



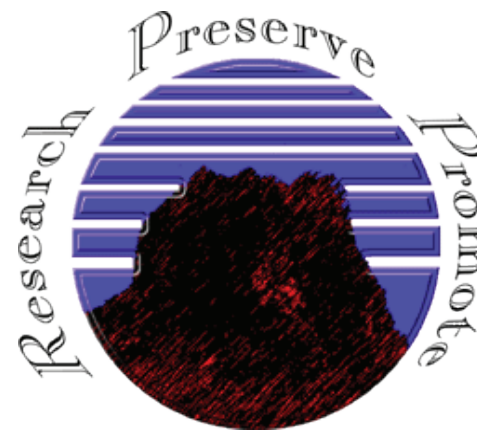
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2007 Overview



Pastor Timothy, Gen. Bo Mya and Nerdah Mya (Richard Humphries)

The year began somewhat precariously. Sadly, the death of General Bo Mya in December 2006 left the playing field open for those individuals who had been seeking an accommodation with the SPDC throughout the previous years to finally realize their intentions. Led by an ex-Bo Mya confidante - Pastor Timothy Laklem - the group, supported by a number of business interests in Singapore and Rangoon – primarily Saw Blah Htoo and Dr Simon Tha - was able to convince 7th Brigade Commander Htain Maung and at least seventy of his soldiers to make an agreement with the Junta in late January.

The inevitable split, the foundations of which had been laid as early as 2003 at a Saw Blah Htoo organized seminar in Singapore, was to dramatically change the shape of the Karen political environment. Seeking to legitimize itself not only with the Karen people but more specifically with the international community the group was able to rely on a number of pro-engagement academics and far-right Christian supporters in the United States. Such groups were able to support its fledgling existence and its largely unsubstantiated claims of widespread corruption and communism within the mainstream KNU leadership.

Initially the Peace Council, which strongly believed that only the Karen military could take responsibility for brokering a ceasefire agreement, was challenged after a number of assumed supporters refused to become involved. Most notably among these was the wife of the late General Saw Bo Mya who declared the organization to be an '...evil set-up'. Faced with a lack of support especially after the majority of military commanders reconfirmed their allegiance to the KNU leadership, the group, under provisional control of Htain Maung and advised by Timothy and Maung Kyaw, had very little recourse but to declare its separation from the Karen National Union as the 'KNU/KNLA Peace Council' by the end of January.

The SPDC allowed the Peace Council, limited control over a small area based around the village of Toh Kaw Koe in Kawkaik Township, but it immediately found itself racked by defections as a number of troops rejoined the KNU. The Burmese regime had arranged a lavish welcoming ceremony for what it characterized as a major success for its 'arm's for peace' program but still found it necessary to use DKBA to augment the ranks (evidence also suggests that a number of teenagers from Mae La were also deceived into joining the ranks – a claim the group denies).

While the political establishment continued to be shaken by the emergence of the new group the situation on the ground in Karen State remained little different from the prior year. While the 7th Brigade leaders were in Rangoon in January seeking a compromise the offensive launched in 2006 continued throughout northern Karen State resulting in yet more people displaced, herded into relocation zones or fleeing from abuses including arbitrary execution, rape and forced labour. While the offensive had remained primarily in the North the SPDC was able to take advantage of the fractured political situation within the KNU to widen the offensive to include the eastern borderlands with Thailand.

JANUARY

An attack against the DKBA's 907 Battalion provided the impetus for a joint DKBA-SPDC attack against the KNLA's 201 Battalion in 6th Brigade. This displaced hundreds of villagers and, in a rare show of political mobilization, caused over 500 villagers in Waley, opposite Thailand's Umphang district, to demonstrate against the renewal of hostilities between the DKBA and KNU.

Further animosity between the Karen groups was also fostered when Ler Moo, the son-in-law of Htain Maung, came under attack whilst travelling along the Moei River. The attack which left Ler Moo and two children injured was blamed by the Peace Council on the KNU. However the allegation was denied by KNU General Secretary Padoh Mahn Sha, and rumours among the local Karen community surfaced that either business interests were behind the attack or it was the result of an internal conflict within the Peace Council itself.

The situation in the 6th and 7th Brigades continued to deteriorate from April onwards as attacks against the KNLA intensified and civilians were forced to flee across the border into neighbouring Thailand. Perhaps the most devastating attack occurred in the second half of April when a joint SPDC/DKBA offensive enabled them to take control of a number of KNLA bases including the 7th Brigade, 101 Battalion, 24th Battalion, KYO and KNDO headquarters, greatly weakening the Karen Liberation movement.

Elsewhere in the country the deteriorating political and economic situation led to mass protests in September as monks spearheaded mass demonstrations against the military regime. The so called 'Yellow' or 'Saffron' uprising was brutally crushed by the military as demonstrations also spread throughout ethnic areas. KNLA units were reported to have attempted to hamper Burmese troop deployment to civic centres while the role of the DKBA became surprisingly ambiguous with widespread, and eventually unfounded, rumours that they were mobilising in support of the monks.

The DKBA, along with other Junta-allied Karen groups, issued declarations in November in support of the regime's seven-step road map and National Convention. The groups, including the above-ground political party Union Kayin League, The Haungthayaw Special Region Group and Phayagon Special Region Group, issued the announcements in response to a statement made by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and released by Ibrahim Gambari. The groups insisted that the NLD did not represent the 'national races' and that no single person or party could solely represent them.

The end of the year saw a further build-up of Burmese troops preparing for the annual dry season offensive; large scale road building through the use of forced labour; continued construction of a number of environmentally destructive dam projects, extensive use of mines, and the targeted destruction of civilian food supplies. The numbers of internally displaced people by October 2007 reached over 116,000 in Karen state and over 9,700 villagers had been forced into relocation sites.

The situation at the local level, which was largely a repeat of the previous year, seemed likely to continue into the next with peace in Karen State seeming to be an ever distant goal. Although a number of Karen groups have made arrangements with the Burmese regime in the hopes of securing at least some limited security for the populace, such goals have yet to be obtained and are based solely on agreements with a paranoid and irrational military government bent on ensuring its continued grip on power at the expense of the people.

"The Karen resistance is misunderstood as principally an armed struggle for autonomy, or federalism. Regardless of all its tenacity, it is only a war in self-defense to prevent elimination, or genocide against the Karen people."

*Saw David Thakerbar
Secretary 2, Karen National Union*



GNU Distances itself from Rangoon mission

A delegation of the Karen National Liberation Army, led by its Seventh Brigade commander, Brig-Gen Htain Maung, is reported to be on its way to Rangoon for a meeting with regime representatives, against the wishes of the Karen National Union.

The KNLA is the military wing of the KNU. Relations between the two groups worsened following a meeting last July between the late KNU leader Gen Bo Mya, who was a close friend of Htain Maung, and a regime intelligence officer, Col Myat Htun Oo. Bo Mya died on December 24, and Myat Htun Oo attended his funeral, while KNU General Secretary Mahn Sha failed to turn up.

Pastor Timothy (far left), Htain Maung, and Dr Paw Paw meet with military leaders prior to orchestrating the split. (KNU/KNLAPC)

In a statement following the death of Bo Mya, the veteran general's son, Col Nerdah Mya, and Htain Maung disavowed all orders from the KNU, accusing its present leaders of abandoning Karen national interests, clinging by all means to power and appointing corrupt officials to the central committee.

Sources at the Thailand-Burma border confirmed that Htain Maung and his group had arrived in Myawaddy, opposite the Thai border town Mae Sot, on Wednesday. Htain Maung's group included Col Paw Doh (left), head of the KNLA Battalion 101, Maj Shwe Ro, second-in-command of Battalion 203, Htain Maung's bodyguard, Mar Ner, and the former head of the First Brigade District, Say Plow Poe.

David Taw, head of the KNU foreign affairs committee, told The Irrawaddy Htain Maung had said he was on his way to meet regime officials whether the KNU liked it or not. The journey was out of order, David Taw said.

David Taw denied there was any split over the issue, however. "He [Htain Maung] is a sincere person and what he is trying to do is for the Karen people."

Sources say the mission to Rangoon, nevertheless, is being followed by the KNU with concern about its purpose and consequences.

Shah Paung
Irrawaddy
03/01/07

KNU's 7th Brigade holds talks with junta

A Karen delegation led by the Commander of the 7th Brigade Brigadier-General Htain Maung have begun discussions for a ceasefire with Major General Ye Myint of Burma's Military Affairs Security in Rangoon.

The controversial Karen delegation led by Commander Htain Maung of the 7th Brigade, under the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), the armed wing of the Karen National

Union, along with nine other officials left for Rangoon on January 3 without the approval of the KNU's Central Committee.



Nerdah Mya (KHCPs Archive)

The KNU has waged guerrilla warfare against the central government since 1949.

“The delegation arrived in Rangoon and met General Ye Myint. The talks will be on for three or four days. As far as I know, they are discussing right now. But we will get the whole picture when General Htain Maung is back here,” Colonel Nerdah Mya, the tactical commander of the KNU's general headquarters battalion told Mizzima. Nerdah Mya is the son of late KNU leader General Bo Mya

When asked which areas will come under the ceasefire if the talks succeed he said, “We will ask for ceasefire in the whole of Karen but we will get the answers on whether it is possible when the delegation is back”, Nerdah Mya said.

Nerdah Mya is fully supportive of the veteran Karen freedom fighter Brigadier General Htain Maung. He said he believes that Htain Maung will work for the whole Karen without surrendering.

The Central Committee of the KNU and other groups are reportedly uncomfortable with the 7th Brigade and its supporters visit to Rangoon.

Saw David Taw, head of KNU's foreign affairs committee told Mizzima “We do not recognize this action and neither do we encourage it. If the 7th Brigade had tried for the ceasefire with the permission of the Central Committee, it would have been good for the image of the party and would have boosted unity. As for the SPDC, they want to divide us and they are taking advantage of the situation in the KNU and its armed wing.”

The KNU arrived at a “gentleman's agreement” with the Burma military junta in January 2004 when a Karen delegation was led by late Karen leader General Bo Mya who died late last month. But KNU expressed its dissatisfaction with the junta after the final meeting in 2006.

The junta launched military offensives in Karen State and Pegu division where several thousand Karen villagers had to flee from their homes to refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border.

Than Htike Oo
Mizzima
05/01/07

Controversial KNU delegation visits Rangoon

The commander of the Karen National Union's 7th Brigade, Brig-Gen Htain Maung, and an accompanying delegation was set to meet Maj-Gen Ye Myint of Burma's Military Affairs Security in Rangoon, KNU officials said on Friday.

“During this trip, [officials] will talk about a ceasefire and ask the regime to stop attacking the Karen people and withdraw their troops from Karen State, the tactical commander of the KNU's General Headquarters battalions, Col Nerdah Mya, told The Irrawaddy on Friday. He provided no other details about the trip.

Htain MaungThe 7th Brigade's visit to Rangoon was not approved by the KNU's Central Committee, and other groups within the KNU have been quick to distance themselves. The KNU sent letters to the Karen Youth Organization and the Karen Women's Organization saying it does not endorse the meeting in Rangoon, according to one high-ranking KYO leader. The letters also encouraged the two groups not to compromise their principles by supporting the negotiations.

Brig-Gen Htain Maung (left) and his group crossed into Myawaddy in Karen State on Wednesday and traveled overland by car to Rangoon.

The accompanying delegation included Col Paw Doh, head of the KNU's Liberation Army Battalion 101, Maj Shwe Ro, second-in-command of Battalion 20, Htain Maung's bodyguard,

Mar Ner, and the former head of the First Brigade District, Say Plow Poe.

The KNU reached a “gentleman's agreement” with Burma's ruling junta in January 2004 during ceasefire talks in Rangoon, led by the late Karen leader Gen Bo Mya, who died late last month.

The informal agreement was later revoked in late 2006 during a meeting with Maj-Gen Ye Myint in Rangoon, which was attended by Col Paw Doh, Lt-Col Jonny, Maj Yin Nu and Maj Shwe Ro.

The Burmese junta's recent offensives in northern Karen State and Pegu Division has led to the displacement of more than 20,000 and sent thousands more to seek refuge in camps along the Thailand-Burma border.

Shah Paung
Irrawaddy
05/01/07

Thai Traders Hope KNU Talks will Succeed

Thai traders look forward to increased border trade in Karen State in Burma and Tak Province in Thailand, if negotiations between the Karen National Union and Burmese officials are successful.

