BURMA BULLETIN

A month-in-review of events in Burma

ALTERNATIVE ASEAN NETWORK ON BURMA
campaigns, advocacy & capacity-building for human rights & democracy

Issue 6 **June 2007**

- **SPDC's crumbling healthcare system unable to respond to outbreaks of bird flu, extensively drug-resistant TB, malaria, dengue and diarrhea. Diseases spread cross Burma's borders.**
- **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi turns 62 on 19 June, marking her 4,253rd day of detention. Birthday celebrations are held throughout Burma and the world.**
- **Junta-backed thugs continue to harass NLD members. SPDC detains at least 17 political activists.**
- **SPDC announces National Convention will reconvene on 18 July. NLD will boycott the session. Several ethnic groups also reject the illegitimate and oppressive constitution-drafting process.**
- **ICRC, ILO, and UN slam the SPDC over continued abuses against civilians, widespread use of forced labor, and restrictions on humanitarian aid.**
- **India blames SPDC for the increased instability along the border but continues shipping arms to the junta in hopes of getting gas in return.**
- **Thailand turns away almost 300 refugees, including sick children and women fleeing conflicts in Eastern Burma. In Malaysia, RELA arrest 217 asylum-seekers and UNHCR-recognized refugees from Burma.**
- **25,000 people face starvation because of the offensive in Eastern Burma raging since Nov 2005.**

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KEY STORY

Health crisis: SPDC killing by neglect

Deadly outbreaks of treatable illnesses underscored the SPDC's impoverishment and obstruction of healthcare, and added greater urgency to a new report on the subject.[1]. IDPs in conflict areas crossed the border to Thailand to seek treatment. The refugee exodus from Burma continues to expose the Thai population along the border to the spreading diseases.

- **"Extensively drug-resistant" tuberculosis (XDR-TB):** On 11 June, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in Mae Sot, Thailand, confirmed two cases of XDR-TB among one refugee and one migrant

[1] Human Rights Centre, University of California, Berkeley, and John Hopkins University (Jun 07) "The Gathering Storm: Infectious Diseases and Human Rights in Burma". http://www.hrcberkeley.org/download/BurmaReport2007.pdf

worker from Burma, both of whom are now missing.[2] There are two other suspected cases. TB in patients from Burma is mutating into drug resistant strains. It is likely that more people are unknowingly carrying and spreading the XDR strain.[3]

- **Malaria:** In June, the Mae Tao Clinic in Mae Sot witnessed a significant increase in the number of malaria patients among refugees and migrants from Burma. According to a senior medic, over 50 malaria patients were arriving at the clinic every day. Half of the cases were so serious they had to be hospitalized.[4]
- **Dengue fever:** On 21 June, 10 children died from hemorrhagic dengue fever in Bassein Township, Irrawaddy Division. Villagers complained that the SPDC has failed to address the growing health crisis.[5] Dengue fever cases also increased significantly in Rangoon.[6]
- **Diarrhea:** In the first week of June, three people, including two 3-year-old children, died of diarrhea in Pasin village, Matupi Township, Chin State. The Community-based Health Care Program (CBHCP) reports that they have been blocked by SDPC authorities from entering the village and providing treatment. Two other people died in La Oo, Thantlang Township and three in Cakhang village near the Mizoram border, because of their inability to access proper medical treatment.[7]

Bird flu again

In June, bird flu was reported on three farms in Pegu and Rangoon Divisions. The SPDC failed to inform poultry farmers for 10 days.

- **3 June:** 28 chickens died on a farm in Pegu Division, marking the first time the disease had been found in the area.[8]
- **13 June:** News of the outbreak first appeared in the international press, with the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) reporting that about 1,000 birds from the farm had been killed as a precaution.[9]
- **15 June:** The LBVD conceded the outbreak was more widespread. Four new cases were identified on farms in three townships in Rangoon and Pegu Divisions, and nearly 2,000 chickens were culled.[10]

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) continues to assist the LBVD by providing technical assistance in testing and sanitizing affected areas.[11] However, laboratory infrastructure in Burma is so inadequate and antiquated that bird flu cannot be tested outside of urban areas. The SPDC is making matters worse by failing to provide poultry farmers with compensation for their culled chickens.[12]

INSIDE BURMA

Daw Suu: 62 years and 4,253 days

19 June marked the 62nd birthday of Burma's pro-democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and 4,253 days in detention.[13] Celebrations for her birthday were held in various locations across Burma:

