

16. Landmines in Burma

16.1 Introduction

Landmines continued to be deployed in Burma during 2006. According to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), only three countries; namely: Burma, Nepal and Russia, continued to use landmines during 2006; with the most extensive use reported to have occurred in Burma.¹ Meanwhile, there is a growing international consensus on the need to ban the use of landmines across the globe. This consensus is reflected both in the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, commonly known as the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT), and in various recent United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions that call for the universalization of this treaty.² The MBT has now been ratified by three-quarters of the world's nations. This growing consensus reflects a common recognition of the destructive and indiscriminate effects of anti-personnel landmines. Landmines can remain functional years after hostilities have ceased, and often inflict injury in situations that might otherwise appear peaceful. Civilians may falsely perceive that their environment is safe following the cessation of conflict, unaware of the concealed threat posed by existing landmines.³

During 2006, the northern Karen offensive which began in late 2005 - described as the largest military offensive against the Karen people since 1997 - continued and increased in range, with landmines continuing to be used as a central part of the military strategy.⁴ Attacks on civilian villages intensified in early 2006, and since then State Peace and development Council (SPDC) army soldiers have deployed massive numbers of landmines throughout the offensive area.⁵

In late 2006, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that since the start of the harvest season in November, SPDC army forces had been “*laying increasing numbers of anti-personnel landmines in front of houses, around rice fields, and along trails leading to fields in order to deter civilians from harvesting their crops*”.⁶ This has led to an increase in civilian casualties and has adversely affected food security. To use starvation of civilian populations as a method of warfare is a violation of customary international law, as codified in Article 14 of the Second Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions. In a report released on 20 September 2006, the Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG) reminds us that “*targeting the livelihoods and food supplies of civilian villagers as a means of undermining the armed resistance is inexcusable and is in direct violation of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions*” and “[w]hile the SPDC has never ratified either of the Additional Protocols, certain articles contained therein are now considered to be customary international law which the SPDC must obey regardless of whether they have ratified the Protocols or not”.⁷ Despite the growing international consensus on the need to prohibit the production and use of landmines, Burma refuses to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty. The Convention, signed or later acceded to by 155 countries and ratified by 153 since its creation in 1997, aims to:

*“put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, that kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians and especially children, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons, and have other severe consequences for years after emplacement”.*⁸

Nor is Burma a party to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects - commonly referred to as the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) - or its Amended Protocol II concerning landmines. More recently, Burma was, once again, one of 17 countries that abstained from voting on 18 December 2006 on UN General Assembly Resolution 61/84 on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Following a similar abstention a year earlier on UNGA Resolution 60/80, the Burmese delegation, for the first time since 1999, made a public explanation, stating that the SPDC is *"in principle, in favour of banning the export, transfer and indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines"*, but that *"a total ban would not lead to a practical or effective solution"* to its concerns of *"national security"* and *"self-defence"*.⁹ The National League for Democracy (NLD) reiterated in February 2006 that should it be allowed to assemble a parliament, it would seek the country's accession to and ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty as *"a matter of national urgency"*.¹⁰

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) has identified at least 17 Non-State Actors (NSA) that have used antipersonnel mines in Burma since 1999, however, some of these have ceased to exist or no longer use mines.¹¹ In August 2006 the Chin National Front (CNF) became the third armed group in Burma to sign a voluntary "Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action", thereby subjecting itself to monitoring and scrutiny by Geneva Call, an international humanitarian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) based in Geneva. The Arakan Rohingya National Organization (ARNO) and the National United Party of Arakan (NUPA) were the two armed groups in Burma previously to have made this commitment to cease the use landmines.¹² According to the *Landmine Monitor*, only six non-state groups continued to deploy antipersonnel mines during 2006.¹³ Please refer to Section 16.6: Situation in the Ethnic Minority Territories below for a list of these groups.



A Karen villager displaying a M-14 antipersonnel mine and the hole that it was removed from beside his home. It has become common practice for SPDC army soldiers to sow villages with landmines to dissuade villagers from returning. [Photo: FBR].

16.2 Landmine Devices

The SPDC has the capacity to domestically manufacture its own antipersonnel landmines in special purpose-built factories located in central Burma operated by the state-run enterprise, Myanmar Defence Products Industries. These factories are capable of producing a number of different types of antipersonnel mines, all of which have seen extensive use throughout the country. These include the MM-1 Stake Fragmentation Mine (SFM) and the MM-2 Blast Mine (BM). The MM-1 is a copy of the Chinese Type 58 SFM (which itself is a copy of the Soviet PMOZ-2 mine), while the MM-2 is a copy of the Chinese-manufactured Type 58 BM, which in turn is a copy of the Soviet PMN mine. They are also believed to be capable of manufacturing a variant of the US-made M-18 'Claymore' Directional Fragmentation Mine (DFM). According to the *Landmine Monitor*, the SPDC-run enterprise, Military Heavy Industries, was reported to have begun recruiting technicians in November 2005 to commence work on producing the “*next generation of mines and other munitions*”.¹⁴ Evidence gathered by KHRG has suggested that the SPDC may also be capable of producing its own Bounding Fragmentation Mines (BFM) similar to the US-manufactured M-16 BFM.¹⁵ In addition to landmines of domestic manufacture, the SPDC has acquired and deployed antipersonnel mines of Chinese, Indian/British, Italian, Soviet, and US manufacture, as well as a number of unknown origin.¹⁶

Throughout 2006, there was a marked increase in the use of the M-14-type antipersonnel landmine, particularly in northern Karen State where the SPDC has been waging a military offensive against the civilian ethnic Karen villagers living there (For more information on the ongoing Karen offensive, see Chapter 8: Ethnic Minority Rights). These mines are of unknown origin yet appear to be a copy of the US-manufactured M-14 blast mine. It remains unclear if the SPDC has begun manufacturing these mines themselves or have been acquiring them on the international arms market. In May 2006, the Free Burma Rangers (FBR) reported that SPDC army soldiers were in the process of deploying 2,000 of these landmines in Toungoo District of Karen State alone.¹⁷ KHRG later reported that seven truckloads of antipersonnel landmines were delivered to Toungoo District in early 2006, and surmised that these may have been the same mines reported by FBR.¹⁸ The copies are reportedly not as well made as those of US-manufacture, nor are they as reliable. A few superficial differences distinguish them from the originals, notably: poor gluing and sealing of the mine casing, the lack of any manufacturing data stamped on the mine, different types of shipping plug and a different placement of the Arm/Safe modes.¹⁹