Ampol Chartchaiyareuk of the Tak Province Chamber of Commerce said the situation in Karen State, which lies opposite of Tak province, following the recent death of General Bo Mya may offer a renewed chance for successful negotiations.

“If both groups could reach an

agreement on the problems of illegal immigrants then it would help the refugee problem,” he said. Any political breakthrough could also lead the Burmese government to place fewer restrictions on products from Thailand, he said. Ampol cited a similar situation in Muse, opposite the border with China. He said the example in Muse, where Burmese and Chinese officials jointly worked to solve disputes with the Wa ethnic group, could offer a model on which to proceed. Trade in Muse has been transformed and returned to normal.

However, an agreement may not be possible, because Burmese officials do not want to give additional power to the KNU, the most hardcore ethnic resistance group which now administers affairs within its territory.

Last year, Burmese officials increased import restrictions because, they said, there was a need to try to balance the import and export trade. In addition, high profile corruption cases caused a reshuffle among Burmese custom officials.

Suchart Triratwattana, a trader in Mae Sot, said a breakthrough may be possible because of new KNU leaders who want to make a deal with the military government.

“Previously, the Burmese government worried that the Thai government and some local traders wanted to work with the KNU,” Suchart said. “But if they could end their disagreement, trading and coordination on many projects along the border with Karen State would be smoother.”

Recently, talks with Burmese

officials were held by the commander of the KNU's 7th Brigade, Brig-Gen Htain Maung, according to Col Nerdah Mya, the tactical commander of the KNU's

Sai Silp
Irrawaddy
08/01/07

Partial troop withdrawal by Burma Army from Karen State

The Burmese military junta has promised, albeit verbally, to the Brigade 7 delegation of the Karen National Liberation Army, (the armed wing of the Karen National Union), that it will withdraw some of its troops from Karen State, according to an officer of the brigade.

The oral agreement was arrived at when the KNLA delegation negotiated with the junta in Rangoon early this month, according to the source.

“They will pull out some of their troops from unimportant areas -- Papun and Pa-an districts and Brigade 6. Not all their troops will be withdrawn, but those only in these three areas,” said a major of Brigade 7.

To begin talks and stop attacks by the Burma Army on Karen civilians, the Brigade 7 delegation led by Brigadier Htin Maung set off for Rangoon on January 3 to negotiate with a delegation of the junta including Secretary (1) Gen. Thein Sein, Lt-Gen. Ye Myint and Col. Tun Myat Oo.

The central committee of the KNU had announced earlier

that the trip of the Brigade 7 delegation to Rangoon did not have the consent of the KNU Central Standing Committee.

During the dialogue, the Burmese junta did not mention its military offensives in Taungoo and Nyaunglebin districts, the source added.

“They [junta] will withdraw its troops from three areas only,” said the source. “It is not what the KNU as a whole wants. What KNU wants is the rights for all oppressed ethnic people in Burma.”

He added that the oral promise by the Burmese junta to withdraw some of its troops cannot be totally relied upon because it was not a signed agreement.

The junta has carried out more attacks in Taungoo and Nyaunglebin districts after it declared the cancellation of the oral ceasefire agreement which was reached during negotiations between the junta and the KNU in September 2004.

NMG
10/01/07

Some Burmese troops to withdraw, says Karen delegation

A delegation from the Karen National Union’s 7th Brigade returned on Thursday from a meeting with Burmese officials in Rangoon, who said that the ruling junta would withdraw troops from some KNU-controlled areas. The delegation, led by Brig-Gen Htain Maung, crossed into the Burmese border town of

Myawaddy on January 3 and traveled overland to Rangoon by car.

There, the eight-member delegation met Lt-Gen Thein Sein, secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, and Maj-Gen Ye Myint from Military Affairs Security, who said that the junta would pull out some of its troops from Karen State. “They will withdraw [troops] from areas considered unimportant,” a senior leader of the KNU’s 7th Brigade said on condition of anonymity. “But in important areas, the [SPDC] will continue to control.”

The 7th Brigade leader added that Burmese troops will pull out of an area of Htee Mu Kee village in Papun district in 1st Brigade, where the late Karen leader Gen Bo Mya was born, and some areas in 6th Brigade’s Waley Kee, and 7th Brigade, where the KNLA’s Battalion 202 is based.

SPDC representatives told the delegation that if other KNU brigades wanted the withdrawal of Burmese troops, their leaders would need to conduct similar negotiations in Rangoon.

Following the announcement of the 7th Brigade delegation’s trip to Rangoon, KNU officials said that they were acting independently

of the KNU and did not represent the interests of the group’s Central Committee.

“It seems like the Burmese [junta] is trying to divide us [KNU],” the senior 7th Brigade leader said. “I don’t believe that they will withdraw as they said.” The SPDC’s latest offensive in northern Karen State and Pegu Division has led to the displacement of more than 20,000 villagers, with thousands more seeking refuge in camps along the Thai-Burmese border.



Pastor Timothy Laklem (KHCPs Archive)

The 7th Brigade’s eight-member delegation included Col Paw Doh, head of the KNU’s Liberation Army Battalion 101; Maj Shwe Ro, second-in-command of Battalion 202; Htain Maung’s bodyguard Mar Ner, Say Plow Poe, the former head of 1st Brigade, Pastor Timothy, a former member of the KNU’s Executive

Committee, and two other Karen pastors.

The group arrived back in Shwe Khoko village on Thursday and will hold a press briefing at 7th Brigade headquarters at an unspecified date.

Shah Paung
Irrawaddy
11/01/07

7th Brigade cease-fire talks”against Karen interests” -- KNU CC

The Central Committee of the Karen National Union has dismissed a Karen faction’s attempts to reach a ceasefire agreement with the Burmese military junta, as “against Karen interests”. The KNU Central Committee in an internal circular on Thursday, which was leaked to the media, denounced the cease-fire talks between a group of their leaders led by the commander of The 7th Brigade and the junta. “They are going to ally with SPDC to go into developmental business. It is not the right way, especially without the permission of the Central Committee. Moreover, it is against the interest of the Karen ethnic nationalities,” said Padoh Mahn Sha, spokesperson for the Karen rebels.

The war of statements, between the Central Committee and the faction, followed soon after the Karen delegation led by the Commander of the 7th Brigade, Brigadier-General Htain Maung of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), the armed wing of the KNU, went to Rangoon to meet high ranking officials of the military junta to negotiate peace.

The ceasefire hungry faction released a statement on January 24, which said that they would go ahead with the talks with the junta and would not tolerate any attempt to derail it.



Padoh Mahn Sha La Phan, KNU General Secretary

“It cannot be called talks with the 7th Brigade, it is only an attempt by its commander”, Mann Sharr said.

“Actually, we did not release this as a statement. It was only for members of the Central Committee. But dishonest people leaked it,” he said.

Officials of the other faction were not available for comment at the time of reporting. However, sources in the 7th Brigade described the ceasefire talks as, “so far, so good” and talked about plans to go to Rangoon again in the near future for further discussions.

Sources close to the military junta said that the possibility of a ceasefire agreement with the KNU faction was high, which the junta views as a political success. Meanwhile, fire fighting broke out between KNLA’s No. 16 and 17 battalions on January 14, and the situation is tense.

Twelve Burma Army troops including two officers were killed and nine injured in the skirmish,

KNU claimed.

Karen delegation returns to base

The Karen peace delegation hope to be back in their base on the Thai-Burma border today after a series of meeting with high-ranking officials of the Burmese military junta, sources said.

The 10-member delegation led by Brigadier-General Htain Maung, the Commander of the 7th Brigade of the Karen National Liberation Army, the armed wing of the Karen National Union, held discussions with Burmese junta’s representatives including General Ye Myint of Burma’s Military Affairs Security in Rangoon.

Sources close to the Burmese Army said the Karen delegation also met Major General Ko Ko, the southern military Commander, Brigadier General Thet Naing Win, the southeastern military commander and the First Secretary of the State Peace and Development Council Lieutenant-General Thein Sein.

The cease-fire talks attempted by the commander of the KNLA have been rejected by the Central Committee of the Karen National Union, the strongest ethnic rebel fighting against the government for over five decades.

Sources close to the KNU said that there are major differences among Karen leaders over peace talks but they are trying to sort it out.

Mizzima
11/01/07

Finn says to fight with KNLA in Burma - Paper



A 28-year-old Finn identified only as Mika intends to fight the Burmese military junta in the ranks of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), the largest insurgent group in Burma, the Bangkok Post reported on Sunday.

“The Burma issue and the KNLA are well known in Finland,” Mika told the paper, adding he had served in both the Finnish Defence Forces and the French Foreign Legion.

“Military types are well aware of the problems facing Burmese people and of the brutality of the (Burmese military). I want to join the KNLA to protect civilians.” “Some people help the Karen with their teaching skills. I have military skills, so I am helping with those.”

Mika recently approached the Thailand-based All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), which told the paper it had hundreds of volunteers serving in Burma’s ethnic armies. According to the Bangkok Post, Mika, if accepted into rebel ranks, will probably travel to one of

Htain Maung and son-in-law Ler Moo at Bo Mya’s Funeral (Paul Keenan/KHCPS Archive)

the ABSDF’s training camps in Burma to learn guerrilla warfare tactics and jungle survival skills.

Rifts in KNU seen as bad for security

Faction goes to peace talks with Burma

Rifts have emerged within the Karen National Union (KNU) which could affect border security. The conflicts have surfaced a little more than a month after the death of its former leader Bo Mya on Dec 24, said a KNU officer. If the friction within the KNU continues to widen, it could stall the ongoing peace process between the KNU and the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), Burma’s military junta, the officer said, adding that fresh armed clashes were likely between the two sides along the Thai-Burmese border. Border trade would suffer as a result. The value of cross-border trade at Tak’s Mae Sot district has

peaked to 12 billion baht during the past two years.

Gen Bo Mya was a skilled negotiator who had initiated truce talks with former Burmese prime minister Gen Khin Nyunt, now serving a jail sentence for corruption, in late 2004 in Rangoon.

Gen Bo Mya died at the age of 79 at a private hospital in Mae Sot district from natural causes. Signs of a split in the KNU ranks first appeared when the commander of KNU’s 7th Brigade Maj-Gen Htain Maung led a delegation to undertake a peace dialogue with Burma’s military government on Jan 3, the KNU officer said.

According to an officer of the 7th Brigade, the Burmese military government has agreed to withdraw its troops from non-strategic areas in Karen state, but will keep troops in other key locations.

“However, the 7th Brigade delegation acted purely on its own accord and did not represent the KNU’s Central Committee. It seems that the Burmese are plotting to divide and rule us. I don’t believe they would really pull out,” the KNU officer said. The KNU’s central committee made it clear at a meeting on Thursday that they had not endorsed the dialogue and also condemned it as going against the KNU’s interests.

KNU secretary-general Mahn Sha said the latest negotiations were initiated by Maj-Gen Htain Maung and the delegation was not appointed by the committee.

“They (the delegates) are willing to go along with the SPDC so that they could get an opportunity to expand their businesses in Burma. “This would not be in the best interests of the KNU,” said Mahn Sha, though he insisted the KNU

has not abandoned peace talks with Rangoon.

The talks, however, must be pursued on an equal footing, he said.

The KNU was the first among Burma’s nationalities to rebel against the central government following the country’s independence in 1948 from Britain.

It is one of the last armed groups that continues to actively oppose the military junta, prompting annual offensives in Karen state that have driven an estimated 140,000 civilian refugees to border camps.

By Supamart Kasem
Bangkok Post
28/1/07

KNU 7th brigade prepares for ‘Peace Areas’

The commander of the Karen National Union 7th Brigade, Brig-Gen Htain Maung, is apparently following through with plans to move the brigade’s headquarters while also surveying regions to designate as “peace areas.”

A contingent of KNU/KNLA “peace representatives” toured areas in Karen State together with officers from the Burmese military government and the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, Maj Maung Kyaw, liaison officer of the 7th Brigade, said on Monday. “We went to those areas to survey the situation for those who will go back and stay in the old villages,” said Maung Kyaw. “Some Tatmadaw [armed forces] government officers went with us, and the DKBA was providing our security.” He declined to identify the areas visited.

