis Ahmed filed a story on the plights of the Rohingyas which appeared in Thailand's newspaper, Bangkok Post on 7 June 1991. According to the story 200,000 of these people had been forced from their home by Burmese soldiers in the past six months.

Madame Chairman,

The above mentioned events are but a few examples of atrocities committed against the indigenous populations of Burma by the country's military regime. There are many others that we can present. But the limited time available does not permit us to do so. Indigenous populations are constantly being persecuted and annihilated.

In May last year the people of Burma had overwhelmingly voted for a civilian government. However, up till today, the military regime has refused to transfer the state power to the elected representatives. We trust that the civilian government would be able to address the indigenous populations questions as well as the other problems of the country successfully and completely, with the cooperation of the indigenous populations. We therefore call upon the Rangoon military regime, through the ninth session of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, to immediately transfer the power of state to the people's representatives and cease its genocidal war against the indigenous populations of the country.

Thank you Madame Chairman.

Statement read by Dr. Em Marta, Foreign Secretary, Karen National Union.

PRINCIPLES AND POLICY STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF BURMA

It is our firm believe that since Burma is the home to various ethnic groups of indigenous origin, the task of establishing a great new nation where unity, peace, and prosperity prevail, rests with all these national groups, including ourselves, and not just a single race or a single class of people.

With this deep conviction, the National Coaliation Government, which is formed with legal Parliamentary representatives officially elected by the people in the May 1990 elections, hereby declares the following principles and policies which* will be adhered to and implemented together with the people.

POLITICS

1. The United Nations Charter on The Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be strictly adhered to.
2. We will try our utmost to prevent the establishment of dictatorial and repressive political systems.
3. We will head towards a republic of federated states, based on federalism (in the true sense of the word).

THE ETHNIC GROUPS

1. With a strong concerted effort of all ethnic groups, we will try to build a future Burma: where democracy flourishes, where peace and prosperity prevail, where a federated republic will be a reality, and where the people of the land irrespective of ethnic origin can fully exercise the right to self-determination.
2. The right to self-determination of all the nationalities, in the various sectors of politics, economy and administration will be fully guaranteed.
3. We believe that all indigenous ethnic groups are equals, and no single group shall be allowed to enjoy special privileges, and equal rights and privileges shall not be denied to any other group.

(Translated from Burmese)

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The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma

PRESS RELEASE OF THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE OF BURMA (DAB) ON GENUINE PEACE AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN THE UNION OF BURMA

In the light of the present parlous instability and chaotic condition inside Burma, it is an obvious truth that cessation of the senseless civil war and the restoration of peace in the country is the common wish of the people all over the world and the indigenous people in Burma as well. Since it is also the wish of the DAB, we herewith declare to the national and international communities, as follows:

There has been no peace for more than (40) years because of the civil war which has been blazing all over the country. The State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) has stationed massive troops everywhere in the cities like Rangoon and Mandalay due to the instability and lack of peace. The whole situation has been leading towards another general people uprising which will be greater than that happened in 1988.

It is of utmost necessity to cease the war and restore peace in the country. In this struggle for peace, it is also necessary to realize the fundamental cause which has destroyed peace and stability. The SLORC has now stationed massive troops even in such places like primary schools and monasteries in Rangoon and Mandalay. The basic political problem of this instability is the fascist reign of the Ne Win-Saw Maung military regime.

The rights of the nationalities and the democratic rights of the entire (people) have been trampled under the military dictatorship in Burma. Therefore, lack of equality, lack of the rights of the nationalities, and the democratic rights of the entire people in the country are the basic cause of the more than 40-year long civil war in the country.

Because of these basic political causes, the most fundamental tasks we need to perform are, (1) to eliminate the fascist military rule and the military bureaucratic machine, (2) to achieve democratic rights and human rights, and (3) to establish a genuine federal union where the rights of the nationalities and the right to self-determination are fully guaranteed.

Then, with the representation of all patriots and all democratic forces in the country and all armed forces, we have to call for a national convention to resolve all basic political problems in the country. The DAB firmly believes that this is the only option for us to establish an independent, peaceful, democratic, and prosperous Federal Union in Burma.

Now the SLORC has been facing political, military, economic, and diplomatic crisis which have already reached to the greatest extent. In such a condition, the SLORC has to change its old tactics and resorted to new ones to destroy the democratic armed forces. It urges fervently,

(a) to abandon armed struggle without laying down arms, and

(b) to join hands with the SLORC for the development in the border areas and the regions of the nationalities. These are the tactics not to restore peace but to prolong the military dictatorship and to make the revolutionary forces its surrogates.

For the restoration of peace and national reconciliation in the country, the following political solutions are of the utmost necessity.

(1) to call for a peace-talk not on the single basis, but on the national basis as a Whole.

(2) it should be made known to all the world.

(3) the two opposing forces should have equal status.

(4) it should be held in one of the democratic countries acceptable to both parties.

(5) it should be available to be observed by the local and world media, the United Nations and international peace organizations, and appropriate persons from the host country.

All efforts contrary to these are dishonest and therefore cannot be able to restore peace and national reconciliation in the country.

As long as the military junta is doing dishonestly, the DAB, together with all people in Burma and the world, will strongly fight on until the military junta and the military dictatorship are totally wiped out.

Central Executive Committee
The Democratic Alliance of Burma

12 June 1991



K.N.O. Delegates at the j£— Congre3S of the (N.D.F.).

THE STATEMENT OF THE 3rd CONGRESS OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT (BURMA)

The 3rd Congress of the National Democratic Front (NDF) had been successfully held at the NDF headquarters from 24th June to 9th July, 1991.

The leaders and representatives, from nine ethnic nationalities, namely, the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP), the Chin National Front (CNF), the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), the Kayan New Land Party (KNLP), the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), the Karen National Union (KNU), the Lahu National Organization (LNO), the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and the Wa National Organization (WNO) attended the Congress.