Various different non-state groups are also known to produce landmines. Many of these are homemade Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) constructed from bamboo or plastic piping packed with gunpowder and ball bearings. The majority of these mines are relatively unsophisticated, utilizing cheap commercially-available alkaline batteries which cause the mine to detonate once an electrical current is established. The batteries typically expire after about six months (at the most), at which time the mine is rendered ineffective without a power source to arm it. However, according to the ICBL, the junta-aligned United Wa State Army (UWSA) manufactures their own factory-produced PMN-type blast mine similar, if not identical, to the SPDC-manufactured MM-2 blast mine in a munitions factory formerly operated by the Communist Party of Burma (CPB). According to the report, the factory is located near the headwaters of the Kham River to the west of Pahsang in Shan State and is allegedly able to produce its own landmines and ammunition.²⁰

Other non-state groups reported to produce their own blast and fragmentation mines include the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), the Chin National Army (CNA) and the Karenni Army (KA). Some of these groups also have the capacity to produce claymore-type directional fragmentation mines and mines incorporating anti-handling devices.²¹ Additional to manufacturing their own landmines and IEDs, armed non-state actors (NSA) in Burma also acquire mines by lifting SPDC-laid mines from the ground, seizing SPDC stocks during attacks, and from the clandestine arms market. Many of the NSAs that have signed ceasefire deals with the SPDC still possess and deploy antipersonnel landmines.²²



A Burmese-made MM-1 stake fragmentation mine deployed by SPDC army forces in Karen State during 2006. The tripwire used to activate the mine can be clearly seen in the top right-hand corner of the photo. *[Photo: FBR]*.

16.3 De-mining

According to the ICBL there were no official humanitarian mine clearance programs conducted in Burma during 2006. Some irregular de-mining activities have been reported in the *Landmine Monitor* to have occurred in previous years, but there were none were reported during 2006.²³ Similarly, none of the non-state groups operating in Burma conduct systematic mine clearance operations. However, the sporadic de-mining of villages and areas frequented by civilians continues to be carried out by some resistance groups. For example, KHRG reported that KNLA soldiers had cleared over 50 landmines from villages, fields and paths used by civilian villagers in Toungoo District during 2006. According to KHRG, five antipersonnel landmines were located and removed from Wa Mi Per Koh village on 10 October 2006 and a further ten from nearby Hsaw Wah Der village. Without the proper tools or protective equipment, a number of KNLA soldiers have reportedly been wounded in such mine clearing efforts. Some have lost limbs and others have been blinded. However, landmines are being planted in Burma at a rate far greater than that at which they can be removed. As a result, many villagers do not dare to return to their villages and fields for fear of stepping on one of these mines.²⁴

None of the armed groups deploying landmines in Burma systematically map the placements of their mines and few of them inform local villagers of their locations, despite their claims to the contrary. In those rare occasions that local inhabitants are informed of the location of landmines, the descriptions are often vague or incomplete. Villagers may be told that a particular path is mined or that “*we planted ten mines on that mountain*”, but more specific descriptions of mine locations are typically deliberately kept from them. Similarly, the marking or fencing of known minefields is rare. As a result many of the mines that are laid are lost or forgotten. In some areas, local villagers will employ simple marks and warning signs to indicate the presence of landmines. Such markings may include crosscuts on trees, a specific style of woven bamboo fence blocking a path, or parts of a mine or wires left visible in areas suspected of landmine contamination.²⁵ According to a survey conducted by the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) in 2005, six out of every seven (85 percent) displaced households in eastern Burma maintained that they have never observed warning signs which indicated the presence of a minefield.²⁶ Most mines deployed in Burma are generally only discovered after they are stepped on or unearthed by an unsuspecting villager.

16.4 Human Minesweepers

Throughout 2006, there were numerous reports of SPDC army soldiers using civilian villagers as human minesweepers by forcing them to walk in front of the soldiers while on patrol. This practice has been particularly widespread in northern Karen State as part of the ongoing military offensive being conducted there. Should any landmines be planted along their route, the villagers will step on them while the soldiers follow at a safe distance behind. Whenever this occurs, the soldiers often refuse to provide any medical assistance to the victims or compensation to their families. The SPDC typically claims that the mines were laid by resistance forces and thus to them should the families of the victims turn for assistance.

On 5 December 2006, SPDC army soldiers operating under Military Operations Command (MOC) #15 captured an unspecified number of Klay Soe Kee villagers and used them as human minesweepers. The villagers were forced to walk in front of and beside SPDC bulldozers as they were working to repair the motor roads in Toungoo District in northern Karen State.²⁷

On 31 December 2006, 20 Play Hsa Loh villagers were taken to the Tha Pyay Nyunt SPDC army camp in southern Toungoo District and forced to work on the construction of the Mone – Bu Hsa Kee motor road. The villagers were used as human minesweepers and ordered to walk in front of the bulldozers being used to construct the road. The presence of any landmines planted along the road corridor would be revealed should one of the villagers step on one, preventing any damage being done to the bulldozer.²⁸

Furthermore, there have been numerous cases where the SPDC has fined individuals for the destruction of state property after having stepped on an SPDC-laid landmine. Brad Adams, the Asia Director of the international NGO Human Rights Watch (HRW) believes that *“Making the family of a mine victim pay for their death or injury is about as twisted and cruel an irony imaginable. ... Instead of fining victims, the [junta] should stop using mines and provide assistance to all victims.”*²⁹

16.5 Mine Risk Education

Though a number of different organizations have conducted Mine Risk Education (MRE) programs in Burma in previous years, there were no official MRE programs conducted in Burma during 2006. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who had previously conducted MRE in conjunction with “*National Society*” groups in Burma, terminated all of their programs in mid-2005, citing unsuitable conditions to implement such programs. ‘Unofficial’ MRE activities, however, were conducted in different parts of the country during 2006. For example, the NGO Shanti Sena has been conducting MRE trainings in parts of Karen State since early 2005.³⁰

Similarly, a number of MRE training programs were conducted in refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border. These programs were implemented by various different NGOs such as Handicap International (HI), the Jesuit Refuge Service (JRS), and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC).³¹



Copy of an American-made M-14 antipersonnel blast mine used by the SPDC army. These mines have been deployed in their thousands throughout Karen State under the ongoing offensive. This mine and many others like it have been lifted from civilian villages by KNLA soldiers. [Photo: FBR].

16.6 Situation in the Ethnic Minority Territories

Burma's countryside, particularly the border areas dominated by ethnic minority groups, suffers heavily from landmine contamination as a result of the ongoing conflict between the military regime and armed resistance groups. Nine out of Burma's 14 states and divisions have been reported to be heavily contaminated by landmines.³² Some commentators maintain that the deployment of landmines in Burma today is as acute as it ever was in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge. Some of the most severely affected areas are located in the eastern part of the country along the Thai-Burma border where a number of ethnic insurgencies continue to be waged.³³ Karen State is arguably the most heavily mine-contaminated region in the entire country, however, in the absence of any comprehensive and independent surveys, it is very difficult to conclusively state which region possesses the greatest host of antipersonnel landmines.