[2] AFP (12 Jun 07) TB Super-strain Found in Myanmar Migrants
[3] Reuters (11 Jun 07) First "XDR" TB cases found in Myanmar migrants
[4] Irrawaddy (11 Jun 07) Malaria on the rise along Thai-Burmese border
[5] DVB (21 Jun 07) Deadly fever hits high numbers of children in Bassein
[6] Mizzima News (25 Jun 07) Children most affected by fresh Dengue outbreak in Rangoon
[7] Khonumthung News (14 Jun 07) Diarrhea spreading in Chin state
[8] AFP (14 Jun 07) Myanmar reports fresh outbreak of bird flu; AP (13 Jun 07) Myanmar reports new bird flu outbreak in private farm north of Yangon
[9] AFP (14 Jun 07) Myanmar reports fresh outbreak of bird flu; AP (13 Jun 07) Myanmar reports new bird flu outbreak in private farm north of Yangon
[10] Xinhua (15 Jun 07) Myanmar calls on public to continue biosecurity measures against fresh H5N1 virus
[11] Mizzima News (15 Jun 07) Fresh outbreak of Bird flu contained in Burma: FAO
[12] Irrawaddy (27 Jun 07) Lack of compensation keeps bird flu a threat in Burma
[13] Statesman (20 Jun 07) Why is Suu Kyi still under arrest?

- In Rangoon, around 300 supporters gathered at the NLD headquarters. Party members and activists released doves and balloons and prayed for Daw Suu's release.[14]
- In Kyuakpadaung Township, Magwe Division, over 200 NLD members celebrated at the party's local office. They released fish symbolizing the release of their leader.[15]
- In Shwebo Township, Sagaing Division, about 50 people attended celebrations.[16]
- In Aunglan Township, Magwe Division, NLD members made donations at a local monastery.[17]

Meanwhile, scores of events were held around the world to celebrate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday.[18]

NLD and 88 Generation Students: endless persecution

- **6 June**: SPDC authorities in Mandalay closed down the garment shop of U Ba Soe, the brother of Daw Win Mya Mya, a member of the Mandalay Division NLD Organizing Committee.[19]
- **11 June**: an article in a state-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar threatened leaders of the 88 Generation Students group with "punitive punishment […] more severe than legal action" if they continued their political activities.[20]
- **11 June**: SPDC authorities, local police, members of the USDA and the paramilitary group Swan Arr Shin in Thar Yar Kone village, Maymyo Township, Mandalay Division, forced NLD youth Nay Myo Aung to resign from the party.[21]

  In Rangoon, Thanlyin-Kyaikgaug pagoda management committee officials drove out more than 20 women NLD members who were praying for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.[22]

  In Zeegone Township, Pegu Division, a group of men fired slingshots at five women NLD members who had been praying for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Mya Thein Than pagoda.[23]
- **17 June**: SPDC authorities in Naung Kham village near Mandalay attempted to get information on NLD activities from Party member Ko Win Bo by threatening to close his shop.[24]
- **19 June**: Junta-backed thugs disrupted Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's 62nd birthday celebrations held at various locations across Burma:
  - In Shwebo Township, Sagaing Division, USDA members threw stones at the Party's local office and placed sharp rivets to puncture tires on a road near the building.[25]
  - In Aunglan Township, Magwe Division, USDA thugs pelted NLD members with sharp objects.[26]
  - In Rangoon, plain-clothed security police kept the NLD headquarters under surveillance and took photographs of Daw Suu's birthday celebration from across the road. A dozen trucks filled with USDA and Swan Arr Shin members were also stationed outside the NLD headquarters.[27]

[14] Reuters (20 Jun 07) Myanmar's Suu Kyi turns 62 under house arrest; Irrawaddy (19 Jun 07) Suu Kyi celebrates birthday under house arrest
[15] Mizzima News (19 Jun 07) Thousands celebrate Suu Kyi's 62nd birthday; Irrawaddy (19 Jun 07) Suu Kyi celebrates birthday under house arrest
[16] Irrawaddy (19 Jun 07) Suu Kyi celebrates birthday under house arrest
[17] DVB (19 Jun 07) NLD members targeted in slingshot attacks
[18] Voice of America (18 Jun 07) U.S. campaign hopes celebrities can help Burma; New Straits Times Malaysia (18 Jun 07) Myanmars mark Suu Kyi's birthday; Taipei Times (22 Jun 07) Taiwan helps Burmese
[19] DVB (06 Jun 07) Burmese authorities close down business of leading NLD figure in Mandalay
[20] Irrawaddy (11 Jun 07) Pro-democracy activists threatened in state press
[21] Mizzima News (20 Jun 07) Junta threatens and forces NLD member to turn informer
[22] Mizzima News (11 Jun 07) Activists stopped from praying for Suu Kyi
[23] DVB (12 Jun 07) NLD women pelted with slingshots; Mizzima News (13 Jun 07) Five women NLD members attacked for praying
[24] Mizzima News (20 Jun 07) Junta threatens and forces NLD member to turn informer
[25] Irrawaddy (19 Jun 07) Suu Kyi celebrates birthday under house arrest; DVB (19 Jun 07) NLD members targeted in slingshot attacks
[26] DVB (19 Jun 07) NLD members targeted in slingshot attacks
[27] Reuters (20 Jun 07) Myanmar's Suu Kyi turns 62 under house arrest; Irrawaddy (19 Jun 07) Suu Kyi celebrates birthday under house arrest