Among these nine ethnic nationalities, the Kayan New Land Party was accepted as a new member of the NDF before the convening of the Congress. Along with the above mentioned nationalities, representatives from the allied groups, viz., the Pa-O People Liberation Organization and the Palaung National Organization Committee also attended the Congress.

In the Congress:

1. Deliberations on external and internal situation of the country were widely made and endeavours to solidify the unity in the NDF was stressed. It was unanimously decided to form a Federal Union of States practising multi-party political system in collaboration with friendly democratic forces.

2. After revision of the existing programme, the rules and regulations of the constitution, amendments were made to conform with the current situation as follows:

(a) The aim of the oppressed nationalities' revolution is to form a Federal Union of States, inclusive of the Burman State, in line with the national democracy policy, where freedom, equality and social progress are assured.

(b) Saw Maung-Khin Nyunt's ultra-nationalistic, > bureaucratic military dictatorship regime which harbours remnants of imperialism and feudalism is the main common enemy of all the oppressed nationalities.

(c) Violent struggle combined with other supporting political tactics is the most viable method in toppling down the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) which suppressed and oppressed the people under the rule of the gun.

(d) Under these circumstances, unity amongst the oppressed nationalities, unity between the oppressed nationalities and the democratic forces are of vital importance as the driving force of the revolution.

3. With regard to the future constitution of the Federal Union of States, members of the NDF are advised to streamline its accepted constitution and compare it with that of the draft constitution of the Democratic Alliance of Burma and give their respective view-points.

4. This Congress could elect the central executive committee of the NDF democratically in conformity with the principle of unity of all its members.

5. Today, the SLORC is selling out the country's natural resources at a pittance to prolong the civil war. The annihilation military offensive aside, it is deceiving the people to waver with slogans, like "convening of national convention", "drawing up of the stable constitution", etcetera. While superficially taking action against narcotics as a make believe to deceive international powers on the one hand, the SLORC is secretly giving protection to narcotic barons and itself involved in it on the other.

In spite of a few members of the NDF who are deceived into acceptance of cease-fire with the SLORC, most members remain firmly under the leadership of the NDF to struggle on for their right of self-determination.

The rejection of transfer of power to the opposition democratic forces which won the May 1990 elections led them to proceed to liberated areas gradually to join hands with revolutionary forces as there is no other alternative.

After 1988 pro-democracy demonstrations, the All Burma Students' Democratic Front along with the NDF and the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB) got together and formed the Anti-Military Dictatorship National Solidarity Committee to oppose the SLORC politically and militarily at various locations.

Elected representatives upon arrival at liberated areas formed the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) and are lobbying the international community to deny legitimacy to the discredited junta.

The NDF completely supports these new revolutionary combatants and steadfastly collaborates with them till the ultimate national democracy goal is reached.

6. The conviction of the NDF had constantly been revealed that only after the problem of national rights of the multi-national peoples are politically solved will there be real national unity and peace. If genuine peace is to be attained under this conviction:

(a) Internal peace parley which is not initiated by any member would only be met at the front level,

(b) Peace talks would be held at a neutral site agreeable to both negotiating groups on equal status, and

(c) Negotiations should be publicized, and the presence of international observers and news media should be allowed to cover the proceeding.

People of all nationalities:

The world is changing under huge democratic tide toppling one military dictatorship after another. The call for national rights is getting strongly audible. The NDF will join hands with the general public in the struggle for the attainment of the national democracy. This congress hereby requests people of all nationalities to give every possible support to the NDF in its fight for the final victory of the revolution..

*Down with the military dictatorship!

*Victory to the National Democratic Front!

*Federal Union of States must come by!

The 3rd Congress of the
National Democratic Front
(Burma)

Dated 9th July, 1991

Rape, torture rife in Burma, says dissident

BANGKOK, A Chinese dissident says that on a year-long flight through Burma he was protected by drug barons and twice escaped from Burmese military custody, where he saw political prisoners tortured and women raped.

Li Maolong, a 34 year-old former computer salesman, said he fled China in December, 1989, after joining the pro-democracy protests in Beijing in June that year and organising a strike.

He said he was arrested after crossing into Burma's north-eastern Shan state and sentenced by a military court to three and a half years in jail for illegal entry.

While in jail in the town of Lashio Mr. Li said he saw Burmese dissidents sharing his cell tortured and guards rape women chained by their ankles to beds.

"The Burmese have an especial dislike for their dissidents - they torture them. They suffer more and are given less food," he said, speaking through an interpreter.

No independent confirmation is available for the allegations made by Mr. Li, who was recognised as a political refugee by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in February.

Mr. Li said the women had been moved to the infirmary where conditions were better than in the rest of the jail.

"They just had to accept it to stay there. By that time they did not scream or fight back. They were chained, the guards were armed, they couldn't do anything," he said.

The Burmese dissidents, who included students and older opposition activist, were forced to do long hours of heavy work and beaten with canes when they flagged, he said.

The Chinese dissident described one torture in which guards flayed the skin from the shins of screaming bound prisoners by rolling weighted pieces of wood up and down their legs.

Mr. Li's account tallies with reports of other witnesses and human rights organisations like Amnesty International US senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan recently called Burma "a hell for human rights".

The Burmese army killed thousands of people to crush a 1988 uprising for democracy. It has since arrested several thousand dissidents.

Mr. Li contacted Reuters news agency to announce the setting up of a Bangkok branch of the Federation for a Democratic China, a Paris-based organisation of dissidents who fled China after the bloody army crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in 1989.

He and three other Chinese escaped from Lashio jail after two months by drugging their guards with draughts smuggled in by friends, he said.

They bound their ankle chains in socks and trekked six days through the hills before reaching the territory of Lo Hsing Han, an ethnic Chinese opium warlord, who helped them escape.

BURMA

The situation in Burma today cannot really be compared to that in other countries that are ruled by military regimes. Certain parallels exist, but there are also a number of important factors which make the Burmese problem unusual if not unique.