In areas of ethnic conflict, the SPDC and their allied ceasefire proxy armies have laid landmines in their thousands, allegedly to restrict the movements of armed resistance groups, who in turn also plant landmines. However, landmines affect the lives of civilian villagers far more than they do the combatants. Not only do civilians step on landmines laid in the areas where they live, but they also deprive them of their livelihoods. Many villagers have abandoned their fields and even their homes for fear of stepping on landmines believed to have been planted there. (For more information, see Chapter 5: Deprivation of Livelihood). The ICBL, citing an anonymous source, maintains that as many as 70 percent of landmine victims in Burma are military personnel.³⁴ This figure, however, remains rather questionable. The calculated laying of antipersonnel landmines in areas frequented by civilians has been widely documented. SPDC army soldiers and their allies have been reported to have planted landmines in villagers' fields and plantations, along the banks of rivers where villagers fish or go to collect water, along paths used by villagers, and even in villages after the inhabitants have been forcibly relocated or have fled in advance of an approaching military column. Mines have been documented as have being laid at the entrances of village homes and buildings, in village schools and beside items that the soldiers suspect the villagers will return for. SPDC army soldiers have also been reported to have planted mines beside the bodies of villagers that they have killed, so that when their friends and family come to collect the body for burial, they too will be killed. In each of these cases, it are typically the villagers who suffer the most. In one case originally reported by FBR in December 2006, an IED planted beside a fireplace in the kitchen of a civilian home in Baw Kway Day village in Mone Township of Karen State was triggered, killing three and wounding eight.³⁵ The Thai-Burma border and many of the paths leading to it have also been extensively mined to prevent the flow of refugees out of the country, as has the Bangladesh-Burma border for similar reasons. (For more information, see Section 16.7: Thai-Burma Border and Section 16.8: Bangladesh-Burma Border below).

SPDC army soldiers characteristically deny that they have laid any landmines and claim that the mines were deployed by insurgent groups. In those incidences that they do accept responsibility for deploying landmines, they maintain that they are doing so as "*security measures*" against "*rebel groups*", despite the seemingly obvious fact that the intended targets are members of the civilian population.

SPDC army soldiers and their allies deploy landmines along paths believed to be used by resistance forces, in the perimeter defences of their camps, and in and around areas inhabited by civilians, depriving them of their livelihoods and restricting their movements. Many

villages, once forcibly relocated have been mined by SPDC army soldiers to discourage the former inhabitants from safely returning home. Villagers' fields and plantations have also been mined for the same reasons. This tactic has been used increasingly across the country, but has been particularly evident in northern Karen State. (For more information, see Chapter 13: Internal Displacement and Forced Relocation).

Karen State has long suffered from extensive landmine contamination. Mines have been laid in their countless thousands over the past few decades of the ongoing conflict. More recently, in the three northernmost Karen districts, namely: Toungoo, Nyaunglebin, and Papun districts, where SPDC army forces have persisted throughout the year in their ongoing campaign for control, the deployment of antipersonnel landmines has continued to be practiced. Under the offensive, landmines were laid to isolate Karen hill villagers and restrict their movements as part of a broader campaign to control the area. In Toungoo and Nyaunglebin districts during 2006, landmines were deployed along an extensive north-south line designed to minimise communications and movement of villagers between the eastern hills and the plains lying to the west. This was done to limit the access that hill villagers had to food with the intent of slowly starving them out of the hills and down into areas controlled by the SPDC.³⁶

In May 2006, FBR teams operating in Nyaunglebin District in Karen State found a number of handwritten letters addressed to the internally displaced from SPDC army soldiers. The letters were found nailed to trees, detailing forced relocation orders and stipulated that anyone found in the area after the prescribed date would be shot on site. Landmines were found planted near some of the signs, so that anyone approaching to read the notice would step on one and be killed. A translation of one of the letters is shown below (please see the following page for a photograph of the original):

From *[the]* Burma Army:

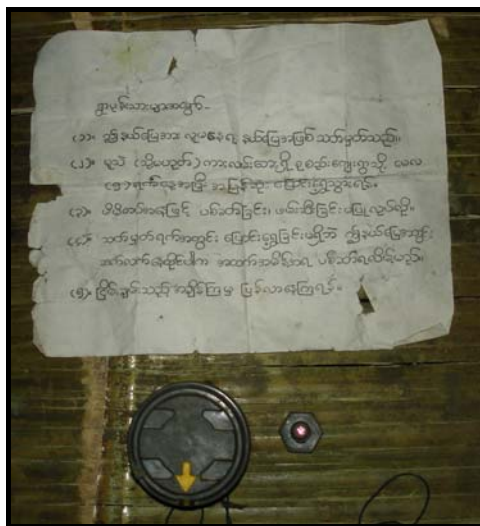
"For the hiding villagers"

- (1) No one is allowed to live in this area.
- (2) People must move to Muthey or beside the car road at the relocation site as soon as possible, by 5 May *[2006]*.
- (3) Our troops do not want to shoot and capture *[the villagers]*.
- (4) By this date (5 May *[2006]*) anyone who stays in this area will be shot. This is a command from above.
- (5) You can come back when this area has peace.
- (6) Karen soldiers, do not do work that God and angels don't like such as putting landmines and setting ambushes. Make peace and live together happily with your family.³⁷

Resistance forces also deploy their fair share of landmines in ethnic minority territories. The majority of such groups control very little territory, and even then, that which they do control can only be done so cursorily. All resistance groups which continue to operate in Burma are grossly outmanned and outgunned by the regime and possess only limited funds and resources and therefore are forced to use landmines to make up for what they lack in both man- and firepower. Costing only a few dollars to manufacture, a single landmine can

effectively stop the advance of an entire column of troops. Resistance groups thus typically deploy landmines to ambush and harass SPDC army units, in the perimeter defences of their camps, and to protect communities of internally displaced persons (IDP) from SPDC army patrols. In Karen State, KNLA soldiers have also given landmines to IDP communities to defend themselves with.³⁸

While the *Landmine Monitor* has identified at least 17 NSAs to have deployed landmines in Burma since 1999, only six such groups were reported as having used landmines during 2006. The six groups listed include the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), the Karenni Army (KA), the Shan State Army - South (SSA-S), the Chin National Army (CNA)³⁹, the United Wa State Army (UWSA), and the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA).⁴⁰ Other armed groups that persisted in deploying landmines throughout 2006 not reported by the *Landmine Monitor* also include the Karenni Solidarity Organization (KnSO), the Karenni Nationalities Peoples' Liberation Front (KNPLF),⁴¹ the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) the Mon National Liberation Army (MNLA), the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), and the Rohingya Army (RA).⁴²



One of several Burmese-language letters found nailed to trees in Nyaunglebin District, Karen State addressed to IDPs from SPDC army soldiers. The M-14 landmine shown was recovered from the ground in front of the sign; planted there to deliberately target the villagers who approached to read the notice. [Photo: FBR].