Maung Kyaw said people who want to return to the designated peace areas can go back any time they choose. “It is not forced relocation,” he said.

Leaders of the 7th Brigade and Burmese junta officers agreed to a cease-fire in Rangoon on January 16. Htain Maung described it as a “peace agreement.”

Because of the recent tension between the KNU and the break-away 7th Brigade, the KNU will not celebrate the 58th anniversary of Karen Revolution Day on January 31, Mahn Sha said.

“We have ordered our people to celebrate the day by their self in areas where they are based,” he said. “Our [KNU] Central Committee will not celebrate this day with a big ceremony like in past years.”

Karen people around the world have taken a strong interest in the standoff between the policies of the KNU Central Committee and some 7th brigade leaders, seeing it as a political wedge dividing the Karen community.

Some reports have speculated that Htain Maung plans to move the 7th Brigade headquarters to Maw Pah Thoo on the Taungyin River near Khoko village, the headquarters of DKBA Special Battalion 999. Maw Pah Thoo is one of the designated control areas of the DKBA, a Karen cease-fire group that broke away from the KNU in January, 1995. However, liaison officer Maung Kyaw said if the 7th Brigade headquarters relocates it would not be to Maw Pah Thoo but rather to Toh Kaw Koe village of Kawkareik Township, Karen State. The Karen hero Ba U Gyi was killed in the village on Aug 12, 1950, a date designated as Karen Martyr’s Day.

Shah Paung
Irrawaddy
29/01/07

Brig-Gen Htain Maung expelled, regiments remain loyal to KNU

The commander of Brigade 7 of the Karen National Liberation Army, Brig-Gen Htain Maung (left) has been expelled by the Central Committee of the Karen National Union but all the regiments are still under the organisation’s control. The stringent action was taken against the commander because he ignored the committee and initiated a dialogue with the Burmese military junta for a ceasefire, KNU sources said.

The Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) is the armed wing of the KNU.

“There are six regiments under the command of Brigade 7,” said Padoh Mahn Sha, KNU secretary general. “None of these regiments are following him [Brig-Gen Htain Maung]. All the regiments are now under the command of Col. Kyaw Nee (Johnny) and Col Tun Kyaing. Some of his [Htain Maung] associates and his family have gone with him.”

Padoh Saw Ah Toe, chairman of Pa-an district confirmed that none of the regiments under Brigade 7 are following the former Commander Brig-Gen Htain Maung, but are very much under the command of the KNU. His family, security personnel and Col. Nerdah Mya (left), a son of late Saw Bo Mya and some of his associates have gone along with

him.

Brig-Gen Htain Maung has been dismissed from the posts he held by the KNU Central Committee at the committee meeting today, said Padoh Mahn Sha.

"He was a member of the Central Committee and a Brigadier. He went on to talk with the junta and reach a ceasefire agreement turning his back on the organization. We, the committee members decided to dismiss him from his posts," said Padoh Maha Sha.

Chairman of Pa-an district, Padoh Saw Ah Toe and Padoh Aung Maung, Col Johnny and Col Tun Kyaing have taken over the duties of Htain Maung.

"What he has done has affected us," said Mahn Sha. "But the regiments didn't support him."

The conflict of interests between the KNU Central Committee and Brig-Gen Htain Maung came in the wake of a delegation of Brigade 7 led by the Brigadier travelling to Rangoon on January 3 and starting a dialogue with the junta for a ceasefire without the consent of the KNU.

Brig-Gen Htain Maung and his group went on to negotiate with the junta while the KNU as a whole was preparing to send a delegation to talk to the Burmese military brass.

The Burmese military junta has agreed to some of Brig-Gen Htain Maung's proposals.

NMG
30-1-07

Who's involved in the split



Brigadier Htain Maung (Htay Mg) - 7th Brigade Commander and KNU Forestry and Mining Minister



Maung Kyaw, Former KNU Representative for Germany and ex-Karen Service Team



Pastor Timothy Laklem, founder Chiang Mai based Tribal Ministries, General Bo Mya confidante



Major Nerdah Mya, H.Q. Battalion Commander, son of the late Bo Mya (would later remain with the KNU)



Ler Moo, son-in-law of Brigadier Htain Maung and business man (assassinated 2008)

FEBRUARY

"The fact that my name is put in the position of vice chairperson, and my children are included as members of this organization is an evil set up."

Thramu Lar Poe

Wife of the Late General Bo Mya and President of the Karen Women's Organisation



**OFFICE OF THE SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
KAREN NATIONAL UNION
KAWTHOOLEI**

Statement regarding KNU-KNLA Peace Council

- Not only have I not known entirely the so-called KNU-KNLA Peace Council that has appeared currently, but I cannot also absolutely accept it.
- The fact that my name is put in the position of vice-chairperson and my children are included as members of this organization is an evil set-up. I do not absolutely accept it.
- The KNU is the mother organization of all the Karen people. I cannot totally accept any acts of dividing it, breaking away from it or acts tantamount to surrender to the enemy.
- I am a central committee member of the KNU. I am also President of the Karen Women Organization (KWO). Accordingly, I will perform my duties firmly. I would like to declare that I will steadfastly follow the policies laid down by the Thirteenth Congress of the KNU.

2/2/2007

Naw Lar Poe
Member of KNU Central Committee
President of KWO
Widow of Gen. Saw Bo Mya

Bo Mya's wife rejects role in Karen splinter group

The wife of the late Karen leader, Gen Bo Mya, has rejected a role in a new KNU splinter group led by Maj-Gen Htain Maung, commander of the 7th Brigade.

The new splinter group released a list of 18 members appointed to the Karen National Union/ Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council on January 31. Htain Maung was named chairman of the new splinter group.

Lar Poe, the general's wife, was named group vice chairperson. The general's son, Col Nerdah Mya, was named secretary-1, while another son, Col Nay Kaw Mya, was named a member of the group.

Lar Poe said she was unaware of the KNU/KNLA Peace Council group.

"The fact that my name is put in the position of vice chairperson, and my children are included as members of this organization is an evil set up," Lar Poe said. "I absolutely do not accept it."

"I would like to declare that I will steadfastly follow the policies laid down by the 13th Congress of the KNU," she said.

Lar Poe said she will continue to perform her KNU Central Committee duties, in addition to serving as president of the Karen Women's Organization. She said the KNU is the "mother organization" of the Karen People, and she cannot accept acts that divide it or are tantamount to "surrender" to the enemy [the Burmese junta].

Nerdah Mya and Nay Kaw Mya could not be reached for comment.

The KNU headquarters dismissed

Htain Maung on January 30, charging him with negligence and failure to follow KNU policies. Htain Maung earlier this year concluded a separate "peace" with the Burmese government, after breaking away from KNU control. Meanwhile, celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Karen revolution concluded on the Thai-Burma border on Monday.

In a statement, KNU chairman, Ba Thin Sein, said, "In the 60 years of life of the KNU, we have seen many traitors to the nation and the revolution. At the same time, there have been many thousands of revolutionary heroes."

The new splinter group was also "condemned" by 67 representatives from 24 Karen organizations that attended a four-day Karen Unity Seminar that ended Sunday. It was held in a KNU control area.

Shah Paung
Irrawaddy
05/02/07

KNU splinter group delegation to identify peace area

The splinter group of the Karen National Union led by Brig-Gen Htain Maung which was negotiating a ceasefire agreement

with the Burmese military junta has sent a delegation to identify a new area of peace to implement developmental plans.

The newly formed KNU splinter group called Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council on February 1 sent a delegation led by tactical commander Maj. Tatmadaw to earmark a 'peace area' which is Hto Kaw Koe village tract where the former KNU leader Saw Bo Mya died. The study trip is to initiate development plans in the area, according to KNU sources.

"It's true that a delegation of 32 representatives were sent to Hto Kaw Koe area in Kaw Ka Reik Township four or five days ago. They'll make this area their base," said Padoh Mahn Sha, general secretary of KNU.

Brig-Gen Htain Maung, former commander of Brigade 7 of the KNU, and his group are currently in their headquarters in Tug Moy Nee near Thauing Yin River.

Regiment Commander Maj Dar Toe of Regiment 21 of the 7th Brigade, which remains under the control of the KNU, confirmed that Brig-Gen Htain Maung sent the delegation to the area for pursuing development plans.



Maung Kyaw and SPDC scouting Taw Koh Koe prior to split (KNU/KNLAPC)

The Burmese junta and some members of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army went along with the delegation led by Maj Tatmadaw to study the 'peace area', said Maj Dar Toe.

Padoh Mahn Sha said the KNU splinter group is being recognized by the Burmese junta as an 'exchange arms for peace' group during the observation trip.

"We've heard that the group [Htain Maung's group] was recognized by the junta as a disarmed group. We've been informed that they are still armed, but are being called the 'exchange arms for peace' group," said Mahn Sha.

Mahn Sha added that the development projects Htain Maung and the junta will carry out will not benefit the people but themselves.

Htain Maung was dismissed from his post as commander of Brigade 7 on January 30 by the KNU Central Committee after he initiated talks for a ceasefire agreement with the Burmese military junta without the consent of the central committee on January 3.

Htain Maung and his group on January 31 formed KNU/KNLAPC with 18 members. He was named the chairman of the new group.

Naw Lar Poe, wife of late Gen Bo Mya, was named vice chairperson while her younger son Col Nerdah Mya is secretary-1 of the group. Her older son Col Saw Nay Kaw Mya, regiment commander of Regiment 202, was also listed as a member of the group.

However, Lar Poe who is the chairperson of Karen Women's Organization rejected her role in the KNU/KNLAPC and pointed out that the enlistment of her and her sons' names was only an attempt to divide her family and the KNU which is her mother organization.

NMG
05/02/07

Karen Journalists Face Threats, Intimidation over KNU Crisis Reports

Media groups based along the Thai-Burmese border claim that threats against them have hindered their ability to cover news about conflicts among leaders of the Karen National Union. Reporters with the Mae Sot-based Karen Information Center and an international broadcaster with the BBC Burmese Service say they have received threats after publishing news reports on the growing strife within the ethnic political opposition group. One international BBC broadcaster who requested anonymity said that Pastor Timothy, the leader of a break-away faction of the KNU conducting talks with the Burmese junta, threatened his life over the telephone after a news report in June 2005. The BBC has since filed its coverage of the Burmese border from London instead of from local staffers.

A reporter with the KIC, who wished to remain unnamed for security reasons, said that the group's office in Mae Sot received threatening letters following its coverage of the KNU in recent months.

According to the reporter, the group has received two threats since August of last year after the KIC published a letter that criticized KNU leaders such as Col Nerdah Mya, the son of the late Gen Bo Mya, Pastor Timothy and others.

The threats were conveyed first through a letter left at a shop near the KIC office and later in person by an unknown individual. The reporter declined to provide details of the person's identity. The KIC was accused by anonymous individuals of encouraging disunity within the KNU and threatened that, as they were soldiers, they could easily shoot the reporters.

"We know that we always have to be careful about our reporting of the news (about the KNU conflicts) and have to be careful when we go out, as we don't know when or where we could face problems," the reporter said. Who is responsible for the threats and the extent of intimidation of local journalists remains unconfirmed, but some speculate that the threats may have come from within KNU, its military wing, the Karen National Liberation Army, or a new break-away faction called the KNU/KNLA Peace Council.

Sources in Bangkok and Mae Sot say that reporters in the area are now handling recent news about the KNU cautiously. They cite the absence of stories on the BBC and the Democratic Voice of Burma about Bo Mya's wife denying the KNU vice chairperson a role on the newly created break-away Peace Council as an indication of how the threats have led to self-censorship among border-based media groups.

Shah Paung
Irrawaddy
06/02/07

KNU promises not to harm defectors

Senior leaders of the Karen National Union said yesterday they would not physically attack members of a newly formed splinter group, despite speculation some members were planning to join forces with the Burmese military.

KNU general secretary Padoh Mahn Sha told DVB yesterday the organisation's armed wing, the Karen National Liberation Army, had already been ordered not to harm former seventh brigade leader Saw Htain Maung or his followers.

Saw Htain Maung released a statement under the name Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council on January 31, formally rejecting the KNU's central working committee and announcing the formation of a new splinter group. "He's still in our territory but as he has worked for our revolution for some time, we'd still give him a free chance to join with the military. We won't harm him," Padoh Mahn Sha said.