We are accustomed to hearing news of military coups, and governments falling one way or another, but I cannot recall another case, where a Government has been defeated at the polls by a huge margin, and has then refused to hand over power. Since the elections held on the , 27th of May 1990, the ruling military junta has imprisoned many of the successful opposition candidates. A number have died in detention after being tortured, and refused medical treatment. The leader of the National League for Democracy is still under house arrest.

If there was ever a case for United Nations direct intervention in a country's internal affairs, this is it. Many governments have stated that it is against their policies to interfere in a state's internal affairs. Burma however can be regarded in a different light for two main reasons. Firstly the central government in Rangoon has been conducting a war of attrition against a number of ethnic groups for over 40 years now, and over 30% of the population of Burma is made up of people belonging to Ethnic minorities. Secondly approximately 80% of the Opium and Heroin produced in the region, originates in Burma. Many of the members of so called ethnic minority groups, notably Karens and

Kachins, fought on the allied side against the Japanese during the second world war. Many of the Burmans, including a number of the thugs who work for the military regime^ were on the Japanese side. It is regrettable that his majesty's government in Great Britain gave the Burmese their independence, without making any provisions to safe-guard the rights of the many minority groups. The fact that the British abandoned the loyal Karens, Kachins and others to their fate, must go down in history as one of the most shameful acts ever perpetrated by a colonial power.

The Burmans have killed countless thousands of innocent civilians over the last 43 years, including several thousand of their own people. Thousands more have been wounded, and there are countless well documented cases in the files of Amnesty International, Project Maje, Tribal Refugee Welfare, and other agencies, of every human rights violation imaginable perpetrated against civilians by members of the Burmese armed forces, police and military intelligence.

The narcotics issue concerns, or should concern every country whose citizens have become victims of drug abuse as a result of using opium or its derivatives such as heroin. The United States supplied the Government of Burma with helicopters and related assistance following an agreement signed between the two countries on June 29 1974. This equipment and other equipment supplied later were to be used specifically for narcotics control and eradication. The Burmese

The KWO and IWDA One Year Later

The International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) with the assistance of an non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Chiangmai and the Karen Women's Organization (KWO) are celebrating one year of assistance, growth and international cultural exchange, in May 1991 of this year. The philosophy of their efforts towards helping women, focuses on assisting them to become self-sufficient and independent and views women as an effective conduct to help an entire community grow

and develop. Through the use of appropriate technology, education and encouragement of independent action leading towards self-sufficiency, IWDA and their NGO partner are hoping to create a better environment for women in Asia and around the world. Through Austcare, which helps with the funding, links of friendship between Australian and Karen women have been fostered and hopefully will continue to grow.

The first project between IWDA and the KWO involved providing displaced



Some of KWO Central Committee Members together with the columnist.

government failed to honour it's part of the agreement. It used the helicopters for anti-insurgency operations. It failed to make any attempt to attack the main opium growing areas. It made deals with some of the drug war lords, and there is evidence, that the Burmese Government itself is implicated in the drug trade.

If the United Nations general assembly decides to address the Burma problem in a meaningful way during the next session in September, it will not be before time.

Hugh Wood

pregnant Karen women with an adequate supply of nutritious foods, to lessen the risks of complications with the pregnancy. This money also went towards assisting war widows with their daily needs. In the realm of health care, IWDA also assisted Karen medical staff with the funds necessary to conduct a midwife training program, to increase the number of traditional midwives among the Karen. This project will hopefully be continued, in conjunction with support for the establishment of community health centers, to improve

health care among the Karen. In the field of health, community Aid Abroad (another Australian aid group coordinating with IWDA and the Chiangmai NGO) also made a donation to joint French and Thai research program studying ways in which to reduce malaria among the Karen, especially with regard to pregnant women. IWDA also assists the Karen Prothesis Factory with production equipment and the provision of anti-malarial protection in the form of mosquito nets to Karen refugees.

Education was another priority area between the KWO and IWDA. Teacher training workshops were set up and a participatory research project started with field staff and ESL (English as a Second Language) teachers. Plans for a permanent Karen teachers college are also being initiated and their Chiangmai NGO is helping with writing a proposal to receive funding.

Women's income generation is also a priority with IWDA, as it is often difficult for women to make ends meet. With the help of the KWO, IWDA was able to provide equipment and materials for women who would like to weave clothing or other traditional items for extra income. This project is likely to be expanded, allowing more women to become involved as well as giving them the skills to produce better quality goods.

IWDA's NGO helper is also interested in telling

the story of the Karen women to the world. In the past, this has been accomplished by sending updates on activities and festivals to donor agencies in Western countries and writing articles about our projects. However, this year, the filming of a visual and oral documentary was completed for television in Australia, showing the average life, traditions and livelihood of Karen women. We hope that it will be edited soon so the culture of the Karen can be shared with the Western world.

But the giving has hardly been one sided. The KWO has been a most generous organization, taking the time to introduce us to many different Karen people and providing a caring voice for Karen women and Karen people in general. Without their assistance we would not be able to work effectively at all. We hope that our relationship will continue to grow in the future and that we will continue to work together for a long time.

The Chiangmai group is an non-profit NGO based on a

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volunteer support in cooperation with various indigenous women's groups in South East Asia and the International Women's Development Agency in Australia. If you would like more information about IWDA's projects or about their Chiangmai NGO partner, please write to P.O. Box 1680, Collingwood, Victoria, 3066, AUSTRALIA, and mention this article.

We are very grateful to the readers who have responded with contribution, advice and encouragement. We look forward to enjoying the same support and good-will of our readers in the future as well.

We accept a voluntary contribution of US \$1 or an equivalent amount in any currency for a copy of KNU Bulletin. Readers living farther away than Thailand usually double that amount.

Once again, readers of the KNU bulletin who want to make contribution towards the cost of publication and cost of mailing, are requested to kindly send their money orders or cheques to the Editor, KNU Bulletin, PO Box 22, Maesod, Tak Province, Thailand.