The following incidences were reported to have occurred in different parts of eastern Burma. The incidents listed here by no means represent an exhaustive list. Except where otherwise explicitly stated, the following incidents all occurred in Karen State.

On 4 January 2006, 5 villagers were wounded when one of their party stepped on a landmine planted by Infantry Battalion (IB) #39 (led by Bo Aung Mya Kyaw) near Shwe Nyaung Bin village in Than Daung Township of Toungoo District. The villagers who were wounded were:

1. Saw Lone Kyaw, 75;
2. Saw Tar Tee Lay, 35;
3. Saw Yaw Han, 25;
4. Saw Aung Leh, 25; and
5. Saw Mo Shay, 50.⁴³

On 6 January 2006, Saw Ko Ku Paw, 40, was killed and his brother, Saw Kwar Hta, 38, was wounded by a landmine planted by IB #124 near the Bayinnaung SPDC army camp in Than Daung Township. The path where the mine was planted reportedly receives heavy traffic from villagers living in the area as they travel to and from their fields.⁴⁴

On 7 January 2006, SPDC Southern Command Strategic Operations Commander #1, Thein Htun informed villagers in the Kler Lah area of Toungoo District that landmines had been planted along both banks of the Kyi River.⁴⁵

On 7 January 2006, SPDC army troops from IB #20, #39 and #124 prohibited people from villages lying to the east of the Day Loh (Thauk Yay Kah) River, in Than Daung Township of Toungoo District, from crossing the river to travel to Than Daung Gyi. Soldiers from these battalions reportedly deployed large numbers of landmines along the eastern banks of the river to deter the villagers from trying to cross.⁴⁶

On 8 January 2006, Bo Zaw Aung of IB #48 planted 13 landmines at Aung Wei Gyi Gone in Toungoo District.⁴⁷

On 16 January 2006, three Karen villagers from Nar Law Po Li village were seriously wounded when one of them stepped on a landmine planted near their village by SPDC army soldiers from IB #60, led by Kyaw Zeya. The villagers' names are:

1. Saw Phillip Po, 22;
2. Saw Na Ta Ler, 23; and
3. Saw Anrnetstone, 18.⁴⁸

On 16 January 2006, SPDC Southern Command Strategic Operations Commander #1, Thein Htun, based at the Bawgali Gyi SPDC army camp at Kler Lah in Toungoo District, arrested the following Wa Tho Ko villagers and forced them to clear landmines and work on the motor road reconstruction:

1. Saw April, 42;
2. Saw Poe Keh, 41;
3. Saw Arkari, 53;
4. Saw Derdar, 54;
5. Saw Ngway Ngway, 29, village pastor;
6. Naw Peh, 18;
7. Naw Kwar Kwar, 19; and
8. Naw Poe, 50.⁴⁹

On 19 January 2006, SPDC army soldiers from IB #48, led by Bo Zaw Aung planted 13 landmines in the vicinity of Meh Tin Tain village in Toungoo District.⁵⁰

On 24 January 2006, it was reported that SPDC army forces had attacked civilians in Southern Karenni State and planted many landmines throughout the region.⁵¹

On 25 January 2006, Than Daung Gyi villager Saw Ba Oo Kyaw, lost one of his legs to a landmine planted by SPDC army troops from IB #20, led by Captain Than Hlaing Oo, on the path linking Than Daung Gyi with Hta Yeh Ploh in Than Daung Township of Toungoo District.⁵²

On 29 January 2006, a villager from Hta Yeh Ploh was injured by an SPDC-deployed landmine placed beside the Day Loh River in Than Daung Township, Toungoo District.⁵³

On 30 January 2006, SPDC Southern Command Strategic Operations Commander #1, Thein Htun, ordered a person from each household in Kaw Thay Der village in Toungoo District to clear the bushes and any landmines from alongside the motor road between Kaw Thay Der and Bu Hsa Kee villages.⁵⁴

On 31 January 2006, SPDC army troops from Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) #439, led by Commander Aung Htun Oo, forced 30 villagers from Peh Kaw Der in Than Daung Township, Toungoo District to clear landmines from the Mawchi motor road from Tha Aye Hta to Pi Mu Koh.⁵⁵

In January 2006, anti-personnel mines were laid in Toungoo District, Karen State in the Htee Lo area by LIB #48 (Captain Zaw Aung commanding), to the east of the Day Loh (Thauk Yay Kah) River by LIB #20 (Captain Than Lai commanding), and in Tha Taw village by unidentified soldiers operating under Light Infantry Division (LID) #66.⁵⁶

In January 2006, 2 civilian villagers were killed and 5 more wounded in Toungoo District after stepping on landmines planted by SPDC army soldiers from IB #124.⁵⁷

Between January 2006 and April 2006, the following civilians stepped on SPDC landmines in Than Daung Township, Toungoo District:

1. Maung Lu Kyaw, male, age 75, Kler Mu Kha village;
2. Saw Yo Ha, male, 25, Tha Nay Kya village;
3. Saw Aung La, male, 25, Na Kyi Sway village;
4. Saw Ta Lay, male, 35, Kler Mu Kha village;
5. Saw Poe Loe, male, 40, Ka Thaw Pweh village;
6. Saw Swan Keh, male, 38, Ka Thaw Pweh village;
7. Saw Pee Lee Moe, male, 22, Ka Thaw Pweh village;
8. Naw Na Tha Kyo, female, 23, Ka Thaw Pweh village;
9. Saw Ba Neh Htaw, male, 18, Ka Thaw Pweh village;
10. Naw Kler Doh Paw, female, 21, Haw Lu Der village;
11. Saw Eh Doh Wah, male, 27, Htee Kaw Per village.⁵⁸

In March 2006, Pa Weh Der Koh villager Saw Lay was killed after he stepped on a landmine planted by IB #20. His 50 year old travelling companion received injuries from the explosion, but SPDC soldiers refused to allow him to seek treatment in Than Daung Gyi, telling him they did not want him to be seen by any “foreigners”. Though Than Daung Gyi has undergone development as a planned tourist destination, Toungoo District still remains off limits to foreigners, so it is unclear which foreigners they could have been referring to.⁵⁹

On 6 March 2006, it was reported that SPDC army soldiers based in Kler Lah and operating under LID #66, forced civilian villagers to rebuild the road and search for landmines along its route between Kler Lah in Toungoo District and Mawchi in adjacent Karenni (Kayah) State.⁶⁰

On 13 March 2006, it was reported that troops from SPDC Tactical Operations Command (TOC) #661 of LID #66 informed the villagers living in the Kler Lah relocation site in Toungoo District that they would plant 30 to 40 landmines in the area.⁶¹