- **15 June**: An unidentified man reportedly linked to the local USDA assaulted U Than Lwin, a 70-year-old member NLD elected MP in Mandalay. U Than Lwin was returning home from a prayer vigil for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Alo Daw Pyait pagoda in Maddaya Township.[28] On 20 June, USDA members reportedly harassed him while he was undergoing surgery at a Mandalay hospital.[29]

The resignations game: NLD vs. USDA

State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar reported that 266 NLD members throughout Burma resigned from the Party in June.[30] The total number of resignations from the NLD now stands at 800 for 2007.[31] It is widely known that most resignations from the NLD are the result of threats and other forms of intimidation by regime officials. In some cases, the junta also offers economic incentives to entice NLD members to resign.

Uncoerced resignations, on the other hand, hit the junta-sponsored USDA, as members begin to realize the thuggish nature of the organization. In June, it was reported that for the first time in USDA's history at least 18 of its members in Mon State had resigned since April.[32]

National Convention: the sham must go on

On 5 June, Lt Gen Thein Sein, SPDC acting Prime Minister and chairman of the National Convention Convening Committee, announced that the junta-sponsored constitution drafting body would reconvene on 18 July for its last session.[33]

- The NLD said it would continue to boycott the National Convention.[34]
- Ethnic armed opposition groups reiterated their opposition to the convention. On 6 June, the Karenni National Progressive Party, the Arakan National Council, as well as the umbrella group National Democratic Front[35], rejected the legitimacy of the constitution-drafting process and refused to recognize its final outcome.[36] Hkun Htun Oo, imprisoned leader of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, also expressed its opposition to the National Convention.[37]
- The final session of the 15-year-old convention is expected to adopt guidelines covering the remaining seven chapters of the 15-chapter constitution.[38]
- The junta will seek approval of the draft constitution through a national referendum. A parliamentary election will be subsequently held and power will be handed over to a civilian government.[39]
- It is estimated the regime might have spent more than US$3 million to fund the National Convention since its creation in 1993.[40]

[28] DVB (15 Jun 07) Elected NLD member punched in head with knuckle duster
[29] DVB (25 Jun 07) USDA harass injured NLD member
[30] NLM (30 Jan 07 – 30 Jun 07)
[31] NLM (10 Jun 07 – 2 Jun 07)
[32] IMNA (26 Jun 07) Stepping down as junta's puppets from USDA
[33] Reuters (05 Jun 07) Myanmar Plans Final Constitution Meeting In July; AFP (06 Jun 07) Myanmar enters final phase of blinkered constitution
[34] AFP (06 Jun 07) Suu Kyi's party to boycott final round of Myanmar charter talks
[35] The National Democratic Front (NDF) is an umbrella group comprising nine ethnic opposition groups: Arakan Liberation Party, Chin National Front, Lahu Democratic Front, Pa-laung State Liberation Front, Pa-O People Liberation Organization, Wa National Organization, News Mon State Party, Kayan New Land Party, and Karen National Union.
[36] DVB (06 Jun 07) Rebel groups slam plans for final National Convention
[37] Irrawaddy (22 Jun 07) Detained Shan leader to ceasefire leaders: Say no to Convention
[38] AP (05 Jun 07) Myanmar says it's ready to adopt constitution guidelines on road to democracy; The constitution's final seven chapters cover: Elections; Political Parties; Provisions on State of Emergency; Amendment of State Constitution; State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and Capital; Transitory Provisions; and General Provisions.
[39] Irrawaddy (25 Jun 07) Top regime official promises handover to civilian government; Xinhua (25 Jun 07) Myanmar leader outlines process of emergence of civilian government
[40] Irrawaddy (26 Jun 07) Burma's national convention could cost millions, suggests internal document

Militarization continues

The regime's military presence in Karen State intensified in recent months, with the SPDC Army setting up 33 new bases and building helicopter landing pads to facilitate the supply of weapons and ammunition to conflict areas.[41] Unlike previous offensives that ceased at the onset of the rainy season, the regime's military build-up in Eastern Burma continues. During the second week of June, two more SPDC Army battalions totaling nearly 300 soldiers moved from Chin and Arakan States to the frontline in Eastern Burma.[42] In Karen State, there are currently about 55 SPDC Army battalions.[43] The current offensive is causing 25,000 people to face starvation.[44]

Military takeover

As part of its ongoing strategy to replace civilian positions with military personnel, in early June the SPDC's military security affairs department announced the transfer of nearly 2,000 army officers to state and divisional police departments. Earlier this year, the junta had transferred 3,300 military officers to civilian ministries.[45]