The news of Saw Htain Maung's decision to break away from the KNU came just days after he was sacked by the group over his trip to Rangoon for peace talks with the Burmese military without the permission of the KNU's central committee.

"Karen people are disgusted by such an act—bowing before the enemy. He has some people with him now. But those are our people and we don't know when he's going to leave them," Padoh Mahn Sha said.

Saw Htain Maung's January 31

statement also listed 18 people designated take over the existing KNU central committee, including Saw Htain Maung, the wife of the late KNU leader general Bo Mya, Naw Mu Lar Poe, and two of his sons.

But Naw Mu Lar Poe, who is also head of the Karen Women's Organization said yesterday she wanted nothing to do with the



splinter group.

"Appointing me as a vice-chairperson in the mentioned organisation, and the listing of my children's name as well, is an act of injustice and set up," Naw Mu Lar Poe said in a statement. Six other people originally listed as new KNU leaders by Saw Htain Maung have denied involvement with the former fighter, according to a new statement released by the splinter group.

DVB
06/02/07

Break-away Karen Soldiers Return to KNU Fold

A group of more than 60 soldiers from the Karen National Liberation Army's 7th Brigade who joined a break-away faction of the Karen National Union led by Maj-Gen Htain Maung have returned to the fold, according to KNU General Secretary Mahn

Sha.

The general secretary said the group comprised largely low-ranking military commanders but also included Maj Yin Nu of 7th Brigade, a close colleague of Htain Maung and an early member of the splinter group. Htain Maung was dismissed from the KNU's central committee and as head of 7th Brigade in January 30 after organizing negotiations with Burma's ruling State Peace and Development Council without permission of the central committee. In response, he formed a break-away faction known as the KNU/KNLA Peace Council. The more than 60 soldiers—the exact numbers are not confirmed—have left Htain Maung and returned to the KNLA's 7th Brigade, currently under the joint temporary command of Col Johnny and Lt-Col Tun Kyaing.

An official at KNLA headquarters told The Irrawaddy on Thursday that an additional group of soldiers loyal to Htain Maung—estimated at about 60—have gone to Toh Kaw Koe village in Kawkareik Township, Karen State, to establish headquarters for the splinter group.

Toh Kaw Koe has significant historical connections to ethnic Karen opposition forces as the site where Ba U Gyi, the father of the Karen resistance, was killed by Burmese troops on August 12, 1950.

The area is deep in SPDC-controlled territory in Karen State, and additional soldiers wanting to return to the KNU would find it difficult to do so, according to the KNLA official. Despite the risks, five soldiers are known to have returned from Toh Kaw Koe, and

more are expected in the future. Col Nerdah Mya, son of the late Gen Bo Mya, is said to be the secretary-1 of Htain Maung's Peace Council, but this has been disputed by his family.

Lar Poe, Nerdah Mya's mother, has denied any connection to the splinter group. "The fact that my name is listed as the vice chairperson [of the splinter group], and my children are included as members of this organization is an evil setup. I absolutely do not accept it." Nerdah Mya has yet to publicly deny his involvement with Htain Maung and still retains his position as a tactical commander within the KNLA headquarters and commander of Battalion 201. Mahn Sha confirmed that Nerdah Mya has not been dismissed from the KNU but that he is under suspicion. "Because of his father's influence, people [KNU leaders] sympathize with him," Mahn Sha said. "But if he is involved with the growing conflict, nobody will accept him."

According to sources along the Thai-Burmese border, security around the Mae La refugee camp, located opposite 7th Brigade across the border, has been tightened because of concerns that Htain Maung and the soldiers with him might join Burmese military units and attack the KNU. The KNU break-away faction Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, formed in 1995, attacked Mae La camp in 1996 with support from the Burmese army.

Shah Paung
Irrawaddy
08/02/07

Breakaway Group Leaves KNU-



T & B - 7th Brigade troops loyal to Htain Maung prepare to leave (Video capture)

controlled Area

The former commander of the breakaway 7th Brigade of the Karen National Union abandoned a KNU-controlled area along the Thai-Burmese border on Friday, according to reliable sources. Maj-Gen Htain Maung, who formed a breakaway group called the Karen National Union/Karen



National Liberation Army Peace Council on January 31, returned with his family and followers to Toh Kaw Koe village, Kawkareik Township, Karen State. The source could not give the number of people who accompanied Htain Maung. Col Myat Htun Oo of Military Affairs Security in the Burmese military government welcomed Htain Maung and his group in

Myawaddy, opposite Mae Sot in northern Thailand.

The group was then transported to the village in a motorcade of 14 cars, sources said, and the village will probably become the group's headquarters. It was not clear if more of Htain Maung's followers would arrive at a later date.

The general-secretary of the KNU, Mahn Sha, confirmed the return to Burma of the breakaway group.

Other sources said Burmese authorities may hold a formal celebration to welcome the group to Toh Kaw Koe village during the weekend.

On January 30, Htain Maung was dismissed as head of 7th Brigade by the KNU after organizing negotiations with the military government without approval of the KNU central committee.

Irrawaddy
09/02/07

Htain Maung Faction Joins Legal Fold

Brigadier General Htain Maung's

breakaway faction, the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council, entered into an agreement with the Burmese Government yesterday (Karen National Day) at Toh Kaw Kho, Village, Kawkareik. The ceremony, held at the village symbolically associated with the death of the Karen martyr Saw Ba U Gyi, was also attended by the Head of the Southeast military command.

The group, said to comprise between two hundred and three hundred followers, is comprised of, according to KNU sources, a number of the former KNLA commanders troops, family, members of the DKBA, and also villagers who have since joined the aging commander.



Although details regarding the agreement are sketchy it is believed the group are allowed to keep their weapons and will be given defacto control over the area for development purposes, although what form these are likely to take is unclear.

Editor
Karen Heritage
12/02/07

Top Karen commanders pledge loyalty to leadership

Apparently to dispel all existing

doubts about its internal unity, following a recent separate agreement between its 7th Brigade commander and the Burma Army, the Karen National Union has released a 3-page document signed by its top commanders in support of their political leadership last August and September.

The document, signed by 19 officers, “reiterate our full confidence in our current leadership, the EC (Executive Committee) and CC (Central Committee)” Among the signatories were Saw Mutu, General Officer Commanding; all brigade commanders minus Saw Htein Maung, Commander of the 7th Brigade, who in January concluded a solitary deal with the Burma Army; and all 5 battalion commanders from the 7th Brigade.

Saw Hsar Gay”It was an initiative by some GHQ (General Headquarters) officers to effectively counter rumors circulating in the media about the impending split between the movement’s political and military wings,” explained Brig-Gen Saw Hsar Gay (left), who heads the Special Warfare Section. “The GOC himself put down his signature at a later stage in order not to try to influence his subordinate officers.”

The Karen National Union (KNU) has steadfastly insisted that the junta deal with it directly and not with its individual units. Despite a gentleman’s agreement reached in late 2003, the group has been facing a continued military offensive since last February.

Shan-EU

Sun Feb 11, 2007 1:29 pm (PST)

More Karens join ‘Peace Council’ splinter group

More Karens have joined the new Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council that recently “joined hands” with the Burmese regime.

The small group, led by Maj Yin Nu, the former quartermaster of the 7th Brigade and a close colleague of Maj Gen Htain Maung, numbers about 20 people, including three soldiers, according to an officer with the Karen National Liberation Army, who spoke to The Irrawaddy on Thursday. He said Maj Yin Nu was an early supporter of Htain Maung.

However, sources on the Thai-Burmese border, said Yin Nu’s group numbers about 70 people, including about 30 soldiers. The group has reportedly joined the KNU/KNLA Peace Council contingent that has made its headquarters at Toh Kaw Koe Village in Kawkareik Township, Karen State. Sources say there are others in the KNU who also support the peace council group. According to a senior KNU officer, Htain Maung still lives in his home at KNU 7th Brigade headquarters near the Thai-Burmese border in Paan District. Htain Maung was dismissed as commander of the KNU 7th Brigade after his splinter group reached a peace agreement on January 16 without KNU Central Committee approval. He and his supporters formed the KNU/KNLA Peace Council on January 31 and “joined hands” with Burmese military officers on



Following news of Col Nerdah Mya’s agreement to return to the fold yesterday, S.H.A.N. had interviewed the Karen National Union (KNU)’s representative for Europe and East Timor, Member of Central Committee and Head of Special Warfare Section, Brig-Gen Saw Hsar Gay:

SHAN: What was the purpose of this signed document?

HG: The purpose was to unequivocally show where we stood at the time when a lot of speculations about the KNLA wanting to part from the political leadership of the KNU. We all knew that this was not true but at that time it was not prudent to expose who was fabricating these stories which were leaked to the press. It was part of the plan to destabilize the KNU.

SHAN: Was there any doubt about some officers supporting the former 7th Brigade commander?

HG: Not really, we at Headquarters knew that all the HQ officers and brigade commanders were 100 % supportive of KNU central and the leadership. Regarding 7th Brigade I was pretty certain that the battalion commanders were also not supporting the former brigade commander but were

Interview: On current Karen situation - S.H.A.N

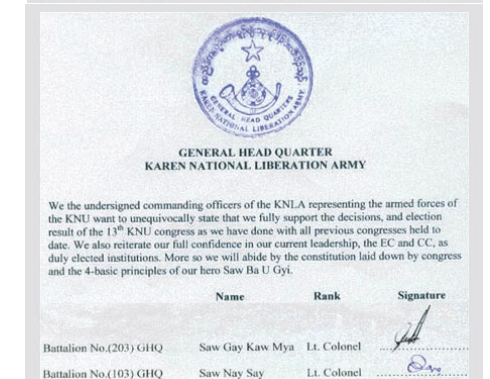
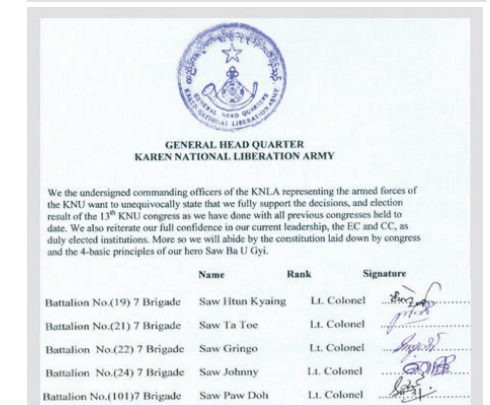
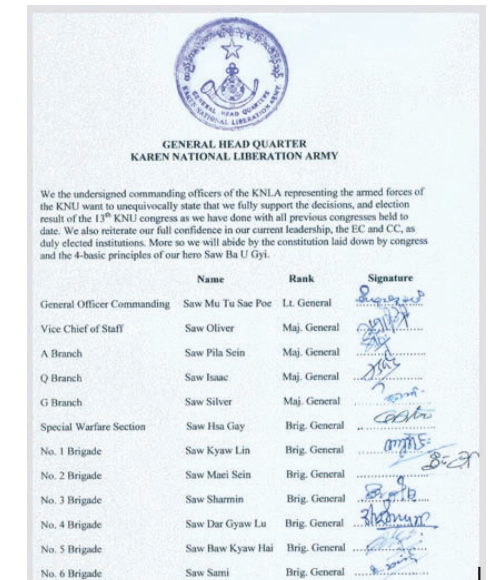
supporting the leadership. I met with the battalion commanders of 7th Brigade at that time and discerned no wavering from their part. 2 IC (Second in Command) and a few company commanders I met at that time were also all in tune. We have professional and dedicated commanding officers in 7th brigade who are politically alert and loyal. They all respect the leaders individually as well as the constitution. Our G.O.C has created an atmosphere of consensus within the KNLA so that while we obey orders but we are allowed to speak our minds and we feel that our opinions are listened to which is very motivating.

SHAN: Why did the political leadership not act sooner when 7th Brigade commander started to question the authority of the central leadership?

HG: It was out of prudence and in the hope that he would see that he was being manipulated and enticed and was acting against the cause and the people .

SHAN: Manipulated by whom?

HG: By people who were out to look for their personal agenda: power or influence , money and limelight where the motivations of those who were steering Htein Maung in that direction . Now he will be abandoned as he became useless to their plans and they will be plotting as how to pursue their objectives. They used and misused the name of our great hero General Saw Bo Mya and



7th Brigade document signed by Brigade commanders loyal to the KNU

are using the names of his wife and sons all in order to try to achieve their objectives.