On 13 March 2006, SPDC army soldiers from LIB #20, led by Bo Than Hlaing Oo, planted landmines on a number of different paths to the east of the Day Loh River in Than Daung Township linking the following villages with the Day Loh River:

1. Par Der Kah;
2. Ker Weh;
3. Hta Yeh Ploh;
4. Thi Thaw Kaw;
5. Nga Poh Gyi Lan;
6. Ler Ter Shee; and
7. Dee Dah Koh.⁶²

On 13 April 2006, 30-year-old villager, Saw Htaw Lah was killed after stepping on a landmine while looking for his missing buffalo near Nu Hta village in northern Papun District. It was reported that the mine was planted by an unidentified SPDC army battalion.⁶³



Civilian victims of SPDC-deployed landmines in Karen State during 2006. The SPDC never accepts responsibility for the victims of their mines, and only on very rare occasions do they offer them medical attention. These villagers received medical attention from mobile medical teams typically using basic equipment and no anaesthetic. *[Photo: FBR].*

On 19 April 2006, SPDC army troops from IB #60, led by Bo Kyaw Zeya, forced Maw Pa Der villagers to build a fence around their village. Villager Saw Tar Tu stepped on a landmine in the process and lost his leg and Naw Pee Tha was also seriously injured.⁶⁴

On 2 May 2006, SPDC army soldiers warned villagers that they had laid landmines to protect a gas pipeline passing through Mudon Township of Mon State. A month earlier, an explosion occurred close to nearby Kwan Hlar village on 1 February 2006, creating fear among the SPDC army soldiers that another attack on the pipeline was imminent.⁶⁵

On 4 May 2006, Karen humanitarian relief worker Saw Mu was killed when he stepped on a landmine placed by SPDC forces in the Papun District.⁶⁶

On 5 May 2006, Chana Mongplee, a Thai-Karen surveyor for the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), died after stepping on a landmine while surveying the site of the proposed Hat Gyi Dam on the Burmese side of the Salween River.⁶⁷

On 5 May 2006, Commander Khin Zaw Oo of SPDC LID #66 forced the following persons to clear bushes and mines from alongside the Kler Lah-Bu Hsa Kee motor road in Tantabin Township, Toungoo District. The villages and numbers of persons required to clear bushes and mines were:

1. Kler Lah village, 25 persons;
2. Thit Say Daung village, 15 persons;
3. Kyauk Pone village, 8 persons;
4. Wah Tho Ko village, 10 persons;
5. Yay Tho Lay village, 11 persons;
6. Klay Soe Kee village, 14 persons.⁶⁸

On 7 May 2006, a group of villagers fled from an advancing SPDC army patrol near Naw Law Thay Pwa village in Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District. The soldiers, from LIB #370, posted a letter to a tree after they gave up trying to catch the villagers. The letter, written in Burmese, was addressed to the IDPs, warning them to move to the relocation site adjacent to the SPDC army camp at Muthey or risk being shot on site. One landmine was planted about 15 metres in front of the sign, in the avenue of approach that people would take to read the letter.⁶⁹

On 9 May 2006, 45-year-old Than Lwin from near Mone in Pegu (Bago) Division was injured after stepping on a landmine planted in an area that he had visited on many previous occasions. He maintained that landmine victims were a frequent occurrence in the area.⁷⁰

On 11 May 2006, it was reported that 3 more signs similar to that mentioned above were found in the Mone Township. A landmine was found 3 yards away from one of these signs. See above for a translation of the text contained in one of these letters.⁷¹

On 12 May 2006, an unidentified man was killed by a landmine in the village of Penwagon in Pegu Division. According to official reports, *"insurgents [presumably Karen] had ordered the man to place the anti-vehicle landmine on the dirt road"* to target a military convoy escorting a group of journalists and foreign diplomats to witness an alleged de-mining project. The man was reported to have been killed as he was deploying the mine.⁷²

On 13 May 2006, 24-year-old Kyaw Lwin Oo from Pegu Division lost his right leg to a landmine as he was gathering wild fruits and vegetables in the forest only a kilometre from his village. The doctor treating him claimed that he was the 18th landmine victim that that hospital alone had treated in the few months since the beginning of 2006, nine of which were still being treated at the hospital.⁷³

On 29 May 2006, an unnamed pregnant Karen woman was killed when she stepped on a landmine laid by SPDC patrols in the Nyaunglebin district.⁷⁴

On 2 June 2006, Maung Kyi from DKBA #333 Brigade based at Pow village in Pa'an Township of Thaton District, ambushed and killed 6 KNLA soldiers. Following the ambush, a number of villagers were captured and taken as porters by the DKBA. One unidentified villager was killed by stepping on a landmine while carrying materials for the soldiers.⁷⁵

On 6 June 2006, 43-year-old Maw Poe Saw from T'Meh Kee village in Bilin Township, Thaton District was killed after stepping on a DKBA-laid landmine.⁷⁶

On 19 June 2006, 70 families from 12 villages in the vicinity of Kler Lah in Tantabin Township, Toungoo District were ordered by SPDC army troops to relocate to a newly-built relocation site near Bu Hsa Kee, a short distance to the southeast. After relocating, those villagers who moved to the new site were used as forced labour to clear the sides of the motor road of vegetation and landmines.⁷⁷

On 27 June 2006, 40-year-old Saw Pah T'Pyeh, from Klaw Htah village in Thaton District, died after stepping on DKBA-laid landmine while walking to his field to work. The mine had been laid on the path to his field hut.⁷⁸

On 2 July 2006, DKBA troops led by Tin Win entered Naung Kah Ton, Noh T'La Aw, Ta Ma Daw and Ta Roh Wah villages in Pa'an Township, Thaton District. They violently interrogated villagers, looted houses and businesses, and sewed the adjacent paddy fields with landmines.⁷⁹

On 3 July 2006, Sergeant Kyaw Soe of LIB #565 was killed by a landmine explosion at an undisclosed location reported only as the *"front lines of Karen State"*. Another officer, 4 privates and a civilian porter were also seriously wounded in the blast.⁸⁰

On 10 July 2006, Kyaw Lu Shwe, a 28-year-old villager from Day Baw Kee village in Kyauk Kyi Township, Nyaunglebin District stepped on a landmine at the roadside next to his home. He lost one of his legs in the explosion and suffered severe injuries to the other.⁸¹

On 15 July 2006, 16-year old villager, Saw Ghay Doh Htoo of Saw Tay Der village, Toungoo District lost one of his legs to a landmine planted in his family's betelnut plantation. KNLA soldiers later removed 3 mines from the area reportedly planted there by soldiers operating under Columns 1 and 2 of LIB #568, led by Ko Ko Kyi.⁸²