HUMAN RIGHTS

ICRC, ILO, and UN thrash the SPDC

On 29 June, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) lashed out at the regime's continued abuses against civilians and detainees. The Geneva-based organization was forced to publicly criticize the SPDC because the junta ignored repeated pleas by the ICRC to discuss the ongoing abuses.[46] The ICRC drew particular attention to:

- the abuse of civilians affected by armed conflict along the Thai-Burma border, including the destruction of food supplies, violence, arbitrary arrest and displacement
- restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian aid and the movement of aid workers.
- the abuse of detainees forced to work for the SPDC army as porters, exposing them to armed conflict, exhaustion, malnutrition, degrading treatment and death;

An ILO Committee report presented to the International Labor Conference in June echoed the ICRC findings. The report said that forced labor is still widely used in Burma, especially by the army.[47] Shortly after the ILO Committee issued its findings, on 21 June, U Kra Aung, a 40-year-old carpenter from the from Thaungtalann village, died while performing forced labor at an SPDC Army camp in Thaungtalann, Paletwa Township, Chin State. A total of 60 villagers were forced to provide labor for the renovation of barracks at the SPDC Army camp.[48]

At the end of June, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator to Burma, Charles Petrie, delivered another body blow to the junta. Petrie was reported as saying that Burma's problems are the result of the SPDC's ill-informed and outdated socio-economic policies, lack of public expenditure, and uncompromising attitude towards the NLD, democracy and ethnic groups. Petrie also criticized the SPDC's restrictions of humanitarian agencies as being due to an "insufficient understanding of what the UN and NGOs are trying to do."[49]

[41] DPA (25 Jun 07) "Militarization" of Karen State picks up pace, rights group warns
[42] Narinjara News (19 Jun 07) Two Western Battalions March East to Battle Karen
[43] Mizzima News (20 Jun 07) Military junta in Nay Pyi Taw bent on genocide
[44] Asian Tribune (26 Jun 07) 25,000 face starvation – appeal made for regional and international action of human rights abuses perpetrated in Burma
[45] Mizzima News (14 Jun 07) Junta transfers 2,000 army officers to police department
[46] ICRC (29 Jun 07) Myanmar: ICRC denounces major and repeated violations of international humanitarian law, http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/myanmar-news-290607!OpenDocument
[47] IPS (15 Jun 07) RIGHTS-BURMA: No End to Forced Labour
[48] Kaladan News (25 Jun 07) Forced labour kills man in Chin State
[49] Irrawaddy (29 Jun 07) UN coordinator's report lists causes of Burma's social problems

Arrests and releases

- **5 June**: SPDC police in Rangoon took 11 HIV patients into custody for participating in prayers at pagodas for the release of prominent HIV/AIDS activist and NLD member Phyu Phyu Thin. [50] The group was released on 8 June.[51]
- **6 June**: Police arrested three youths from Akyab, Arakan State, for displaying anti-Shwe Gas Project posters.[52]
- **7 June**: Police surveillance on prominent human rights activist and NLD member Su Su Nway at the Muslim Free Hospital in Rangoon was removed. She was told that she was no longer being detained. The 34-year-old activist was arrested on 15 May for campaigning for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.[53] [See *May 2007 Burma Bulletin*]
- **12 June**: SPDC intelligence agents in Kyauktaga Township, Pegu Division, detained labor rights activist U Nyan Win.[54]
- **19 June**: SPDC authorities in Taunggoat Township, Arakan State, arrested 25-year-old Maung Kyaw Naing for staging a protest on high inflation. His mother and his sister were also taken into custody later on the same day.[55]
- **21 June**: SPDC police arrested U Maung Maung and U Maung Nyu, two residents of Mong Yu village in Muse Township, Shan State. They allegedly refused to comply with the SPDC authorities' relocation order.[56]
- **24 June**: SPDC authorities and fire brigade members in Rangoon arrested Ko Maung Oo for protesting against the junta's economic policies and calling for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's release.[57]
- **27 June:** SPDC authorities released 51 activists who were arrested and detained in May for participating in a prayer campaign for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.[58] [See *May 2007 Burma Bulletin*]

Drug cultivation: up or down?