SHAN: After all this what is the final balance of this whole episode which has created so much consternation and speculation around the KNU ?

MARCH

HG : Well, first of all the KNU and its current leadership have proven to be prudent, cautious yet firm and, above all, through collective leadership and mutual respect the 142 delegates who voted the Central Committee and choose the big 5 of the EC, namely, President, Vice President, General Secretary and Joint Secretaries 1 and 2, have made a good choice if we judge at the performance of our leadership under extremely difficult conditions.

Secondly, it was good to see that our political allies whether the other ethnic nationalities and the Burmese pro - democracy forces, even if they sometimes were worried and confused due to the course of these sad events, have always believed in our ability to handle the situation and supported us politically and morally. It was a victory for what we have stood for six decades!

SHAN: What will the SPDC reaction be you think?

HG: It is difficult to predict but I hope that they will not respond by increasing their military pressure especially in the 7th Brigade area in order to test the new command as this will lead to unnecessary suffering on both sides and as there is no military solution to this conflict but only a political one. We are, as we have always been, ready to negotiate a political settlement but as an organization and not individually, nor geographically and never forgetting Saw Ba U Gyi's 4 principles, our people and our allies.

SHAN: How do you think that this whole episode has affected the cause internationally?

HG: It promoted our cause and all those who oppose the SPDC but naturally it has promoted the role of the ethnic nationalities proving how crucial and important they are in the arena of the Burma political equation. Every time we survive a crisis like this one, we earn more and more respect from the international community and our allies, and convince our enemies that the greater the pressure, the more united we become.

Q: More on Gen Htein Maung?

A: On the 24th and 26th of January, a meeting was called by the GOC. To which Htein Maung replied that he could not attend the meeting and that he had been authorized by the Burmese government to be a mediator and that if anyone wanted to meet the SPDC for peace talks, it could be only through him.

Q: We heard Htein Maung was involved in Hutgyi and cross border contract farming projects initiated by the Thai business sector. Is it true?

A: Yes, it is correct Htein Maung and the people who have been manipulating him are in cahoots with businessmen involved in cross border contract farming and the Hutgyi dam projects, which are in the 7th Brigade operational area of Pa-an district.

Q: Can we now say the KNU has overcome its biggest internal challenge to its existence?

A: I would not call this the biggest internal challenge as the ideological splits at the 3rd

Kawthoolei Congress between the KNUP and KRC and later in 1994 the breakaway of the DKBA from the KNU which were much more threatening than this episode, which although creating some uneasiness has not been a real challenge to the integrity of the KNU as it has really no followers and no support. I think many more of these challenges will arise in the future. They are part of a long-lasting revolutionary struggle where the enemy tries to work on personal ambitions and greed of individual people to try to divide their opponent. We have to be prepared for such events and as a whole support our leadership without personal considerations as long as the leadership acts in accordance with the principles of the constitution, the decisions and principles laid down by of Congress and by the Central Committee.

The present leadership has always practiced collective leadership by allowing free internal discussion and by consulting the CC regarding important decisions not only by calling the regular Central Committee meetings but by calling extraordinary CC meetings so that all matters can be discussed and decided within a proper forum which has given our organization a cohesion. This is indeed remarkable considering the existing hardships and pressure at all levels of our revolutionary society.

"They seem totally content with the peace agreement they have signed and at the same time they are maintaining their independence.. These are the first seeds for sustainable development and hopefully for a lasting peace"

Paul Pasch

Myanmar representative for the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation on the Peace Council Agreement



Burma Army Soldier prepares gift from SPDC - part of the package offered to the KNU/KNLAPC for their return 'to the legal fold'

Karen National Union 7th Brigade Denies Surrender To Myanmar Junta

A Karen National Union (KNU) faction that entered into peace negotiations with Myanmar's junta last month denies that it has surrendered, diplomats and academic who visited the rebel faction said on Friday.

"It was not surrender," KNU spokesman Saw Htain Maung, 77, told a gathering of journalists, diplomats and European academics who on Thursday attended a press conference at Htotkawcoe village, Kawkareik township in the Karen State.

"We still defend the Karen. The Karen decide their own political destiny. And the Karen State must be recognized within the country as well as internationally," Saw Htain Maung told the gathering.

On February 11 the KNU 7th Brigade led by Brigadier General Htein Maung entered into peace negotiations with Myanmar's military regime, prompting some to accuse the faction of surrendering.

Saw Htain Maung said the faction had decided to enter into peace talks with the government because their people were tired of war. "People are the most vulnerable from the lack peace, establishment of which is the responsibility of the whole world," said Saw, who

joined the KNU at the age of 17.

Since signing the peace agreement some 450 7th Brigade troops have moved to Htotkawcoe where the government has provided their families with farm land, livestock and assistance in the construction of churches and health clinics, observers said.

"They seem totally content with the peace agreement they have signed and at the same time they are maintaining their independence," said Paul Pasch, the Myanmar representative for the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation. The foundation organized a visit to the camp by 10 European academics to the Karen camp, including Robert Taylor, an expert on Myanmar's recent history.

"These are the first seeds for sustainable development and hopefully for a lasting peace agreement," said Pasch.

The 7th Brigade is only one faction within the KNU, which has been waging a guerrilla struggle against the central government for the independence of the Karen State since 1949.

There are an estimated 4,000 KNU troops still in the field against the junta.

Brigadier General Htein Maung was a close associate of former

KNU leader Bo Mya, who died in January.

The KNU is one of the last ethnic minority insurgencies to enter into a peace agreements with the ruling junta, which has monopolized political power since it crushed a pro-democracy movement in 1988 leaving an estimated 3,000 people dead.

The State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), as the junta styles itself, allowed a general election in 1990 but then denied power to the National League of Democracy when it won the polls by a landslide.

Instead, the junta has launched a National Convention process to draft a new constitution and prepare for a new election.

“They have not decided yet whether they will send representatives to the next session of the National Convention,” said Pasch, of the KNU 7th Brigade.

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02/03/07
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KNU camp attacked by Burma Army and DKBA troops

A camp of the Karen National Union near the Thai-Burma border was attacked by troops of the Burmese Army and Democratic Karen Buddhist Army early today morning. The combined force of the military junta and the cease-fire pro-junta DKBA launched its offensive on the Maekalawkhi camp, 30 kilometres from Myawaddy close to the border. “The fighting broke out around

5:30 a.m. and continued for about an hour,” said Pado Man Sha, spokesperson of KNU, the ethnic rebel group fighting the military junta for self-determination. “There were about 50 or 60 soldiers from their side. But I don’t have details,” he said. Man Sha was hesitant about ruling

ranks of the Burmese military were struggling under poor economic conditions. “We talked about [the SPDC] soldiers poor food and living conditions while senior leader are at Pyinmana enjoying their privileges. Basic privates among the SPDC troops are not willing to

“We will oppose all kinds of defeatism within the Karen community and cooperate with those who truly have patriotism. We urge every Karen to see the actual common enemy of the Karen people, not to do anything benefiting the enemy and oppose the treacherous tactics of the enemy, using Karen to fight against the Karen.”

KNU statement on new offensives

out further attacks. Causalities and injuries have not been determined yet.

The KNU has been fighting against the Central government for more than five decades and has failed to reach a cease-fire agreement although both sides have tried repeatedly.

Mizzima
08-03-07

KNU leader briefs Oslo meeting on Burma conflict

Colonel Nada [sic] Mya, son of the late Karen National Union leader Bo Mya, addressed a group of prominent politicians and diplomats in Norway on Thursday, wearing full KNU uniform. Nerdah Mya told an audience a seminar at the Grand Hotel in Oslo, organised by the Foundation Northern Alliance, that the lower

fight any more,” Nerdah Mya told *DVB*.

“This shows the effectiveness of sanctions laid against the Burmese government. SPDC forces used to be very strong. There used to be about 600 soldiers in each battalion. But now they can’t afford to feed them there’s only 100 soldiers per battalion.”

Nerdah Mya also said he also held no prejudices against the ethnic majority Burmans despite being locked in a fight against the predominantly Bama Burmese military for autonomy.

“I love Burmese people. I am involved in this fight because I love Burmese people. Not because I hate them. There are times when I talk to Burmese troops on air and we question our reasons for fighting each other,” he said.

DVB
09-03-07



Hundreds displaced by Karen attacks

Between 200 and 500 Karen villagers from Dooplaya district have been forced to flee to Thailand after fresh fighting between the Karen National Union, the Burmese military and Democratic Karen Buddhist Army.

The Burmese military and the DKBA launched a joint attack on the KNU’s armed wing, the Karen National Liberation Army, last Thursday causing casualties in all three groups, KNU foreign affairs spokesperson told *DVB*.

The Burmese military and the DKBA are reportedly trying to seize the KNLA Division 201’s base. Sources in the area told *DVB* late last week that the fighting was expected to continue.

“The SPDC and DKBA troops jointly attacked the camp this morning . . . the fighting is still going on and the villagers don’t dare to return to their homes,” David Taw said.

The DKBA was not immediately available for comment on the fresh fighting. Estimates on how many villagers have been

displaced vary from 200 to 500, with the Free Burma Rangers—a grassroots humanitarian group operating in Karen State—saying about 500 had fled to Thailand. “Local leaders reported that more Burma Army troops are on the way to that area and that the attacks are expected to continue,” an FBR statement on the attacks said.

DVB
11-03-07

Burma Army and DKBA likely to launch fresh offensive

The joint forces of the Burma Army and the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army are gearing up to launch a fresh offensive on the Karen National Union, according to KNU officials.

Posts under battalion 201 of the Karen National Liberation Army, located 30 kilometres from Myawaddy, near the Thai-Burma border might be the target of the combined units of the military junta and cease-fire group, the

KNLA 201 Battalion H.Q. at Waley Kee 2001 (Paul Keenan/KHCPS Archive)

DKBA, said KNU secretary Man Sha.

“I heard they will attack 201.

They may want to control the territory,” he said.

The BBC Burmese service quoted a Thai security official as saying two camps in Myawaddy-Waley Kee and Maekyan would be attacked any time.

Local sources said Thai security forces are concerned about the possible attack and monitoring the situation closely.

On March 8 and 9, DKBA forces backed by the government troops attacked a KNU post. At least 10 people from both sides have been killed.

Almost 200 Karen refugees who escaped the fighting have been given shelter in a monastery on the Thai-Burma border.

Waley Kee is situated 80 kilometres south of Maesot in Thailand and Maekyan is 120 kilometres away.

Than Htike Oo
Mon 12 Mar 2007
Mizzima News

Myanmar military offensive leaves 14

dead, 300 ethnic

Karen flee to Thailand

Clashes between the Myanmar military and ethnic Karen rebels killed 14 people and forced at least 300 civilians to flee into neighboring Thailand, a rebel spokesman and a Thai military official said Saturday.

The Myanmar military and the pro-junta Democratic Karen Buddhist Army launched attacks Thursday against the Karen National Union, said David Taw, a spokesman in Thailand for the KNU, the largest group representing the Karen. Thaw said 10 Myanmar troops and four rebel soldiers were killed in the clashes. He said the military was "trying to pressure the KNU into returning to the negotiating table."

Col. Phanu Wacharopas, a Thai military commander in charge of border districts in Tak province, said 300 people had fled across the border into Thailand.

Phanu said most of the refugees were staying in a Buddhist monastery in Umphang district near the border. He said the fighting had stopped and the refugees would probably return home soon.

A spokesman for the junta in Myanmar, also known as Burma, was not immediately available for comment.

The KNU has been fighting for half a century for greater autonomy from Myanmar's central government.

Cease-fire talks between the KNU and the government broke down in 2004, and the Myanmar army launched a major offensive in Karen State in eastern Myanmar in 2005. Since then, it has repeatedly tried to bring KNU

members to the bargaining table in an effort to split the group. The Thailand Burma Border Consortium, the main aid agency caring for tens of thousands of refugees along the Thai-Myanmar frontier, estimates that in 2006 alone the violence forced 82,000 people to leave their homes.



Villagers Demonstrate fighting in 6th Brigade (KNU/KNLAPC)

Mon 12 Mar 2007
Associated Press

Karen Villagers Demonstrate against Armed Conflict

More than 600 Karen on Sunday took the unusual step of staging a public protest to demand armed groups stop fighting because it threatens the peaceful life of the villagers.