A MURDERER WENT UNPUNISHED BUT PROMOTED

It was about 8:00 P.M. the 16th of September 1988. Two friends, Saw Ngwe Lin (31) an office clerk, (son of Saw Wilbert an ex-teacher) and Maung Ohn (35), also a clerk (son of Saw Hla Htwe an ex-police officer), after visiting some friends came home walking along the Papun Bazaar Road. As they got to a slope in front of the Muslim Mosque, came the **Bang! Bang!** sounds of gun fires from Lt. Aung Thant of the 19th Regiment of the Ne Win-Saw Maung army. The town shops were not closed yet and the town people were talking. The town people assuming that the Karen rebels got into the town and fighting broke out, they ran for cover. Ngwe Lin was hit and fell down dead on the spot. Maung Ohn ran away in an attempt to escape. He was hit in the leg.

After the firing died down, and it was quiet again, the town people got out of the cover and inquired about the situation. They found the wounded Maung Ohn and took him to the hospital. His leg had to be amputated. When he regained conscious fully he asked where his friend Ngwe Lin was. Only then that the town people learned that Ngwe Lin was also shot at. They went out

to look for him but he was nowhere to be found. They found only dried up blood. Following the track of the blood drops, they came to the mortuary, where they found the dead body of Ngwe Lin. It was later learnt that Aung Thant dragged the dead body and hid it in the mortuary which was only about 100 yards away.

What led to the incident was that Lt. Aung Thant used to go courting to a lad near the town bazaar every evening. The town youths seeing the arrogant lieutenant became angrier with increasing number of days. Thus one evening a group of youths went stealthily and threw stones at the house while Aung Thant was there. Aung Thant became furious, got out of the house, loaded his gun and fired at the first people he saw on the road. Ngwe Lin and Maung Ohn, without any knowledge of the stone throwing, happened to come home along the road at that time and did not expect any danger. So they did not even know why they were fired at.

The said Lt. Aung Thant, instead of being tried in the court, he is now a captain. As far as the people know he was never punished in any way for the crime.



Some of KNU leaders, teachers and students at the opening ceremony of Teachers Training College.

THE LIVES OF PAPUN STUDENTS UNDER THE SLORC

It all happened during the last week of February and early March 1991. It was the year-end exam for Government High School students in Papun. The students were sitting for their examination peacefully. They each worked hard to get to the next higher standard in the next year. Suddenly four battalions strength of Ne Win-Saw Maung troops came into the town with the purpose to launch an offensive against the Karen in Paw Hta/Bwa Der area. The atmosphere changed totally, when the troops arrived. They needed a lot of porters to carry food and ammunitions for them. They could not get enough. So they went through the whole town, arrested all grown up males and females, including boys and girls from the high school who were sitting for their exam. Only few could escape from the massive round up. Many students, boys and girls, were among them. They could no longer sit for their exam. They are sure to fail and are certain to be in the same class the next year. A year learning was all in vain. They must carry food and ammunitions for the 19th Regiment.

They were forced to carry heavy loads, through hills and dales, day and night and through rugged mountains. They were used as mine sweepers. **BOOM!** went up a land mine laid by the Karen soldiers on the path of the advancing Ne Win-Saw Maung troops. Naw Aye Hla (17), an eighth grader, daughter of U Ohn Myint, was blown into the air. She died immediately and was hardly recognized. Not long after, Ne Lar Win

and fell down dead. This kind of experience has been common in the lives of Papun students and town people.

Mo Mo Win (17) a seventh grader, and Maung Nge' (19) a ninth standard student met the same fate in 1990. From August 1990 to February 1991, eleven students were killed and 9 seriously injured in the same manner in the process of carrying food and ammunition for the 80th, 19th, and 40th regiments. Most of the students killed or injured are high school students. They have to carry things for the army at the average of 2 to 3 times every week. That hardly left very little time to learn. On one occasion, a township education officer, Saw Tun Hla Aung, got very disappointed when he went to inspect the school and found only 3 students in the class of about 50 students.



(16), a fourth grader, daughter of Maung Win (an ex-soldier) flew into the air

Some of (KYO) members rendered helps at KNU. Head Quarters.

Testimony By Kyaw Khaing

I belonged to No. 4 Signal Unit of the Rangoon Division. My service No. was 614839. I was serving as a senior radio operator. My parents, U Myat Tun and Daw Nee Tin, live in Kayinzu quaters, Indaing village of Hlegu Tonship, Rangoon. I am Christian by faith and joined the Burma Army in 1984.

I would like to testify about the bitter and horrible experiences I had had in the Burma Army. In 1987, I was transferred from No. 515 Signal Battalion to serve at Paing Kyon Camp under Column No. 2 of Infantry Regiment No. 28. In the afternoon of the day I arrived at Paing Kyon Camp, I saw about 50 women brought into the camp to serve as porters at the front line. The aged, the young and a school teacher were in the group. I felt very much perturbed about the matter, but I could not do anything about it. I learnt that about 15 of them were seized, while worshipping, at Ehthegon village church of Paing Kyon village tract. I felt this to be an insult against the religion and human dignity. The 50 were made to sleep on the ground in the dust without any mat or whatsoever. It occurred to me that if they were relatives of officers in this camp, they would not be treated so lowly.

What was worse was the rape of a young woman by troops from the heavy weapon company in a nearby camp. When I learned about it I immediately went to report the matter to the camp commander, but I found that the camp commander, Bo Moe Pyan, himself, was raping a young woman. As I could not do any thing, I felt very painful

and came back to my camp in disgust. In the morning, I found a group of young women talking in low voice under a tree in front of the camp. When people were not around, I went up to the group to inquire. I learnt from them that 4 more women, other than the two I saw, were raped, the previous night. They also told me that, the women dared not shout nor report the offences and such things happened at this Paing Kyon camp regularly. At first, they said, such matters were reported to the officers, but nothing happened. Only the soldiers whom the officers thought as trying to be "smart" were punished. They added that there were many other women in the area who met the same degrading fate and asked me not to tell about the subject of the conversation to any one.