- On 26 June, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released its annual drug report which stated that Burma remained the world's second-largest opium producer and the largest producer of methamphetamines in Southeast Asia.[59]
- The UNODC report claimed that Burma's poppy cultivation fell 34% last year to 21,500 hectares.[60] Despite the reduction in area under cultivation, increased yields kept opium production in 2006 nearly the same as 2005.[61]
- However, a recent report issued by the Shan Herald Agency for News (SHAN) is highly critical of some of the conclusions drawn by the UNODC. The SHAN report stated that a random survey in late 2006 showed that several areas designated as "poppy-free" by the UNODC in their October 2006 report were actually still growing poppies under the direct patronage of the SPDC Army.[62]

[50] Irrawaddy (07 June 07) HIV/AIDS Activists Detained in Rangoon; DVB (06 Jun 07) Eleven HIV-positive activists detained by military
[51] Washington Post (08 Jun 07) Myanmar: HIV-Positive Activists Released
[52] Kaladan News (08 Jun 07) Arakan State under military control
[53] IHT (07 Jun 07) Myanmar frees prominent human rights activist on health grounds
[54] DVB (13 Jun 07) Legal activist arrested by Burmese intelligence
[55] Mizzima News (20 Jun 07) Mother and sister of solo protester also arrested
[56] Kachin News Group (21 Jun 07) Police arrest two residents in Mong Yu; Kachin News Group (25 Jun 07) Mong Yu residents pressurized to relocate in three days
[57] DVB (27 Jun 07) Solo demonstrators take to Rangoon streets
[58] Irrawaddy (28 Jun 07) "Free Suu Kyi" campaigners released; Mizzima News (28 Jun 07) Junta frees 51 activists, continues to detain HIV worker.
[59] Daily Times (Pakistan) (27 Jun 07) Myanmar burns drugs worth $272.5m; DVB (26 Jun 07) Burma opium production levels stable, says UN
[60] Irrawaddy (26 Jun 07) UN agency reports big fall in Burma opium poppy cultivation
[61] DVB (26 Jun 07) Burma opium production levels stable, says UN
[62] Mizzima News (27 Jun 07) Conflicting reports on Burma's drug production

Karen State

Repeated clashes between Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), the SPDC Army and the SPDC-surrogate Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) continued throughout the month. On 9 June, during a fire fight between KNLA and DKBA forces, a man and a three-year-old child were killed and several others were wounded when artillery shells hit Sit Hmudan Haung Asu Village near the Burma border town of Myawaddy.[63]

Karenni State

The Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) claimed responsibility for a 22 June attack on a bus traveling from Mawchi to the Karenni State Capital of Loikaw. Seventeen people were reportedly killed and eight others wounded in the attack. According to the KNPP, the dead were from the junta-sponsored Karenni National People's Liberation Front (KNPLF) that had commandeered a civilian bus to transport troops, a common tactic to avoid attack.[64]

SPDC targets Mon cultural groups

On 6 June, it was reported that the SPDC failed to renew operation permits for five local cultural organizations in southern Burma. A member of the Moulmein Mon Literature and Culture Sub-Committee (MLCC) said that the MLCC, the Kyaikmaraw's Mon Literature, the Culture Committee, and three other local organizations in the area were affected by the decision.[65]

DISPLACEMENT

World Refugee Day in Thailand: refugees go home!

On 20 June, Burmese activists around the world marked World Refugee Day. Meanwhile, refugees fleeing SPDC Army offensives continued to seek refuge in Thailand.[66] Since April, at least 4,000 Karen villagers have fled fighting in Eastern Kyaukyi Township, Pegu Division and in Karen State.[67]

- **5 June:** the bodies of three shot Karenni refugees were found near the Karenni Refugee Camp 1, in an area just inside the Burma border.[68]
- **6 June:** Thailand denied entry to 250 Karen, including many sick children and women, who were fleeing attacks by SPDC soldiers.[69] Days later, 36 refugees from Karenni State similarly fleeing SPDC military attacks were turned away from a refugee camp in Mae Hong Son.[70]
- **8 June:** 10 undocumented migrants from Burma were killed when their truck crashed while trying to escape Thai police.[71]
- **15 June:** Thai authorities arrested 10 IDPs in Karenni Refugee Camp I for entering the camp illegally.[72]

Malaysian thugs crack down

On 25 June, thugs from the volunteer corps RELA arrested 217 asylum-seekers and UNHCR-recognized refugees from Burma in Kuala Lumpur.[73]

[63] DVB (11 Jun 07) Two people killed during Karen rebel clash
[64] Irrawaddy (25 Jun 07) 27 killed in attacks on buses in Burma
[65] IMNA (06 Jun 07) Junta embarks on fresh round of ethnic cleansing
[66] Mizzima News (19 Jun 07) Over a million Burmese to be recognized on World Refugee Day
[67] Kaowao News (02 Jun 07) Burmese military expansion spawns violence and displacement in Karen State
[68] Irrawaddy (05 Jun 07) Three Karenni Refugees Found Shot near Thai-Burma Border
[69] Reuters (07 Jun 07) Thailand pushes back Myanmar refugees
[70] Irrawaddy (13 Jun 07) Over 200 Karennis denied refugee registration; Mizzima News (12 Jun 07) Over 30 ethnic Karennis flee offensive
[71] DPA (09 Jun 07) Ten illegal Myanmar migrants die in police car chase in Thailand
[72] Kantarawaddy Times (22 Jun 07) Ten Karenni refugees arrested to send back by Thai authority
[73] Chin Human Rights Organization (25 Jun 07) Hundreds arrested in Malaysia immigration raids

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

India-SPDC: the inconvenient marriage

India has to stay in the SPDC's good graces if it going to stay in the running for a share of Burma's oil and natural gas resources. But the issue of increased instability along the Indo-Burma border continues to be a serious impediment to good relations between the two countries.