The protest was held at Vallay in Karen State, one of the villages caught up in recent fighting between the Karen National Union and a Burmese junta-backed Karen splinter group, the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army. The village is opposite to Umphang district in Thailand's Tak Province.

The demonstrators wore

traditional Karen dress and carried mattocks, axes and knives, according to witnesses. The group also carried placards that called for peace, freedom to work and the cessation of fighting by armed groups, including the DKBA, the KNU and Burmese government troops. The villagers

also called on armed groups to stop the use of forced labor. One protestor told *The Irrawaddy* on Monday that the demonstration was organized by the leaders of 19 villages in the affected area because whenever fighting broke out, the villagers were victims of the fighting, including deaths and injuries from exchanges of gunfire and from landmines planted by both sides.

One Karen priest in his 30s was killed in the fighting on March 8. The protest took about a half day. At first, the group planned to march to Phop Phra in Thailand, but the Thai army blocked them at a bridge and authorities would not allow them to enter the country. On March 8, Burmese soldiers joined operations with DKBA units and attacked the 201 Battalion of the Karen National Liberation Army near Vallay Kee

village. Several hundred Karen villagers fled to Thailand during the fighting.

According to the KNU, two KNU soldiers were killed and two were injured. It said one KNU soldier was arrested by the DKBA. The KNU claims about 10 DKBA soldiers were killed and another 10 were injured.

Border sources said the recent DKBA attacks were a response to a late February attack by KNLA Battalion 201, which killed one DKBA soldier.

A school teacher in Waley village said that some residents have returned to their homes, but others are still hiding in the jungle because they fear the fighting will return.

"We have to be careful, especially at night, because the situation is not good," a teacher said. "But we are lucky that students are not here any more."

Shah Paung
Irrawaddy
March 19, 2007

Karen Splinter Group Offered Money to Members



SPDC and KNLAPC survey Taw Koh Koe (KNU/KNLAPC)

Karen villagers and former soldiers from the Karen National Union who recently joined a splinter group have returned to the group, claiming they left only after they were promised money by the breakaway faction, members of the group said at a press conference on Wednesday. Seventeen Karen, comprising former residents of Mae La refugee camp and three KNU soldiers, made the claim at a press conference in KNU's 7th Brigade near the Thai-Burmese border. The villagers and soldiers left the KNU in February to join the splinter group Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council, led by former Commander of 7th Brigade Brig-Gen Htain Maung. The splinter group settled in Toh Kaw Koe village in Burma Army-controlled territory of Karen State, where it has since established its headquarters, and has been officially welcomed by Burma's military government.

According to Karen Information Center representative Nan Htoo Htoo, who attended the press conference, the villagers and soldiers were persuaded to follow the splinter group for at least a week by the offer of 500 baht (about US \$15). The group said they were paid less than

the promised amount and told they could not return to KNU-controlled territory. KNU General Secretary Mahn Sha said that about 60 people, including civilians, were asked to follow Htain Maung's breakaway faction when it left the KNU on February 11.

The group of seventeen Karen returned to the KNU in early March. More than 40 more are said to have fled the splinter group since February. Sources close to the KNU and another splinter group, the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, Burmese military officials have ordered Htain Maung to dismiss any member whose political views differ from those of the KNU/KNLA Peace Council.

Shah Paung
Irrawaddy
March 21, 2007

Burma releases two Thai policemen

Tak (TNA) - Two Thai border patrol police who were detained by a Karen Buddhist faction allied to the Burmese military junta since last Thursday were released Monday morning.

The two policemen - Pol Sub-Lt Chavalit Rattanaphan and Pol L/C Prayongyuth Panthang — crossed the border at Waley Village crossing point at the Phop Phra border district of Tak province.

Pol Sub-Lt Chavalit said he had been treated well while being held captive. He also thanked those who helped secure his release.

The two officers were detained



by members of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) last Thursday at the western Thai border district of Sangkhlaburi in Kanchanaburi province.

First Army Region commander Lt-Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha said Sunday that the Third Army Region, which is responsible for security affairs in the North, had been assigned to negotiate the release of the two border patrol police officers.

Gen Sonthi Boonyaratkalin, chairman of the Council for National Security (CNS) and Army commander, said the two police officers were taken to Phitsanulok province for debriefing. He also said that Gen Prayuth will report to him the result of investigation of the incident.

Meanwhile, Col Surin Nilluang, deputy commander of the Surasi Task Force in Prachaup Khiri Khan province, confirmed that Singkhon border checkpoint will reopen at 1 pm Monday after being closed temporarily along with main Burma border checkpoints since Saturday, as a way to pressure Rangoon to release the policemen.

Bangkok Post
26/03/07

DKBA Troops on Parade (Paul Keenan/KHCPS)

Kidnapped Thai Officers Released by Karen Rebel Army

Two kidnapped Thai border patrol policemen were released Monday by the Democratic Buddhist Karen Army after being detained for five days.

Sources say the kidnappings were probably related to a dispute between the DBKA and the KNU army.

According to *Kwekalu*, a Karen online news Web site, a senior KNU official on the border who asked not to be identified said the DKBA detained the two border policemen because it wanted to exchange them for three Karen National Liberation Army officers who work in the DKBA-controlled area.

Police Sub-Lt Chavalit Rattanaphan and Lance Cpl Prayongyuth Panthang were kidnapped by the DBKA on Thursday.

The general secretary of the Karen National Union, Mahn Sha, told *The Irrawaddy* that the kidnapping incident was related to illicit drugs, logging and human trafficking.

Thai Third Army commander Lt-Gen Jiradet Kocharat told a press conference on Monday in Pitsanuloke Province the kidnapped officers arrived home

safely through the coordinated efforts of Thai security forces and local administrative officials of the Township Border Committee of Mae Sot District and Myawaddy Township of Burma. Jiradet said the two policemen were invited to Burma by DKBA officials on Thursday and did not return to their base in Ban Jakae in the Sangkhlaburi District of Kanchanaburi Province.

The officers were reported as kidnapped.

Some border sources had earlier claimed the DBKA kidnapping was an elaborate deal to put pressure on the KNU. The rival groups have frequently clashed since the DKBA broke with the KNU and joined with the Burmese military government in 1995.

On March 8, there was fighting between KNU Battalion 201 and DKBA battalions 907 and 906. DKBA sources said commander Hnoke Khan Hmwe has been summoned to headquarters in Myaing Gyi Ngu, Karen State, regarding the latest incident and recent clashes with the KNU. Security remains tight in the area with numerous border checkpoints remained closed on Monday. Officials said the Thai First Army and the Surasi Task Force, the policemen's unit, are investigating.

Shah Paung & Sai Silp
Irrawaddy
26/03/07

“It’s not a surrender” - KNU/KNLA Peace Council

The KNU/KNLA Peace Council, a splinter Karen rebel group led by Brig-Gen Htain Maung, said it has not surrendered to the



DKBA Leaders meet with Htain Maung
(Video capture)

Burmese Army but has changed its strategy by first striking a peace deal.

Major Maung Kyaw, liaison officer of the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council, said no negotiation can be possible without first reaching a peace agreement. But it does not mean surrendering of arms.

“Our principle is that there can be no dialogue and no development as long as there is continuous fighting. So, we need to find a way to stop this fighting,” Kyaw told Mizzima over telephone. Kyaw added that despite criticism that the KNU/KNLA Peace Council is following a new strategy, it does not mean that “we are surrendering.”

Brig-Gen Htain Maung, commander of the 7th brigade KNLA, the armed wing of the KNU, and a team of delegates on January 3 left for Rangoon for peace talks with the Burmese Army without the approval of the KNU central committee.

Following the trip, the KNU central committee dismissed Brig-Gen Htain Maung from his post for flouting the central committee's orders and trying to negotiate peace with the Burmese military junta without consulting the KNU.

However, Brig-Gen Htain Maung and his group continued the peace process and formed the

KNU/KNLA Peace Council on January 31. The Peace Council also declared that a peace deal has been struck with the Burmese junta and went back to Toh Kaw Koe village, Kawkareik Township, Karen State with its followers. Kyaw said, members of the Peace Council are able to move freely in the Toh Kaw Koe area, where the Karen revolutionary leader Saw Ba U Gyi had died in August 1950, without fear of military attacks and are able to hoist the Karen national flag.

“But we are in no way going to give up our arms,” said Kyaw adding that the word “surrender” used by a few media groups to label the Peace Council, was disgusting.

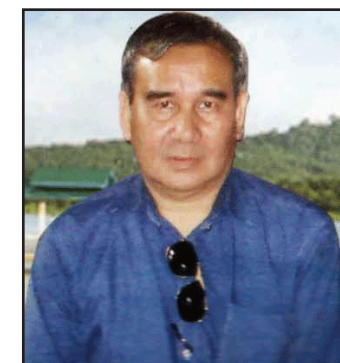
“It’s been 58 years that we have been fighting. This is not child’s play and just to say we are surrendering is ridiculous,” said Kyaw.

Kyaw said following the agreement between the Peace Council and the junta for a peace deal, the lives of Karen people in the area had been peaceful with development projects on the anvil. Currently Brig-Gen Htain Maung is demanding that the Burmese junta build a channel that will supply water to the vast fields in the peace zone, said Kyaw.

Mizzima
30-3-07

Peace Council

People behind the scenes



Saw Blah Htoo, Singapore based
Business man



Dr Paw Paw, wife of Saw Blah Htoo, Singapore based.



Dr Simon Tha, Karen Development Committee, Rangoon based.



Dr Rebecca, wife of Dr. Simon Tha, Rangoon based.

Images: KNLA/PC Calendar 2008

APRIL

'We do not want a war between Karen groups. Our principle is to make peace, that's why we have even reached a peace agreement with the enemy.'

Maung Kyaw, KNU/KNLA DF Liaison Officer



Gen Kyaw Thaung

Funeral of Former Karen Defense Force Leader

More than 300 mourners attended the funeral on Monday of Gen Kyaw Thaung, a former head of the Karen National Defense Organization, who died aged 83 after a two-year fight against cancer. The funeral took place at the base of the Karen National Liberation Army's Battalion 101. Kyaw Thaung, who was born in Pantanaw township, in Irrawaddy division, led the KNDO until ill health forced his retirement in 2004. The KNDO was formed in 1947 to provide security in areas controlled by the Karen National Union.

Pastor Timothy with Ler Moo in hospital after an attack on the boat he was travelling in (KNU/KNLAPC)

KNU/KNLA Peace Council accuses KNU of attack

The splinter Karen rebel group, KNU/KNLA Peace Council has accused the Karen National Union of launching a one-sided attack on its members, including a senior leader of the group on Sunday.

Major Maung Kyaw, Liaison officer of the Peace Council, told Mizzima today, "The attack was deliberate and was planned to kill Col Ler Moo (pictured left with his uncle Brig. Gen. Htain Maung) and his followers." He warned that such attacks in the future could instigate rivalry between the two Karen rebel groups.

A group of armed men on April 1, attacked Col Ler Moo, a senior member of the Peace Council, and

five of his followers, who were traveling on a boat in Thaungyin River along the Thai-Burmese border.

Col Ler Moo, reportedly sustained several injuries on his back and a boy of 12, lost his right eye. The liver of another aged 13, was damaged and he is in a critical condition.

Kyaw said the attack was carried out on the orders of the KNU general Secretary Padoh Mahn Sha. "We have information that Man Sha had ordered Col Johnny to carry out the attack."

Col Ler Moo and followers were attacked near the base of the KNU's 7th Brigade, which is under the charge of Col Johnny, Padoh Saw Ah Toe and Col Htun Kyaing following the dismissal of former commander Brig-Gen



Htain Maung.

"We do not want a war between Karen groups. Our principle is to make peace, that's why we have even reached a peace agreement with the enemy [Burmese junta]," he added.

However, Kyaw said, "If such incidents continued in the future it might be difficult to control members of the Peace Council not to react as it costs people's lives."

Padoh Man Sha, General Secretary of KNU, however, denied all the allegations saying "we don't know anything about the incident."

"Their [Peace Council] claims are baseless. The KNU will never do such things, and how can they prove that it was KNU soldiers who attacked them," Man Sha told Mizzima.

Man Sha said there are a lot of conflicts among members of the Peace Council itself. And between the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) and the Peace Council, led by Brig-Gen Htain Maung, who was removed from the central committee of the KNU for flouting committee rules.