I feel that it is natural for the simple villagers not to dare to tell or report about the injustices, because even the BSPP/SLORC army personnel, with a sympathizing tendency like me, do not dare to report the injustices or offences committed by the soldiers against the civilians. Even when such matters are reported, no action is taken.

One serious problem in the BSPP/SLORC army is the relation between the officers and other ranks. However much an officer is wrong, and an other rank correct, if there is a case between the two, it is always the officer who wins and the other rank punished, ending up in jail, losing pension or getting dismissal. What I have just said is something normal in every unit. We had come to know this only when we were

in the army. The longer we stayed, the more we knew of the injustices. No one dared to voice any protest or complaint.

To come back to my original narrative, our column No. 2 was ordered to take the supplies in Paing Kyon to hill Point 928, without delay. I folded up my wireless set and got ready for the move. The women porters, including those who were raped last night, made preparation like us, with a dejected look on their face, eying the big pile of supplies they would be made to carry. Though the road was difficult and the destination was far, we were ordered to get there in one day. When we arrived at a village on the way, a young woman sat down and cried, because she could no longer carry the load. As I felt much pity for the woman, I carried the load for her. On the way, I heard whispered comments from some soldiers and officers, saying to the effect that I had lost my good senses. At night, after arriving at Point 928, the same women were again raped. I regard this as a high degree of injustice, cruelty and inhumanity.

Another matter I would like to tell is about the corruption of the Burma Army officers. When, say, 50 porters are needed for a military operation, the officer in charge submits 100 as the needed number. At the rate of a daily wage of 15 kyats per person, the total amount for 50 extra persons, per month is 22,500 kyats. This goes directly into the pocket of the officer.

There are many villages around Paing Kyon camp. Porters were demanded in accordance with the number of the houses in these villages and so, about 500 persons turned up. As the number needed was only 50, the rest

were forced to make payment for their release. In this way, in an operational period of 4 or 5 months, the officer in charge would make tens of thousands of kyats by corruption and bullying the poor villagers. None of us, the other ranks, dared to say a word about this. I think, this kind of corruption goes as far up as Saw Maung and Khin Nyunt, the leading figures in the SLORC.

My parents-in-law also hold great bitterness and animosity against the Burma Army. They live in Ehthegon village of Pain Kyon village tract, leading a life of poverty. They did not approve of their daughter's marriage to me, because I was a soldier of the Burma Army. Only my mother-in-law attended the wedding. When I asked my wife about the reason, she said that while her father was on a trading trip, he was beaten up and robbed of all his money by the Burma Army soldiers. Her father lost more than 100,000 kyats and suffered two broken ribs. "Whenever there is a resurgence of pain in his body," she said, "there is a welling up of anger in his chest." She went on to say that until today, her parents had to pay more than 3000 kyats a year to the Paing Kyon camp as protection money. Of course, every house in Paing Kyon village tract has to pay such protection money. I remember that my mother-in-law herself nearly suffered a miscarriage as she was forced to carry mortar shells, as a porter, at a time when she was with five-month pregnancy.

The atrocities, injustices, inhumanity and corruption by the Burma Army troops took place not only in the Infantry Regiment No. 28 area alone. They took place, are still taking place, all over Burma where there are the Burma Army troops. I finally decided to stand on the side



Kyaw Khaing a SLORC defector.

of the people and join hands with the revolutionary forces, because of such flagrant and villainous acts by the Burma Army troops against the poor, innocent and defenceless civilians, and came over to the revolutionary areas.

When I arrived in the revolutionary areas, the soldiers, officers and leaders of the revolution welcome me as if I were an old friend. They helped and gave me protection. Contrary to the propaganda of the BSPP/SLORC, they are fighting against military dictatorship for peace, democracy, the unity of all the nationalities and the establishment of a genuine federal union. Now I have decided to fight the military dictatorship, together with the revolutionary forces, and expose the wicked and barbarous acts of the troops of the dictatorship, whenever opportunity arises, so long as my soul and body are together.

Inhuman Acts And Atrocities By Regiment 14 and 317 of the SLORC Army

On May 9, 1991, Deputy Commander of Regiment No 14, Man Shwe, brutally executed the innocent villagers of Tagay Laung village, Bilin township, whose names are listed below.

1. Saw Kyaw Lar
2. Par Pa Lay Tay
3. Saw Moe Toht
4. Saw Maw Taw
5. Saw Pu Lay
6. Saw Maung Lay
7. Saw Polo Ni

One Saw Eh Thet was seriously wounded. Troops from Regiment No.14, which had set up camp in the KNLA first Brigade area, a few day before they were to move to another place, arrested, without reason, three innocent village women by the name of Gay Htoo Moe, Naw Mu and Naw Moe Lo Toet from Klaw Hta village. Though the village elders pleaded with the troops and gave guarantee for the women, the troops forcibly dragged them to their camp. When Regiment No 317 arrived, the women were executed and the village elders were told to come and take the bodies away. The three women were presumably raped before they were murdered to shut them up.

Forcible Seizure Of Civiliana For Porterage

As the SLORC troops are seizing aged women, school girls and even girls of 12 years old, to be used as porters for carrying ammunitions and supplies at the front, villagers from Kappali, Wakote Taw, Laka, Kaw Lone Kyum, Kaw Wun and Pan Tein Gone villages of Hlaingbwe and Shwegun town-

ships have to flee and hide in the jungles. A number of them fled into Thai territory and took refuge in the border areas.

According to reliable^ reports, more than 20 girl and boy students from Papun town died or were wounded at the front while serving as SLORC army porters in 1990-91. Most of the students, because - of that, fled to escape from seizure for portage. As a result, only few remained at exam time.

Among the dead were said to be 17 years old 8th standard student Naw Aye Hla, 16 years old 4th standard student Nilar Win, 17 years old 7th standard student Moe Moe Win and 19 years old 9th standard student Saw Maung Nge..

Every One Must Pay Fine

The SLORC troops posted notice in Karen State . announcing that if there is a case of a troops train being overturned, every household in nearby villages must pay a fine of 20,000 kyats; for a car being overturned, 3,000 kyats.