On 4 June, a group of unidentified insurgents operating inside Burma opened fire on the India-Burma border town of Moreh.[74] Eleven people from the Kuki and Meitei communities were killed in the attack.[75] As a result of the incident, traffic and trading ground to a halt for 10 days along the Moreh section of the India-Burma border.[76] Indian border security forces held the SPDC responsible for the incident.[77]

In a continued effort to forge closer ties with the SPDC, on 25 June, media reports indicated India had started to train SPDC Air Force officers at the Indian naval base at Cochin. In addition, India was set to finalize the transfer of three BN-2 Islander maritime surveillance aircraft that was the subject of an agreement made in May.[78] [See *May 2007 Burma Bulletin*] It was also reported that India decided to gift a Russian-made AL-72 helicopter to the SPDC and that four Indian helicopters made by Hindustan Aeronauticals Limited had already been given to the SPDC.[79]

ASEAN: Changing of the guard

Surin Pitsuwan, former Thai Foreign Minister is set to replace current ASEAN Sec Gen Ong Keng Yong at the end of the year. On 20 June, Surin said that the new ASEAN charter could contribute to the democracy movement in Burma. In his prior role as Thailand's Foreign Minister, Surin was known for taking a hard line against Burma's military junta.[80]

EU resolution condemns junta

In a resolution on Burma adopted by 73 votes to 1, Members of the European Parliament condemned the SPDC's oppression of the Burmese people and called for the release of political prisoners.[81]

UN

- **19 June:** the UN Human Rights Council agreed to continue the mandate for a Special Rapportuer on the human rights situation in Burma.[82]
- **21-22 June:** UN special envoy to Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, met with US political leaders in Washington to discuss the ongoing situation inside Burma.[83]
- **22 June:** the UN Security Council appealed for the increased protection of civilian populations, threatened by continued violence, including those in Burma.[84]
- **25 June**: the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, started a five day visit to Burma. The purpose of the trip was to establish a monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations committed against children in keeping with the UNSC Resolution 1612.[85]

[74] DVB (05 Jun 07) Burma-based rebels launch attack on Moreh
[75] Telegraph (21 Jun 07) Manipur heat on Myanmar
[76] DVB (05 Jun 07) Burma-based rebels launch attack on Moreh
[77] Telegraph (21 Jun 07) Manipur heat on Myanmar
[78] Mizzima News (25 Jun 07) India trains Burmese pilots in Kochi
[79] Mizzima News (26 Jun 07) India to train Burma Army on its soil
[80] Irrawaddy (27 Jun 07) ASEAN trade ambitions likely to pressure Burma
[81] EU Parliament (21 Jun 07) Human rights: Cuba, Ethiopia, Burma
[82] Mizzima News (19 Jun 07) UN News Center
[83] Mizzima News (20 Jun 07) Gambari to meet with U.S. leaders
[84] Mizzima News (26 Jun 07) Security Council calls for greater protection of civilians in Burma
[85] Mizzima News (25 Jun 07) UN children's envoy begins Burma visit today

ECONOMY

Shwe Gas goes to China

On 8 June, SPDC Sec 1 Lt Gen Thein Sein met with Bai Enpei, Chair of the Yunnan Communist Party, in Kunming and confirmed that the junta intends to sell the natural gas from the A-1 and A-3 blocks to China.[86]