"It is ridiculous to blame the KNU for the attack. Thaungyin River is such a small river in summer, if the attack was by the KNU, no one would have survived that day," Man Shwar told Mizzima.

Mizzima
4/04/07

Over 130 Families Flee to Thailand as Burma Army Attacks

On 7 April 2007, at midnight, the Burma Army, along with the DKBA launched a series of attacks against the Karen (KNU) along the Thai-Burma border north of Mae Sot. The attacks proceeded through the 8th and are ongoing as of 9 April 2007. Eight columns from at least three Burma Army battalions (355, 356, and 357) are involved in the attack. They are accompanied by two columns of DKBA Battalion 999, commanded by Chit Tu, and one element under ex-KNU 7th Brigade commander Htin Maung (who has made a personal alliance with the dictators' army).

The attacks occurred from south to north targeting villages and KNU positions along the Moei River. On the 8th, two columns hit KNLA 101 battalion area at The Law They Hta twice, once in the morning and once in the evening. Also in the evening evening, the Burma Army attacked Thay Kai Yah, an IDP site. The villagers had heard of the coming attack and had fled to the Thai side the day before (on 7 April 2007). During these attacks, a KNLA captain was killed (The Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) is the military branch of the Karen National Union (KNU)).

On the morning of the 8th at about 2:15 am, the Burma Army attacked Hta Law, the Karen Youth Organization head quarters. This is opposite from Mae Rah Mat along the Thai/Burma border. The Burma Army now occupies that area.

Following this, five columns attacked KNLA 24 Battalion area at Maw Pana Hta. North of this, the Karen National Defense Organization (KNDO, another military branch of the KNU) base on the Moei River was attacked.

North of the KNDO position, the 7th Brigade head quarters at See Ta Taw were also attacked.

In support of these attacks, the Burma Army is using 81mm and 60mm mortars and .50 caliber heavy machine guns. These attacks have displaced more than 130 Karen families, who have all fled to the Thai side of the border. An estimated 30 families fled from Loh Di Tah, 50 families from Thay Kai Yah, 30 families from Tha Koh Klah, along with 20 more families from areas near the fighting. These numbers are low estimates and may still increase because of continuing attacks.

Free Burma Rangers
8-8-07

Myanmar border clashes kill 17, wound 19 - rebels

Clashes along the Thai border between Myanmar soldiers and an ethnic rebel group have killed at least 17, wounded 19 and forced hundreds to flee to Thailand, Thai officials and a pro-Myanmar militia said on Sunday.

Myanmar troops and its allied militia, the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), raided three outposts of the Karen National Union (KNU) in the Karen State along the Thai border at 2 a.m. on Sunday (1900 GMT), a Thai security official told Reuters.

DKBA troops travelling by boat on the Moei River launched rockets that killed at least three KNU guerrillas. The DKBA also lost eight men in a landmine set by the KNU, said the official who declined to be identified.

The clashes, which lasted about an hour, also wounded at least 19 people on both sides. The KNU retreated and their positions have been taken by Myanmar and DKBA soldiers, said a Reuters journalist who was observing from the Thai side of the river.

The raids, which prompted 300 Karen villagers to cross the river to the Thai border town of Mae Ramat, came shortly after KNU troops raided a checkpoint in the Myanmar border town of Myawaddy late on Saturday, killing five policemen and a



soldier, a DKBA official said.

“The KNU has broken the agreement with the Myanmar government that it would not attack the Asia 1 highway during the temporary ceasefire,” agreed in December 2003, the DKBA official said.

No formal peace deal has been agreed and skirmishes continue with government troops and their allies.

The KNU and its armed wing, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), have been fighting the central government for greater autonomy since 1949.

The rebels suffered a major

setback in late 1994 when a Buddhist faction, now the DKBA, staged a mutiny against the Christian-dominated group, breaking away and eventually defecting to join the Myanmar government side.

The split was a key factor in the collapse of the KNU headquarters at Manerplaw in early 1995.

Fighting between the KNU and the Myanmar troops along the Thai border has intensified since last month when Bangkok called in Myanmar’s ambassador to protest over the death of a Thai soldier killed in clashes between Myanmar troops and the KNU.

Reuters
8-4-07

SPDC pressures DKBA to support KNLA Peace Council

Sources close to the DKBA have confirmed that recent military operations inside the KNLA’s 7th Brigade area are a result of SPDC pressure on the DKBA’s 999 Special battalion to support the recent breakaway faction of Brigadier Htain Maung and to further exacerbate Karen factionalism.

Two columns of the DKBA, under the command of Maung Chit Thu, have joined a Burmese army offensive and have been engaged in strikes against the KNLA resulting in the loss of the two KNLA headquarters at 101 and 24 Battalion.

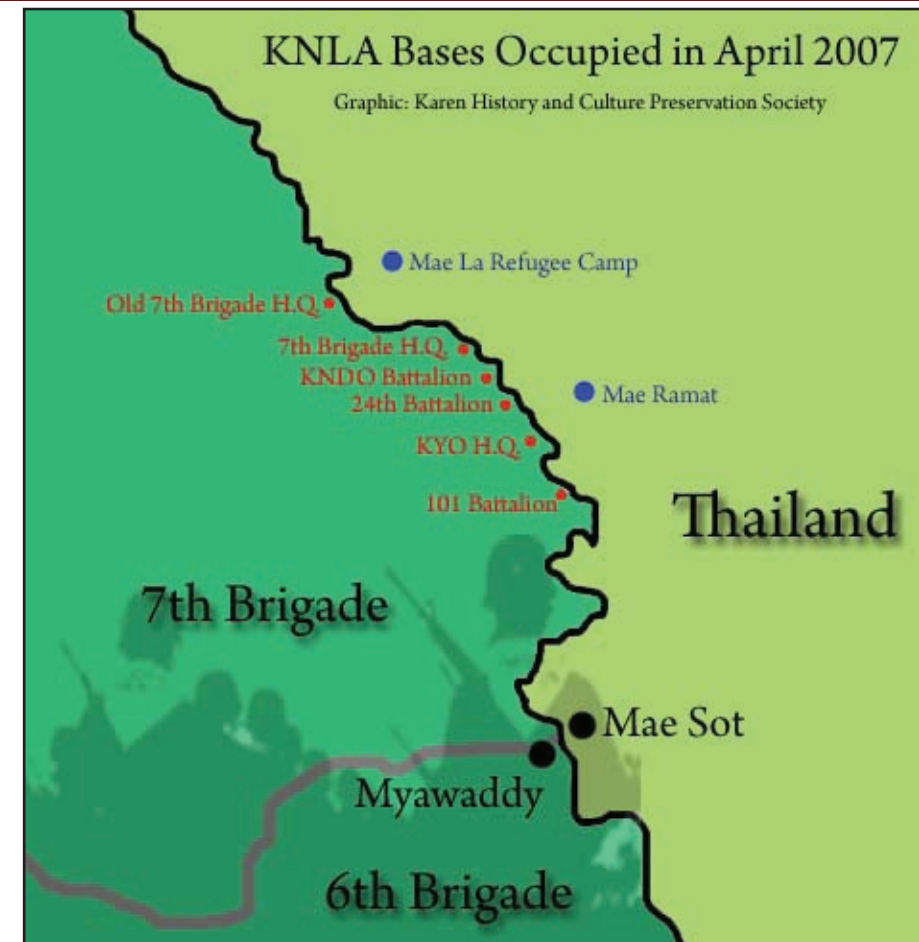
Tensions have been rising along the Thai-Burma border after the 7th Brigade commander Brigadier Htain Maung, split with the KNLA and formed, with the support of the

SPDC, his own separate faction in late January. The faction, which is militarily weak after a number of its members returned to the KNLA, has been given defacto control of a small area based around the village of Toh Kaw Ko.

KHCPS
11-4-07

KNU’s 7th Brigade Under Fire

Fighting continued on Thursday in Karen State’s 7th Brigade between the Karen National Liberation Army and junta-backed splinter groups, with the KNLA abandoning several of their camps. Soldiers from Battalion 101 of the KNLA, the military wing of the Karen National Union, told *The Irrawaddy* from the front lines of the fighting that at least one skirmish broke out on Thursday with soldiers from the Burmese junta-backed Karen breakaway group Democratic Karen Buddhist Army. “About 200 of them are now moving towards our position, and more clashes are imminent later today,” one KNLA soldier said. Sources near the Thai-Burmese border say that the Burmese army has requested Thai authorities to allow their soldiers and members of the DKBA to operate within a one-mile area of Thai soil—a request that has reportedly been granted—without interference from the Thai military or border police. Furthermore, sources say Thai authorities have ordered Thai villagers to seize KNLA weapons from soldiers if they cross into Thailand bearing arms. A spokesperson from Thailand’s 17th Regiment Infantry Task Force was unavailable for comment on Thursday. Clashes have occurred regularly since April 7, according to the



KNU Supreme Headquarters, with one KNLA soldier dead and another injured. At least three from the DKBA and the Burmese army have been killed, with several more injured by landmines, the KNU headquarters said. In six days of fighting, the DKBA, with the support of the Burmese army, has overrun at least six KNLA camps, including Battalion 24 headquarters and camps in Thay Ka Ya, Maw Pah Thoo, Ta Law, as well as the headquarters of Battalion 101 and another camp headed by Col Johnny in 7th Brigade. According to a statement issued by KNU Supreme Headquarters on Thursday, the Burmese army tasked the DKBA to attack areas in 7th Brigade, while its Light Infantry battalions 231, 355, 356, 546, 98, and 28—under the Military Operations Command 12—provided support. Other splinter groups are also said to have contributed troops for the offensive against the KNU. A recent splinter group calling itself

the KNU/KNLA Peace Council has reportedly assisted the DKBA. Burmese troops have also occupied areas of KNU 6th Brigade and are reportedly receiving assistance from a Karen ceasefire group known as the Haungthayaw Special Region Group led by Thu Mu Hei, the former Battalion 16 commander in 6th Brigade, who surrendered to the junta in 1997. Recent fighting has displaced nearly 300 villagers who have fled across the border to Mae Ramat in Thailand’s Tak province—opposite Karen State’s 7th Brigade—according to the Karen Refugee Committee. About 200 of them have since returned to Karen State. The KRC said an additional 200 villagers crossed the Thai border in Pop Phra district, Tak province to escape the fighting.

Shah Paung
Irrawaddy
April 12, 2007

200 Karen cross border from Burma

At least 200 Karen refugees fled to Thailand after Burmese forces seized the headquarters of Karen National Union’s 7th brigade on Tuesday. Thereafter, refugees started arriving in Tak’s Mae Ramat district after fighting broke out on Sunday between about 700 Burmese government troops and KNU fighters. The Thai army yesterday fired smoke shells as a warning after five stray mortar rounds landed on Thai soil. “This battle is close to the Thai border. Impacts on Thailand are unavoidable, particularly on the refugees. “Our much-awaited hope to send home Burmese refugees whom we have accepted since 1984 under the UNHCR policy may fade away,” said a Thai security officer. The battle in Burma may strain cross-border security, trade and bilateral cooperation efforts. On Sunday, the KNU stronghold was under attack from Rangoon forces backed up by KNU defectors — the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army and Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council. The Burmese junta’s forces were led by Maj-Gen Htain Maung, former 7th brigade commander, who joined the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) in late February. After three days of fighting, 200 KNU troops could not withstand the offensive and withdrew from their outpost opposite Mae Ramat district. The number of casualties has not been confirmed, but is said to number at least 50. KNU general secretary Padoh Mahn Sha Lah Pan said: “Burma chooses to fight. It seems like the door to peace talks may be shut down



DKBA Troops on DKBA Day (AFP)

temporarily until the tension eases.” The KNU expected the junta to continue attacking rebels throughout the summer. The refugees, under the care of the Karen Refugee Committee and the Thai-Burma Border Consortium, are staying at Mae La refugee camp in Tha Song Yang district of Tak.

Supamart Kasem
Bangkok Post
13-04-07

Myanmar seizes key rebel bases: Thai military

Pro-government forces in Myanmar have seized four key ethnic Karen rebel bases, after several days of fierce fighting near the Thai border, Thai military officials said Thursday.