Village Women Made To Stand Sentinel

Villagers, including young women and girls, in the 7th Brigade areas of KNLA, are made to stand sentinel by SLORC army troops, along the roads used for military operations. Not satisfied with this, the SLORC army troops usually fill up the fore most trucks with women and children, to serve as bullet stoppers.

Heavy Weapon Concentration Fire On Villages

In the Karen state, it has become a normal practice of the SLORC troops to rain death and destruction, by heavy weapon concentration fire, on villages known to have been visited by KNLA troops. As a result, the

villagers have to dig trendies and bunkers for protection, in almost every village. Arrest, torture, rape and execution of the villagers by SLORC troops have become a daily occurrence.

One other deplorable practice, is the anti-religious acts of the SLORC troops. On the excuse of cleansing up the religious order, the SLORC troop entered Buddhist monasteries and took all the valuables, such as cash, gold, silver, gems and etc. Again, on the excuse of cleansing up the pagodas, they pried loose gold flakes and leaves on the pagodas and Buddha's images and take them away.

By this process, the SLORC troops robbed 66 viss of gold from the famous Kyaik Ti Yo pagoda in Kyaikto township. However, they spread the false information that only 90 tickles of gold were received.



An unconscious enemy porter, Po Htut found and saved by the Karen villagers.

VISITING MERGUI - TAVOY DISTRICT

Bv Naw Linda

Moving by pick-up truck into the forests near Kachanaburi, Thailand, we neared the border, splashing through rivers and parting clouds of butterflies in our wake. We had arrived in Mergui - Tavoy District of the Karen State. Compared with the northern regions of the Karen State, or Kawthoolei, the vegetation seemed denser, and the nature of the physical boundaries separating us from the outside world, less forbidding than the wide Salween River, or the huge mountain which protects Manerplaw from the onslaught of the conscripted Burmese army. Our destination, to observe the final days of teacher training in Hte Hta, was more like a tropical paradise than part of a nation fighting for

economic, social and racial justice against one of the most oppressive regimes in the world. Nestled in a small valley, bounded by a river on one side, only the sight of armed soldiers and the obelisk monument on the commons, commemorating the valor of those lost in the struggle brought the focus back to the current situation.

But part of the relaxed atmosphere of the area is a reflection of its relative safety from Burmese attacks. The area has not come under direct siege in more than 10 years, and as the locals like to joke, the only casualties from the last attack were a few ducks and a can of cooking oil. But underlying this air of lightheartedness are the daily struggles of the women and members of the KWO (Karen Women's Organization) who are eking out an existence removed from the comforts which many of them knew

in their former lives inside Burma, before they joined the revolution.

The teacher training, which we observed for the last week, was one of the ways the community has come together in an attempt to improve the quality of life for their future, - the children. Karen teachers gathered from the surrounding districts to participate in a refresher course and additional training for teachers, to improve their methodology, as well as to learn other skills useful in the classroom. For example, a local health worker conducted a course on basic first aid, to give the teachers a working knowledge of what to do should one of their children be injured. They also gave the teachers basic knowledge on environmental sanitation methods, to prevent the spread of disease. Information that they will no doubt be able to utilize in their own villages and in their own schools.

Another part of our journey to Tavoy-Mergui District of the Karen State took us a three hour boat trip down the river, through some of the most spectacular scenery and terrifying rapids (which we navigated safely thanks to our excellent boatman). There we had the pleasure of meeting the local KWO organization members from KeMaTa and surrounding villages. These women, even "further removed from contact with the Thai neighbors were also planning their contribution to the improvement of the Karen situation. For many years, the KWO in KeMaTa operated as the welfare system for Kawthoolei, where none existed in the harshness of the jungle. But now, they.

are seeking to provide additional assistance in the form of cultural preservation for their community as well, as income generating opportunities for local women in need. They are planning to create a weaving project to weave traditional clothing for the Karen people, which is an excellent opportunity for women to supplement their income, while at the same time undertaking a project which is appropriate for their needs and incorporates a task which many women already include in their daily routines. Also in KeMaTa, we met a local official who was working towards creating an environmental sanctuary in some of the areas not yet devastated by the Thai logging concessions, to provide a resource for his peoples' future.

After the hair raising boat journey back through torrential rain, and a couple of close calls with large rocks, we had some time then and discuss the histories of the women residing in the area. The story was almost always similar. Women had been pushed to the point of economic hardship under the draconian laws of the SLORC regime and saw their futures and those of their families endangered. Many suffered directly at the hands of the Burmese and chose a life in the jungle where they were free from oppression and the constant nagging fear of not knowing whether your loved ones would even return home

that day, to eat the meager food that could be found in the cities. This and the racial discrimination they found against their own people, led them to the join their people in Kawthoolei.

After our stay in Htee Hta, we slipped back out through Methameekie to hold brief meetings with the district representatives of the KWO. The success of their already functional weaving project was evident from the beautiful traditional Karen clothing with which the women adorned themselves, and also through their knowledge of what projects might be appropriate for them in the future. We discussed their plan to open a nursery school for pre-school children, to assist working mothers as well as provide a head start for education for their children.

Once again, as on previous trips to Kawthoolei, the incredible generosity of the Karen people was demonstrated to us in the preparation of special traditional food, the arduous, but always patient translation services given us by a number of people and the opening of their hearts to share with us their joy and their pain. We hope that we will be able to continue our work with not only the KWO and its members, but all of the people who believe in assisting their communities and working towards building a more peaceful world for humanity.

Bitter Experience of an Enemy Porter.