JUNE CHRONOLOGY

1	Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong says Burma is a problem for ASEAN.
1	ASEAN agrees on the establishment of a human rights council.
1	Petrol stations announce a ban on diesel sales to private companies, causing a 40-fold increase in the black market price.
2	Federation of Trade Unions of Burma, the Federation of Trade Unions-Kawthoolei and the Rakhaing General Workers' Union present a report detailing more than 3,400 cases of alleged forced labor to ILO delegates in Geneva.
2	Thai authorities in Mae Sot start taking fingerprints and computerized photographs of people crossing into Thailand.
3	KNLA forces clash with SPDC Army troops about 10 km south of Mae Sot.
3	SPDC Immigration and Population Department announces it is assistance from the UN Population Fund for the first census in more than 20 years.
4	Representatives from the Arakan Liberation Party, the Karenni National Progressive Party, the Shan State Army-South, the Chin National Front, the Karen National Union and the Kachin National Organization, meet.
5	SPDC acting prime minister, Lt Gen Thein Sein, arrives in Beijing for a five-day visit.
5	SPDC Minister of Information, Brig Gen Kyaw Hsan, meets with a visiting delegation from the China Central Television.
5	SPDC police takes into custody 11 HIV patients for participating in prayers at pagodas in Rangoon for the release of prominent HIV/AIDS activist and NLD member Phyu Phyu Thin.
5	88 Generation Students group criticize Russia and China for not joining the international appeals calling for the release of democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
6	Shan State Army - South burns 1.1 million methamphetamine pills valued at US$825,000.
6	House of Commons of the Canadian Parliament unanimously passes a motion urging for the immediate and unconditional release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
6	SPDC bans five local cultural organizations in Southern Burma from continuing their operations.
6	A 20-year-old villager from Mabeelay Village, Shwegyin Township, Pegu Division has his right leg blown off after stepping on a landmine.
6	Police arrest three youths from Akyab, Arakan State, for displying anti-Shwe Gas projects posters.
6	NLD says it will continue to boycott the National Convention.
6	Karenni National Progressive Party, Arakan National Council, and umbrella group National Democratic Front express their opposition to the National Convention.
7	SPDC releases prominent human rights activist and NLD member Su Su Nway.
7	Pegu Division's Police Commander announces the confiscation of 4,894 acres of farmland in Kangyi village.
9	Artillery shells fired into the Sit Hmudan Haung Asu Village during a clash between forces from the KNU and DKBA kill two villagers and injure several others.
9	Over 2,000 Indians from Moreh flee to Burma to take refuge after clashes between Manipuris and ethnic Kuki rebels.
9	11 people are killed in ethnic clashes in Moreh, India, prompting authorities to close the border.
9	Township Peace and Development Council in Mudon Township, Mon State orders each rice mill owner to pay 50,000 kyat to support the SPDC Army.
9	More than 20 women members of the NLD are driven out of a pagoda in Rangoon and are stopped from praying for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi by the pagoda management committee members.
10	China-ASEAN Association delegation led by its president, Gu Xioulian, arrives in Burma for a five-day goodwill visit.
10	SPDC Army LIB 380 leaves its base in Minbya Township, Arakan State, for Karen State.
10	Five women members of the NLD praying for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at a pagoda in Zeegone Township, Pegu Division, are targeted in slingshot attacks by an unidentified group.

[86] DPA (12 Jun 07) Myanmar confirms plan to export natural gas to Yunnan, China

11	ASEAN Sec Gen, Ong Keng Yong, says that western sanctions to force democracy on Burma are pointless because the country will survive as long as it is supported by China and India.
11	ILO expels SPDC "worker" representative from International Labor Conference.
11	100 troops from the Shan State Nationalities People's Liberation Front go into hiding in a Karenni Army camp.
12	US State Department's "Trafficking in Persons Report" names Burma as one of 13 countries who do not fully comply with the minimum standards to fight trafficking.
12	SPDC begins its quarterly meeting in Naypyidaw.
12	Local youths kill a police corporal from the Zibingyaung outpost for harassing a local girl, said a resident from Minbya Township, Arakan State.
12	SPDC intelligence agents in Kyauktaga, Pegu Division, detain labor rights activist U Nyan Win.
14	US Senate considers extension of sanctions on Burma.
14	A villager from Thaton Township, Mon State, loses his left leg after stepping on a landmine.
15	Russian Federation Deputy FM, Alexander P Losyukdy, begins official visit to Burma and discusses enhanced bilateral relations with SPDC officials.
15	Manipur chief minister, O Ibobi Singh, says fencing along a portion of the India-Burma border at Moreh will be speeded up to check cross border activities of Manipur-based militant groups.
15	ILO report says forced labor still widespread in Burma.
15	14 SPDC soldiers killed in a battle between SPDC Army and KNLA. One KNLA soldier killed and one wounded.
15	SPDC Army LIB 289 leaves its base in Paletwa Township, Chin State, for Karen State.
15	An unidentified man reportedly linked to the local USDA assaults U Than Lwin, a 70-year-old member and elected Member of Parliament of the NLD in Mandalay.
17	Taiwan Labor Front urges the SPDC to free Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners in Burma.
18	Russian Federation and SPDC agree to promote friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.
18	Karen National Union soldiers clash with joint forces from the DKBA and the SPDC Army in Kawkareik Township, Karen State.
18	Burmese nationals in Delhi stage a demonstration demanding freedom for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
19	29 Canadian parliamentarians, along with fellow citizens, send their best wishes to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her birthday.
19	British Prime Minister Tony Blair calls for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
19	UN humanitarian coordinator and UNDP head in Burma, Charles Petrie warns of a looming humanitarian crisis unless efforts are stepped up to tackle acute poverty, HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.
19	SPDC Army soldiers from LIB 509 shoot and injure an 18-year-old villager from Daw Byar Ku village, Pha Ruso Township, Karenni State.
19	SPDC authorities in Taunggoat Township, Arakan State, arrest a 25-year-old man for staging a demonstration protesting high inflation. His mother and his sister were also taken into custody later on the same day
19	NLD members marking Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday are harassed by the USDA members in Magwe and Sagaing Divisions.
19	Celebrations to mark Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's 62nd birthday are held in various locations across Burma.
19	Junta-backed thugs disrupt Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's 62nd birthday celebrations held at various locations across Burma.
20	Deputy head of delegation, Thierry Ribaux, says the ICRC is preparing to close its field office in Taunggyi, Shan State by the end of June.
20	SPDC acting Prime Minister and chairman of the National Convention Convening Committee Lt Gen Thein Sein announces that the National Convention will reconvene on 18 July for its last session.
20	USDA members harassed NLD member U Than Lwin while he is undergoing surgery at a Mandalay hospital.
21	UN special envoy to Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, meets with US political leaders in Washington to discuss the situation inside Burma.
21	UN Human Rights Council agrees to continue the work of independent experts reporting on the situation in Burma.
21	A carpenter from Thaungtalann village dies while performing forced labor at an SPDC Army camp in Thaungtalann, Paletwa Township, Chin State.
21	KNU forces ambush a vehicle carrying DKBA soldiers. Nine DKBA soldiers are killed and two wounded in the attack.
21	SPDC Army forces kill four KNPP soldiers during clash.
21	SPDC police arrest two residents of Mong Yu village in Muse Township, for refusing to comply with the SPDC authorities' relocation order.