At 9:00 am on 28 July 2006, Pa Ta Ba of Meh Theh village stepped on a landmine near Ta Paw Mu village, Thaton District while performing forced labour for the DKBA.⁸³

On 25 August 2006, SPDC forces entered the Narkapraw area of Mergui-Tavoy District in search of IDP hiding sites. It was reported that while there, the soldiers planted many landmines in the area to stop villagers' movement.⁸⁴

On 5 September 2006, a 20-year-old villager from Saw Mu Der lost her leg after stepping on a landmine as she was harvesting her paddy. The mine had allegedly been planted by soldiers from IB #2.⁸⁵

On 10 October 2006, SPDC army soldiers from IB #240 and LIB #567 operating under TOC #3 of MOC #16 entered the Saw Tay Der area in Toungoo District and laid landmines. It was reported that KNLA soldiers later recovered 16 of these landmines.⁸⁶

On 22 October 2006, Saw Mya Thaung from Yu Lo village stepped on a landmine laid by SPDC army soldiers operating in Toungoo District under MOC #16. He was reported to have been sent to Tha Pyay Nyunt for treatment.⁸⁷

On 31 October 2006, 2 villagers from Hsaw Wah Der village in Toungoo District were wounded when they stepped on SPDC-laid landmines. Following the explosion, SPDC army

soldiers from MOC #16 captured 2 other Hsaw Wah Der villagers, Saw Sein Win and his brother-in-law and tortured them, presumably in response to damaging state property.⁸⁸

In October 2006, 3 villagers stepped on landmines laid by SPDC army soldiers in Mone Township, northern Nyaunglebin District. The villagers were:

1. Saw Say Nay Mu, 24, Ghay P'Leh Hta village, Kwee De Kaw village tract;
2. Unnamed villager from Play Kee village tract; and
3. Unnamed villager from Play Kee village tract.⁸⁹

On 3 November 2006, SPDC forces laid an unknown quantity of landmines in Nwa Lay Ko village in Nyaunglebin District. KNLA soldiers attempted to clear the area of landmines, but could not find them all. A number of villagers were reported to have stepped on some of the remaining mines upon returning to their homes.⁹⁰

On 7 November 2006, the KNLA removed 9 landmines from Nwa Hta village and another 3 from Thay Kay Lu village planted by SPDC forces. Both villages are located in Nyaunglebin District.⁹¹

On 12 November 2006, Saw Ta Pi Toe, 25, was killed and his travelling companion, Saw Pa Pa Thi, 42, wounded when the pair detonated an SPDC-laid landmine. Both men were from Klaw Mi Der village in Toungoo District. The mine was believed to have been planted by SPDC army soldiers from LIB #508.⁹²

On 19 December 2006, an unnamed villager was killed after stepping on a landmine beside a stream near Ka Mu Loh village in Tantabin Township of Toungoo District.⁹³

On 27 December 2006, a jeep was destroyed as it ran over a landmine on the motor road between Than Daung Gyi and Leit Tho, in Than Daung Township, Toungoo District. One villager was reported killed and three more wounded. While not explicitly stated, it is likely that the jeep belonged to the SPDC and the villagers were forced to ride along on it as human shields to dissuade KNLA soldiers from attacking it.⁹⁴

In December 2006, a an IED planted by SPDC army soldiers in the kitchen of a villager's home killed 3 men and wounded 8 in the Baw Kwey Day area of Mon Township, Nyaunglebin District. The device was planted beside the cooking fire in a civilian's, home.⁹⁵

16.7 Thai-Burma Border

The Kingdom of Thailand became a state party to the Mine Ban Treaty on 1 May 1999. Thailand has not yet enacted comprehensive domestic legislation to implement the treaty, but the ICBL noted that a drafting process was reportedly underway in 2006 that would amend existing regulations in order to implement the treaty. In 2003 Thailand completed the destruction of the majority of its several hundred thousand stockpiled mines, leaving behind 4,970 mines for training purposes.⁹⁶

The Landmine Impact Survey of 2001, which remains the basis for mine action in Thailand, found 139 communities affected by landmines along the Thai-Burma border. Recently landmine contamination along the border is said to have increased as a result of mine-laying by SPDC and ethnic Wa combatants on the Thai side of the border in northern Chiang Rai province.⁹⁷

Many people from Burma consider Thailand a country where they may seek both treatment and refuge from landmines. Yet in May 2006, HRW reported that civilians seeking refuge in Thailand were at risk from landmines planted by SPDC and DKBA forces along the border.⁹⁸ Also in May 2006, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that in the period of the past three months approximately 2,000 refugees had newly sought refuge in Thailand, adding that *“Many are very weak and suffering from illnesses such as malaria after a long, dangerous journey to the camps through heavily land-mined areas”*.⁹⁹

Landmine survivors from Burma seeking assistance in Thailand receive medical care at hospitals in refugee camps and public hospitals in the border provinces of Tak, Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son, Kanchanaburi and Ratchaburi. The Mae Tao Clinic in the border town of Mae Sot (Tak Province) also provides survivor assistance, where in 2006, they made a total of 181 prosthetic limbs, the vast majority of which were for landmine survivors from Burma.¹⁰⁰ The ICRC War Wounded Program, designed to provide assistance to all persons injured by the conflict in Burma also provides aid to victims of the conflict on both sides of the border. During 2005, the Program treated 88 patients in Thai hospitals, 60 of whom were wounded by landmines.¹⁰¹

16.8 Bangladesh-Burma Border

The People's Republic of Bangladesh became a State Party to the MBT on 1 March 2001, and instigated the implementation of the treaty through domestic legislation in August of that year. However, in March 2006 these implementation measures were reported by the government to be still "*in progress*". On 28 February 2005, Bangladesh completed the destruction of its 189,227 stockpiled landmines.¹⁰²

The *Landmine Monitor* reported in 2006 that the Bangladesh-Burma border remains extensively mined. Contrary to these findings, the Bangladesh government reported in 2006 that there are no known or suspected mined areas in Bangladesh. However, it is believed that landmines, understood to have been laid by the NaSaKa (Burmese border security forces) can be found along the 208 km border with Burma in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.¹⁰³ SPDC army soldiers have deployed landmines along the Bangladesh-Burma border since the early 1990s to ebb the flow of Rohingya refugees fleeing Arakan State into Bangladesh. The SPDC, however, has claimed that these mines were laid to prevent the movement of resistance forces and the smuggling of weapons across the border.¹⁰⁴

Bangladeshi Border Security Forces (BSF) have also been reported to have recovered antipersonnel and anti-vehicle mines from the bases of armed Burmese insurgent groups in the Naikongchari area of Bandarban District in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.¹⁰⁵ In March 2006, the Bangladesh Army and the BSF recovered 48 antipersonnel mines. A photograph of this seizure published in a Chittagong newspaper showed 11 Burmese-made MM-1 mines and 21 Burmese-made MM-2 mines among other arms seized.¹⁰⁶



A mobile medical team amputating the leg of a KNLA soldier in late-July 2006 after stepping on a landmine. Following the successful above-the-knee amputation, the medics also managed to save the man's right leg despite the gaping wound in it also caused by the blast. [Photo: KHRG].