Name	Po Htut
Age	22 years
Parents	U Thaung Shwe
	Daw Ohn Myaing
Residence	Kyaikto
Race	Burmese
Religion	Buddhist

Occupation	Fisherman
Wife	Khin Thet Mar

As I came ashore from fishing, I was arrested together with other 500 - 600 as porters. We had to come

Some Important Military Achievements of KNLA Troops From 1-7-91 to 15-8-91

No. 1 Military Zone (Thaton District)

On 1-7-91 our troop waged mines warfare against enemy Light Infantry Bn. No. (317) near Kyun Waing vil-

to Karen State towards the Burmese-Thai border. I could hardly carry the load they made for me. I stumbled many times. If someone lagged behind they were kicked or boxed at the face. I was also kicked. I fell down and my knees were badly hurt. One porter was killed and was dropped down from the high cliff. We were poorly fed. They fed us just enough to survive. Anyone that asked for more were kicked or slapped at the face. No one dared to ask for more. I had to carry ammunition for the 44th Column. Every night all the porters were made to sleep on a narrow ground and they posted 2 sentry posts beside us. No one was allowed to go out after 9 P.M. even for urination. They threatened to kill us every day. After 4 months we got to the Burmese-Thai border. I am very happy that the Karen nurses are taking care of me and treat me kindly.

My wife does not know where. I am and why I was arrested. Every fortnight we have to pay 30 kyats for porters, 15 kyats for village security. We have to pay at least 100 - 150 kyats a month to the SLORC.

(The porter was found lying by the road unconscious with very high fever. He was found out by the Karen villagers and taken to a nearby village where medical care was given. He was still in a very serious condition when interviewed. I hope it is not too late to save his life).

lage, enemy suffered (5) killed including (1) coy. commander and (2) wounded.

On 2-7-91 Kyaw Kyaw from Light Infantry No.3 office defected together with (1) G-2 rifle to our KNLA.

On 3-7-91 our troop ambushed enemy near Kyun Waing village, (2) enemy wounded.

On 5-7-91 our (KNDO) coy. No. 4 clashed with enemy troop near Shwe Yaung Pya camp, camp commander Tin Hla seriously wounded.

On 7-7-91 our (KNDO) combined troop attacked enemy near Mai Ka Nah village, enemy suffered (4) killed and (5) wounded.

On 13-7-91 our troop attacked enemy near Kyun Waing camp (2) enemy wounded.

On 3-8-91 our troop attacked enemy at Sa Rah Khi, an enemy killed and our troop captured (1) M 79 grenade Launcher and (1) sten gun.

On 11-8-91 an enemy soldier was wounded by our land mine.

No. 2. Military Zone (Toungoo District)

On 19-7-91 our No. 2 Bde. coy. 3 and (KNLFF) combined troop attacked enemy Regiment (39) coy. (1) near Eh So Kho village, (3) enemy killed and retreated in disorder.

On 21-7-91 our coy. No. (3) /PLF/KNLFF combined troop clashed- with enemy near Ta Ya Khi village lasted (4) hours.

In this engagement, (6) enemy killed and (3) wounded including Lt. Col. Chit Naung.

On 27-7-91 our coy. (3) /PLF combined troop attacked enemy Regiment No. (39) / (79) column between Kay Law Khi and Moo Doh village, (14) enemy killed including Lt. Chit Tone and (14) wounded.

(2) enemy soldiers were captured. In this battle our troop captured (1) 9MM pistol/ (1) G-3 rifle/ (4) carbines (2) M 79 MM/ (1) Light machine gun/ (1769) rounds of assorted ammunition/ (40) magazines of G-3/G-4 rifle and some military equipments.

On 9-8-91 our troop and Ta Doh Wah column combined troop attacked enemy's Ye Shang Camp, (3) enemy killed and (3) wounded.

No. 3 Military Zone (Nyaung Le Bin District)

On 20-6-91 Soldiers from enemy Light Infantry Bn. (76) entered Tee Pah Do village and killed Saw Shwe Htoo Pa a guiltless villager.

On 22-6-91 our troop engaged the enemy at Tee Toh Loh village, (4) enemy killed, (3) wounded from our side.

On 1-8-91 our troop attacked enemy Regiment No. (48) near Pa Nah Ner, (7) enemy killed including capt. Kyaw Aye and (1) wounded. Our troop captured (1) G-3 rifle/ (1) G-4 rifle/ (11) magazines/ (237) rounds of G-3 bullets/ (1) carbine/ (5) magazines and (90) rounds of bullets.

On 2-8-91 our troop attacked Thu Ka Bi enemy's camp and burnt down the whole camp.

On 8-8-91 our troop engaged enemy near Ain Net village (1) enemy soldier killed.

No. 4 Military Zone (Mergui/Tavoy District)

On 24-6-91 our troop attacked enemy at Ta Gan village, (4) enemy killed and (3) wounded.

On 3-7-91 our troop engaged the enemy at Tha Boat Leik village, (1) enemy killed and (2) wounded.

On 4-7-91 our troop attacked enemy near Bang Kyoke village enemy suffered (6) killed and (8) wounded.

On 10-7-91 our troop clashed with enemy at Taung Paing, (10) enemy soldiers wounded.

On 6.7.91 our troop engaged enemy at Ta Gan village, (3) enemy killed and (2) wounded.

No. 5. Military Zone (Dooطلا District)

On 20-6-91 our coy. No. (5) and militia combined troop attacked enemy near Kyank Pong, (10) enemy killed and (15) wounded.

On 24-6-91 our coy no. (5) and (DAB) combined troop attacked enemy Regiment No. (106) at Ain Gwa, (3) enemy killed and (2) wounded.

On 26-6-91 our coy. No. (5) and militia combined troop attacked enemy at Pa Ya Gone, (5) enemy killed and (7) wounded.

On 9-7-91 our (17) Bn. and (ABSDF) No. (207) Bn. combined troop clashed with enemy at Tee Wah Tah, (2) enemy killed.

On 12--7-91 our troop attacked enemy at Lai Kya Tah, (2) enemy killed.

On 6-7-91 our troop attacked enemy near Ku Doh village and Mye Nee Gone enemy's camp, in those (2) engagements enemy casualty was (4) killed and (15) wounded.

On 19-7-91 our troop and enemy clashed near Mai Pa Nya village, (4) enemy killed and (10) wounded.

On 20-7-91 and 23-7-91 our troops attacked enemy at (3) different places, (6) enemy killed and (4) wounded.