22	US Senate passes resolution condemning the SPDC on the house arrest of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners.
22	UNSC appeals for the increased protection of civilian populations threatened by continued violence, including those populations in Burma.
22	KNPP attacks a bus traveling from Mawchi to Loikaw in Karenni State, killing 17 and wounding 8. KNPP claims those killed were soldiers of the Karenni Nationalities People's Liberation Front.
24	Maungdaw District Court sentences a Na Sa Ka border policeman to three years in prison with hard labor for the death of an army sergeant in a friendly fire incident.
24	SPDC authorities and members of the fire brigade in Rangoon arrest a man for staging a protest over the junta's economic policies and calling for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
24	SPDC acting Prime Minister and chairman of the National Convention Convening Committee Lt Gen Thein Sein says the junta will hand over power to a civilian government after an election to be held in line with the new constitution.
25	China sentences three people to death for smuggling 42 kg of heroin from Burma to China.
25	UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, starts a five day visit to Burma to coordinate UN programs to protect children in the country.
26	SPDC officials burn 900 kg of opium, 74 kg of heroin, about 4 million methamphetamine tablets, and 2.2 metric tons of chemicals used for making drugs. The stash has a total value of US$272 million.
26	UNODC releases its 2007 World Drug Report. Based on 2006 figures, Burma now represents 11% of the world opium poppy cultivation.
26	Senior US and SPDC officials meet in Beijing to discuss human rights issues, including the continued detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
27	SPDC authorities release 51 activists who were arrested and detained in May for participating in a prayer campaign for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
27	US calls for the "immediate and unconditional" release of jailed AIDS activist Phyu Phyu Thinn.
29	ICRC condemns SPDC forced labor practices.
29	Japanese government announces that it will give aid of US$3.8 million for a human resources development scholarship and reforestation project in Burma.

REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN JUNE 2007

"2006 Failed States Index", Foreign Policy magazine
http://www.fundforpeace.org/programs/fsi/fsindex2006.php
The index assesses violent internal conflicts in 148 countries. For the third consecutive Burma's position on the annual Failed States Index rose, indicating declining conditions inside the country. Burma's cumulative score in the 2007 rankings worsened by 2.6 percent, boosting its ranking from 18 to 14, just one position behind North Korea.

"Trafficking in Persons Report 2007", US State Department
http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82805.htm
The US State Department's annual report examines human trafficking around the world, categorizing countries according to the prevalence of the practice. Burma is ranked as one of the bottom most countries.

"Special sitting to examine developments concerning the question of the observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labor Convention, 1930 (No. 29)", ILO Conference
http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/download/yr2007/myanmar.pdf
Contains a summary of developments in forced labor in Burma and the SPDC's contact with the ILO since June 2006, and an outline of the latest developments since March 2007.

"The Gathering Storm: Infectious Diseases and Human Rights in Burma"¸ Human Rights Centre, University of California, Berkeley, and John Hopkins University
http://www.hrcberkeley.org/download/BurmaReport2007.pdf
The report documents how decades of repressive rule, civil war and poor governance in Burma under the SPDC have contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious diseases.

"World Drug Report 2007", UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/wdr07/WDR_2007_3.1.5_myanmar.pdf
Annual report on world illicit drug situation.

"Shan Drug Watch 2007", Shan Herald Agency for News (SHAN)
http://www.shanland.org/drugs/2007/Drug%20Watch%202007.pdf
SHAN's response to the UNODC World Drug Report findings.