16.9 India-Burma Border

The Republic of India has not acceded to the MBT, and on 6 December 2006 was one of 17 countries to abstain from voting on a UNGA Resolution 61/84 calling for its universalization. India continues to attend meetings relating to the treaty, and states its commitment to the “*common vision of a world free of the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance*”.¹⁰⁷ However it also states that the Convention “[does not adequately address the] *national security concerns of States with long land borders wherein minefields at frontiers will continue to form an important component of defensive layout.*”¹⁰⁸ India is estimated to possess a stockpile of between four to five million landmines.¹⁰⁹

Some locations along the border adjacent to the Indian states of Mizoram and Manipur are mined. In Burma's Chin State, parts of Tonzang Township are reported to be heavily affected, particularly near Dawn village, and in Thangtlang Township mines laid along the Tio River have forced local inhabitants to abandon their farmlands. The tri-border area between India, Burma and Bangladesh is also reported to be extensively mined. The former headquarters of the Chin National Front (CNF), known as Camp Victoria was based in this area, and both Indian forces and the CNF say that the area surrounding the camp remains heavily mined. The adjacent area of Paletwa is also mined, and mine casualties have occurred among civilian as well as both SPDC and insurgent forces.¹¹⁰ On 31 July 2006, the CNF became the third armed NSA in Burma to renounce the use of antipersonnel landmines by voluntarily signing Geneva Call's “Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action”. The ban became effective on 1 August 2006.¹¹¹ After signing the document, Thomas Thangnou, Chairman of the CNF, was quoted as saying: “*We have agreed to abide by this commitment in view of the long term consequences that mines have. Mines know no friend or foe and have no boundaries. ... We have seen that mines have killed our enemies as well as innocent villagers and even our troops. And we realize that the impact of mine explosions go far beyond killing enemy soldiers.*”¹¹²

According to the ICBL, one person was killed and four injured in March 2006 when one of their group stepped on a mine adjacent to the India-Burma border separating India's Manipur from Burma's Sagaing Division. The mine was allegedly placed by unnamed “*Manipur rebels*” residing on the Burma side of the border. It was reported that Burmese resistance groups have shared mine production technology with resistance groups across the border in northeast India.¹¹³

Endnotes

- ¹ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.
- ² There have been regular resolutions passed in the UNGA in favour of the total ban on antipersonnel mines annually since the introduction of the MBT. These resolutions include: UNGA Res 52/38 (1997), UNGA Res 53/77 N (1998), UNGA Res 54/54 B (1999), UNGA Res 55/33V (2000) UNGA Res 56/24M (2001), UNGA Res 57/74 (2002), UNGA Res 58/53 (2003), UNGA Res 59/84 (2004), UNGA Res 60/80 (2005), and UNGA Res 61/84 (2006).
- ³ Source: *Analysis of the Impact of Landmines in Burma*, Non-Violence International, 2002.
- ⁴ Source: "Burmese Army's Karen attacks 'worst since 1997'", *Irrawaddy*, 25 April 2006.
- ⁵ Source: *Shoot on Sight*, Burma Issues, December 2006.
- ⁶ Source: "Burma: Landmines Kill, Maim and Starve Civilians," Human Rights Watch, 20 December 2006.
- ⁷ Source: *Hunger Wielded as a Weapon in Thaton District*, KHRG, 20 September 2006.
- ⁸ Source: Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, 1997. Available online at: www.un.org/Depts/mine/UNDocs/ban_trty.htm
- ⁹ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Burma/Myanmar Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.
- ¹⁰ Source: *Ibid.*
- ¹¹ Source: *Ibid.*
- ¹² Source: "CNF Ratifies Anti-Landmine Treaty," *Chinland Guardian*, 9 August 2006.
- ¹³ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Burma/Myanmar Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.
- ¹⁴ Source: *Ibid.*
- ¹⁵ Source: "Landmines", in *KHRG Photo Set 2005-A*, KHRG, 27 May 2005.
- ¹⁶ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Burma/Myanmar Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.
- ¹⁷ Source: "Burma Army Launches New Attacks in Western and Northern Karen States", FBR, 15 May 2006.
- ¹⁸ Source: *One Year On: Continuing abuses in Toungoo District*, KHRG, 17 November 2006.
- ¹⁹ Source: "Images Of New Burma Army Landmines," FBR, 5 February 2006.
- ²⁰ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Burma/Myanmar Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.
- ²¹ Source: *Ibid.*
- ²² Source: *Ibid.*
- ²³ Source: *Ibid.*
- ²⁴ Source: *One Year On: Continuing abuses in Toungoo District*, KHRG, 17 November 2006.
- ²⁵ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Burma/Myanmar Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.
- ²⁶ Source: *Internal Displacement and Protection in Eastern Burma*, TBBC, October 2005.
- ²⁷ Source: "Press Release No. 48/06", KNU, 12 February 2007.
- ²⁸ Source: "Press Release No. 51/06", KNU, 14 February 2007.
- ²⁹ Source: "Burma: Landmines Kill, Maim and Starve Civilians," Human Rights Watch, 20 December 2006.
- ³⁰ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Burma/Myanmar Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.
- ³¹ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Thailand Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.
- ³² Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Burma/Myanmar Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.
- ³³ Source: *Landmines in Burma/Myanmar: Cause of Displacement, Obstacle to Return*, Nonviolence International, 15 June 2005.
- ³⁴ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Burma/Myanmar Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.
- ³⁵ Source: "Burma Army landmine/IED Kills Three and Wounds Eight in Mon Township," FBR, 8 December 2006.
- ³⁶ Source: *Without Respite: Renewed Attacks on Villages and Internal Displacement in Toungoo District*, KHRG, 12 June 2006.
- ³⁷ Source: "Three more Ambush Letters Found with Landmines", FBR, 11 May 2006.
- ³⁸ Source: *Forced Relocation, Restrictions and Abuses in Nyaunglebin District*, KHRG, 10 July 2006; *Nyaunglebin district: SPDC operations along the Shwepyin River, and the villagers' response*, KHRG, 9 December 2005.
- ³⁹ Prior to August 2006 when their political wing, the CNF, signed the Deed of Commitment.
- ⁴⁰ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Burma/Myanmar Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.
- ⁴¹ Source: *Without Respite: Renewed Attacks on Villages and Internal Displacement in Toungoo District*, KHRG, 12 June 2006.
- ⁴² Source: *Armed Non-State Actors and Landmines; Volume II: A Global report of NSA mine action*, Geneva Call, November 2006.
- ⁴³ Source: *Without Respite: Renewed Attacks on Villages and Internal Displacement in Toungoo District*, KHRG, 12 June 2006; "Press Release No. 2/06", KNU, 6 January 2006.
- ⁴⁴ Source: *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁵ Source: *Ibid.*