On 25-7-91 (DAB) No. (8) Column attacked enemy at Myank Kan village, (5) enemy killed (1) wounded and captured (2) G-3 rifles/ (3) magazines/ (456) rounds of bullets/ (2) AK assault rifles and some military equipments.

On 24-7-91 our troop attacked enemy at Thay Baw Bo old custom gate, (2) enemy killed and (2) wounded.

On 6-8-91 our troop

ambushed enemy at Wah Kyo, (3) enemy killed.

On 7-8-91 our No. Bn. attacked enemy at Plai Tah and Toe Ther (2) enemy killed and wounded.

No. 6. Military District)

On 18-6-91 our troop ambushed enemy at Kank Ka Lai village, enemy suffered (2) killed and (6) wounded.

On 22-6-91 an enemy soldier was wounded by our land mine.

On 6-7-91 our troop attacked enemy Regiment No. (28), (1) enemy killed (2) wounded and our troop captured (1) G-3 assault rifle/ (7) magazines and (170) rounds of G-3 bullets and some military equipments.

On 7-7-91 our troop ambushed enemy near Lay Ka Ti, an enemy soldier was wounded.

ON 11-7-91 and 12-7-91 our troops attacked enemy at Loh Baw and Pa Klat, (2) enemy killed and (3) wounded.

No. 20 Battalion (Papun District)

On 29-6-91 our troop and KNPP combined troop attacked enemy between Par Zaung and Mai Sei Na, (12) enemy killed including coy. commander Tin Aye and (6) wounded. Our troop captured (3) G-3 rifles/ (1) carbine/ (1) M9 AI and some military equipments.

In June and July 1991, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) under the command of Lt. Col. Saw Law Wah De launched a counter offensive against the SLORC army in Papun - Kaw Poke and Paw Hta area inflicting heavy casualty on the SLORC army.

After fierce fighting Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) retook enemy position Wah Baw Kyo and Ler Toe. SLORC Army troops

casualty was 21 dead and 72 wounded whereas KNLA casualty was 1 dead and 11 wounded.

Deployment of SLORC army troops in Kaw Poke - Paw Hta -Ler Toe and Wah Baw Kyo are Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) No. 19/30/60/26 and re-inforced by No. 310 (LIB), No. 78 regiment under the command of No. 88 Division with headquarters at Papun.

The followings are arms and ammunition seized at Wah Baw Kyo and Ler Toe SLORC Army position.

Arms and Ammunitions Seized at Wah Baw Loo

(SLORC Army position)

1.	G2	1
2.	G3	6
3.	G4	3
4.	Carbine	5
5.	M79	2
6.	MG 42	1
	(Machine gun)	
7.	.5	1 (15 MM)
8.	G3 Ammos.	2500
9.	.5 Ammos.	2235
10.	2" bomb	60
11.	60 MM bomb	50
12.	M9 A1 bomb	3
13.	Hand Granade	5
14.	Mine	8
15.	Claymore Mine	5
16.	9 MM pistol	1
17.	2" mortar	3
18.	1 Wireless Transmitter set	
19.	Rice	1 50 bags

Arms and Ammunitions Seized at Ler Toe

(SLORC Army Position)

1.	75 MM Ammos	1
2.	81 MM "	7
3.	60 MM "	21
4.	2" bomb	3
5.	G-3 Ammos	1400
6.	Mag	13
7.	Mine	13
8.	Haver sack	20
9.	Rice	250 bags
10.	Bean	36 bags
11.	Sugar	30 bags
12.	Cooking Oil	2 drums



Lt. Col. Saw Law Wah. De with some of Arms & Ammos, seized
at Wah Baw Loo & Ler Toe (SLORC Army camps).

Special (101) Battalion

On 22-6-91 members from enemy L.I Bn. (79) killed (2) guiltless Thi Wah Pu villagers Saw Tha Hla and Pa Tha Htoo.

On 29-7-91 an enemy soldier from L.I.Bn. No (2) was wounded by our land mine.

On 28-7-91 our troop attacked enemy at Lay Taw Khi, (3) enemy killed and (2) wounded and our troop captured (1) M 79 MM/ (32) rounds of Ammos./ (1) G-4 rifle/ (190) rounds of bullets/ (6) magazines/ (1) hand grenade and some military equipments. On that same day (1) enemy was wounded by our land mine.

On 1-8-91 our troop ambushed enemy at Kwi Maw Tain and Tee Po Kyo, (2) enemy killed and (5) wounded.

G.H.Q Troops

On 17-6-91 / 19-6-91 / 24-6-91 our troops had (3) clashes with enemy, (3) enemy killed and (2) wounded.

On 6-7-91 our troop attacked enemy at Pyone village, (1) enemy killed and (2) wounded.

On 10-7-91 our troop attacked L.I.Bn. No (318) at Bo Pai Kyo, (3) enemy wounded.

On 11-7-91 our troop shelled enemy Regiment No. (78) camp at (14) miles with heavy weapons, a battalion commander and a soldier were wounded.

On 12-7-91 an enemy killed and (6) wounded by our land mines at Bo Pai Kyo.

On 13-7-91 our troop attacked enemy at Nan Taung, (4) enemy killed. Our troop captured an enemy together with (7) shells of (81) MM / (21) shells of (60) MM / (7) shells of (75) MM / (1102) rounds of G-3 bullets / (13) magazines and (20) back sacks.

On 1-8-91 our troop clashed with enemy near Kwi Lay village, (2) enemy killed including (1) coy. commander and (6) wounded.



Central Executive Committee Members of Karen Youth Organization,



A Guest Professor explained the important of Natural resources to the KYO members.



Teachers listening closely to a lesson (Mergui-Tavoy District)



Speech delivered by P'dho Ba Thin, Head of the education and culture Department on the opening ceremony of Teachers Training College.



Leaders awaiting to lay wreath on (41) anniversary of Martyrs Day.



Teachers from Mergui-Tavoy District learned how to make school uniform for their students.