- ⁴⁶ Source: *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁷ Source: *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁸ Source: "Press Release No. 3/06", KNU, 7 January 2006.
- ⁴⁹ Source: "Press Release No. 4/06", KNU, 7 January 2006.
- ⁵⁰ Source: "Press Release No. 3/06", KNU, 7 January 2006.
- ⁵¹ Source: "Update From Northern Karen State, Burma," FBR, 24 January 2006.
- ⁵² Source: "Press Release No. 4/06", KNU, 7 January 2006.
- ⁵³ Source: "SPDC Plants Landmines in Taungoo District", KTWG, 20 January 2006. Accessed on the KTWG website at www.ktwg.org/current_news.html.
- ⁵⁴ Source: "Press Release No. 5/06", KNU, 21 February 2006.
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- ⁵⁶ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Burma/Myanmar Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.
- ⁵⁷ Source: "Burma Junta Plants More Landmines to 'Protect' New Capital," DVB, 1 February 2006.
- ⁵⁸ Source: *Toungoo District: The Civilian Response to Human Rights Violations*, KHRG, 15 August 2006.
- ⁵⁹ Source: *Without Respite: Renewed Attacks on Villages and Internal Displacement in Toungoo District*, KHRG, 12 June 2006.
- ⁶⁰ Source: "Forced Labor in Taungoo District", KTWG, 1 March 2006. Accessed on the KTWG website at www.ktwg.org/current_news.html.
- ⁶¹ Source: "Press Release No. 7/06", KNU, 13 March 2006.
- ⁶² Source: "Press Release No. 9/06", KNU, 13 March 2006.
- ⁶³ Source: "Press Release No. 34/06", KNU, 12 February 2007.
- ⁶⁴ Source: "Press Release No. 13/06", KNU, 26 August 2006.
- ⁶⁵ Source: "Military Authorities Warns Villagers of Landmine Blasts near Explosion Site," IMNA, 2 May 2006.
- ⁶⁶ Source: "Karen Relief Worker Killed by Landmine," *Mizzima News*, 8 May 2006.
- ⁶⁷ Source: "Thai Engineer Wounded by Landmine Planted by Burmese Soldiers," DVB, 5 May 2006.
- ⁶⁸ Source: "Press Release No. 16/06", KNU, 27 August 2006.
- ⁶⁹ Source: "Sign and Landmine Placed to Terrorize Displaced Villagers," FBR, 7 May 2006.
- ⁷⁰ Source: "Landmines Claim More Victims as Myanmar Fighting Rages," AFP, 15 May 2006.
- ⁷¹ Source: "Three More Ambush Letters Found with Landmines," FBR, 11 May 2006.
- ⁷² Source: "Myanmar Man Killed in Landmine Blast near Convoy," AFP, 15 May 2006.
- ⁷³ Source: "Landmines Claim More Victims as Myanmar Fighting Rages," AFP, 15 May 2006.
- ⁷⁴ Source: "New Attacks by the Burma Army," FBR, 1 June 2006.
- ⁷⁵ Source: "Press Release No. 27/06", KNU, June 2006.
- ⁷⁶ Source: *Oppression by proxy in Thaton District*, KHRG, 21 December 2006.
- ⁷⁷ Source: "Press Release No. 29/06", KNU, June 2006.
- ⁷⁸ Source: *Oppression by proxy in Thaton District*, KHRG, 21 December 2006.
- ⁷⁹ Source: "Press Release No. 31/06", KNU, June 2006.
- ⁸⁰ Source: "Landmine Blast Kills Sergeant on Front Lines," *Narinjara News*, 9 July 2006.
- ⁸¹ Source: *Forced Relocation, Restrictions and Abuses in Nyaunglebin District*, KHRG, 10 July 2006.
- ⁸² Source: "Press Release No. 36/06", KNU, 12 February 2007.
- ⁸³ Source: "Press Release No. 35/06", KNU, 12 February 2007.
- ⁸⁴ Source: "Burma Army attacks IDPs in Mergui-Tavoy District, Southern Karen State," FBR, 25 August 2006.
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- ⁸⁶ Source: "Burma Army Abuses During Current Offensive in Toungoo District," FBR, 13 November 2006.
- ⁸⁷ Source: "Five Villagers Killed and Three Wounded in Continuing Burma Army Attacks," FBR, 2 November 2006; "Press Release No. 44/06", KNU, 12 February 2007.
- ⁸⁸ Source: "Press Release No. 46/06", KNU, 12 February 2007.
- ⁸⁹ Source: "Update on Attacks in Nyaunglebin District, Western Karen State," FBR, 13 November 2006.
- ⁹⁰ Source: *Ibid.*
- ⁹¹ Source: *Ibid.*
- ⁹² Source: "Press Release No. 47/06", KNU, 12 February 2007.
- ⁹³ Source: "Press Release No. 50/06", KNU, 14 February 2007.
- ⁹⁴ Source: *Ibid.*
- ⁹⁵ Source: "Burma: Landmines Kill, Maim and Starve Civilians," Human Rights Watch, 20 December 2006.
- ⁹⁶ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Thailand Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.
- ⁹⁷ Source: *Ibid.*
- ⁹⁸ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Burma/Myanmar Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.
- ⁹⁹ Source: "2,000 refugees from Myanmar flee to Thailand after renewed conflict," UNHCR, 24 May 2006.
- ¹⁰⁰ Source: *Annual Report 2006*, Mae Tao Clinic, January 2007.

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¹⁰² Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Bangladesh Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.

¹⁰³ Source: *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁴ Source: *Burma Human Rights Yearbook 2005*, HRDU, July 2006.

¹⁰⁵ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Bangladesh Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.

¹⁰⁶ Source: *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ Source: Statement by Muktesh K. Pardeshi, Counsellor (Disarmament), Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty, Zagreb, Croatia, 28 November 2005.

¹⁰⁸ Source: *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁹ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 India Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.

¹¹⁰ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 Burma/Myanmar Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006.

¹¹¹ Source: "CNF Ratifies Anti-Landmine Treaty," *Chinland Guardian*, 9 August 2006; "Chin Rebels Agree Not to Use Landmines," *Mizzima News*, 10 August 2006.

¹¹² Source: "Chin Rebels Agree Not to Use Landmines," *Mizzima News*, 10 August 2006.

¹¹³ Source: *Landmine Monitor 2006 India Report*, ICBL, 17 October 2006. Though the *Landmine Monitor* credits this information to an article entitled "Woman killed by landmine on India-Burma border", by the *Mizzima News* on 20 March 2006, there is no record of this report on the *Mizzima News* website.