Myanmar’s military and a pro-government militia seized the Karen National Union bases after nearly a

week of fighting that saw mortar and other artillery being fired near the Thai border, said Colonel Kasem Tanaporn, a Thai border official. A few shells landed on the Thai side of the border, but no one was injured, he said. Some 300 people had crossed into Thailand during the week to escape the fighting, but most had returned once the violence ended Wednesday, said Phumchai Tapankaew, leader of a Thai district along the border. Myanmar military analyst Win Min said that one of the bases was the headquarters of KNU’s Brigade 7, one of the most important of the rebels’ seven brigades because it controlled key border crossing points to allow forces to slip in and out of the country. “Compared to other brigades, Brigade 7 is not the strongest, but it’s a big area for ceremonies and border crossings,” he said. The brigade’s leader, General Htain Maung, surrendered to Myanmar in February along with 300 fighters. “That’s the main reason that

they lost, because he knew the area very well,” Win Min said of the military’s latest conquests. The KNU is the largest rebel group fighting Myanmar’s armed forces and one of the few remaining ethnic insurgent groups yet to sign a peace deal with the junta. Myanmar, under military rule since 1962, has signed ceasefires with 17 other ethnic armed groups. Up to 150,000 Karen refugees already live in camps along Thailand’s border with Myanmar. Many of them have been there for more than 20 years.

AFP
12-04-07

Army and Its Proxies Threaten Refugee Camps

Burma’s military government should end joint military attacks, carried out with ethnic Karen militias, on civilians in Karen

State, Human Rights Watch said today. These attacks have caused hundreds of refugees to flee to Thailand since April 8. In addition, the Burmese government should immediately prevent its proxy militias from launching cross-border attacks on long-established refugee camps in Thailand.

Human Rights Watch called on the Thai government to provide asylum to fleeing refugees, and to protect all the refugees from cross-border raids on civilians fleeing fighting and oppression in Burma. Some 400 civilians have sought sanctuary in Thailand since the Burmese army and its proxy ethnic Karen militias began attacks on anti-government Karen forces on April 8.

These civilians face grave threats as the Burmese-government-backed ethnic Karen militias appear to be positioning artillery and heavy machine guns overlooking the Mae La refugee camp. Direct attacks on civilians are a clear violation of international humanitarian law, and cross-border attacks on refugee camps by armed groups are a flagrant violation of international law.

“The Burmese government’s brutal campaign against ethnic minorities inside the country has already resulted in gross violations of human rights,” said Sophie Richardson, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch. “Any extension of that campaign across the border to attack refugees would show just how blatant these forces’ abuses are.” In military actions since April 8, the Burmese army and its proxy forces the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) and a new breakaway Karen faction, called the Karen State Peace Council have captured

three military bases of the anti-government Karen National Union (KNU) in Burma. This has prompted more than 400 civilians living nearby to seek sanctuary across the border in Thailand. Since April 9, DKBA and Burmese military units have positioned artillery and heavy machine guns overlooking Mae La refugee camp, which shelters more than 45,000 Burmese civilians, most of whom are ethnic Karen. The same day, the Thai government moved hundreds of Border Patrol Police to the area, suggesting that an attack into Thailand by the Burmese forces may be imminent. Many refugees in Mae La camp have prepared to flee further into Thailand if attacks occur in the coming days.

“Since Thailand is now celebrating one of its most important annual festivals, the Burmese government knows that far fewer international observers than usual will be watching activity along the border,” said Richardson. “The international community needs to keep a close watch on the situation, encourage Thailand to protect the refugees, and find ways of providing assistance themselves.”

The Karen National Union (KNU), which fought the Burmese government for 60 years, signed a ceasefire arrangement with the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) in December 2003. Following Burmese government violations of that agreement, the ceasefire effectively broke down last year. Early last year, SPDC forces launched a major military offensive against the KNU and Karen civilians in northern Karen State that displaced nearly 30,000 civilians and drove thousands more to the border with Thailand. And early this year, a

former commander of the KNU, Brigadier Htain Maung of Brigade 7, signed an agreement with Burmese military commanders to form a pro-government militia force in central Karen State, called the Karen State Peace Council, which has received government funding for local development projects.

The DKBA and Karen State Peace Council military factions work closely with the SPDC army on local security operations and business projects. Following its break from the KNU in late 1994, the DKBA has been implicated in a series of cross-border attacks on refugee camps in Thailand. Between 1995 and 1999, scores of attacks on camps resulted in hundreds of civilian deaths. In 1998, the Huay Kaloke camp was destroyed twice by DKBA and Burmese army units. Many of the refugees who lived there were subsequently moved further from the border to Mae La and Umpiem Mai camps to deter these brutal punitive raids.

In the 1990s, dozens of Thai security personnel and civilians were also killed in these raids. Thai security forces during this period frequently abandoned the camps and refused to protect refugees from Burmese military attacks on civilians, resulting in even more violent abuses and extrajudicial killings of refugees. The United States, Australia, Norway, Canada and Sweden have agreed to provide refuge for Karen civilians, many of whom have lived in refugee camps for more than two decades. Late last year, following US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice’s waiving of stringent “material support” provisions that had classified all Karen as insurgents and therefore ineligible for admission to the United States, the US government

committed to resettling more than 10,000 Karen in 2007 alone. The other four countries have also pledged to provide refuge to thousands of people living in more than 10 camps inside Thailand.

Human Rights Watch called on these governments to condemn military attacks on civilians that have perpetuated the long-standing cycle of violence in Burma, and support Thailand's efforts at providing shelter for people fleeing fighting. "After years in refugee camps and combat zones, these civilians now live in the fear of cross-border attacks," Richardson said. "Burma's plans to attack civilians and jeopardize their access to food are deplorable, and the international community should condemn this in the strongest possible terms."

13-4-07

Human Rights Watch/Reuters Alerts

Burmese take Thai hostage

A Thai citizen captured by the pro-junta Democratic Karen Buddhist Army of Burma has been held since last Thursday, the foreign ministry said.

Tarit Charungwat, director general of the department of information and ministry spokesman, said the Buddhist Karens originally captured two Thai civilians, but have released one.

Authorities were working to try to secure the release of the second man, known only as Chortho. Mr Thongsuk and a companion were seized on the northern Thai-Burmese border, said the spokesman.

Mr Tarit said that Thai and Burmese authorities were both working on the problem. The Democratic Karen Buddhist Army is a pro-Rangoon group responsible for violence along the border.

Mon 16 Apr 2007
Bangkok Post

Burmese Karen group said using people as "minesweepers"

[Newsreader] State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) troops and the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) are still launching offensives in the territories controlled by the Karen National Union (KNU), and hundreds of Karen people have crossed over to the Thai side as DKBA soldiers are forcing them to work as porters.

People who fled the battle zone say DKBA soldiers have also been burning down villages, farms, and plantations. Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) correspondent Ko Htet Yarzar filed this report. [Begin recording] [DVB] DKBA units entered the areas controlled by the KNU's 6th Brigade several days ago. Over 100 villagers from Mae Kha Nae, Htimu Hta, and Nobo villages have fled to Thailand because DKBA troops have been forcing them to work as porters. Among these people was a woman from Mae Kha Nae who recounted her experience this way: [Unidentified Karen woman] DKBA entered the area and took away our village chairman and forced him to work as a porter. They also rounded up the villagers. The chairman and many other villagers, about 60 of them, were

taken away. The DKBA wielding arms went around the village making threats. They said that if they could not find men in the village, they would force women to work as porters. Since they also burned down the rice granaries, it will be difficult to get food. [DVB] Another villager who was also a witness to the scenes said the DKBA was not only rounding up porters but also burning farms and plantations and making the local people serve as human minesweepers. [Unidentified Karen man] They left a trail of fire along the route they travelled and also planted mines. They actually burned only a few places but the fire spread and burned down everything, including homes and rubber plantations. Two rubber plantations with more than 1,000 trees each, 10 coffee plantations, about 12 durian farms, and more than 20 rice granaries were destroyed in the fire set by the DKBA. A DKBA soldier would travel between a villager walking in front and another behind, and another villager would be carrying his supplies. The person in front is actually used as a minesweeper because he would be the first to step on the mines if they were present. (?Three) villagers were hurt by mines and many cattle died because of them. These happened at Mae Kha Nae, Htimu Hta, and Nobo villages. [DVB] KNU General Secretary Phado Mahn Sha had this to say about the situation of the 7th Brigade and about DKBA entering the territory of the 6th Brigade. [Phado Mahn Sha] The DKBA is conducting a mopping up campaign in the 6th Brigade area, which is located south of Thingan Nyi Naung. The campaign is underway in Mae Kha Nae, Htimu Hta, and Nobo areas. The unit carrying out the campaign, I believe, is the 907th

DKBA unit. During the campaign, they let people walk in front in the forests and since the local people did not want to do that, they fled. [DVB] The SPDC and DKBA joint forces started their offensive on 7 April in the areas controlled by the 7th Brigade, and during the operation, they have taken control of four small bases of that brigade. [End recording] That was a report by Ko Htet Yarzar. We will now interview Ko Maung Too about the battlefield situation. How is the situation there, Ko Maung Too? [Begin recording] [Maung Too] The present situation can be described as calm. I asked KNU officials about the situation and was told that the SPDC and DKBA troops have been clearing the areas, forcing people to work as porters, and some villagers have fled from the area to avoid being used as porters. I was informed that the number of SPDC and DKBA troops is growing in the 6th and 7th Brigade areas, and fighting can resume any day now. The past several days have been quiet because of Thingyan Water Festival but fighting can resume now. [DVB] I see. We have been told that the DKBA has been forcing people to volunteer as porters. Have you contacted the DKBA about the matter? [Maung Too] Yes, I did make some enquiries, and DKBA officials denied that they were forcing people to work as porters. But, they admitted that villagers were being recruited as volunteers and that these volunteers had been helping them. They confirmed that they were carrying out a mopping-up campaign in the border areas controlled

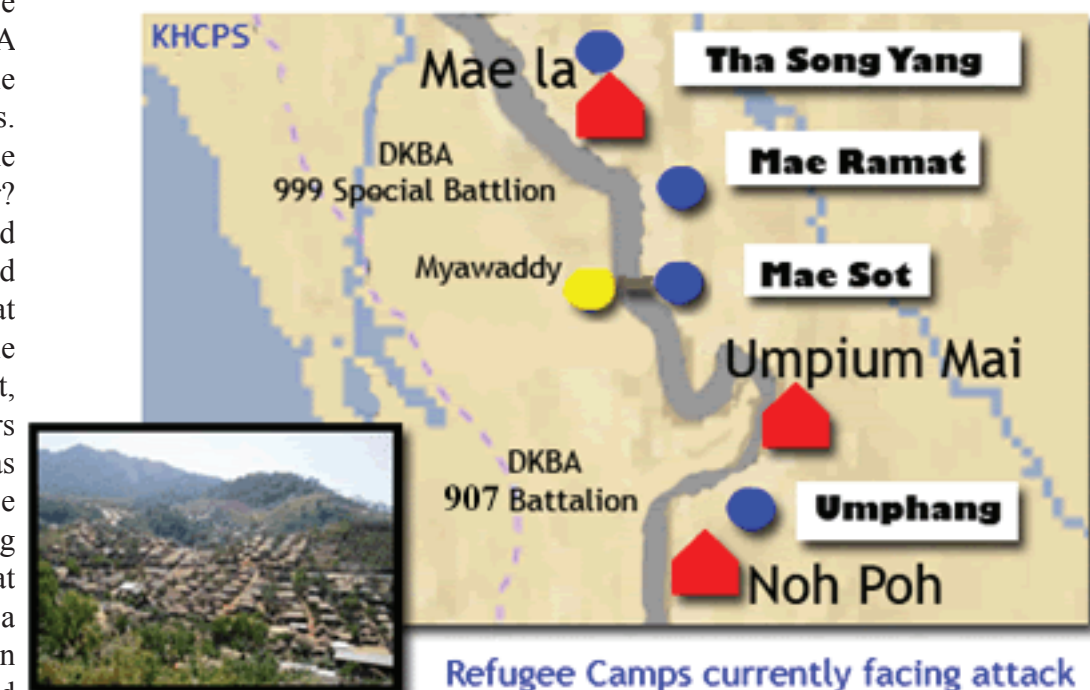
by the 6th and 7th Brigades. [DVB] How are the developments affecting the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) which is operating in the area? [Maung Too] There are two student army battalions - the 8th and the 9th - in the areas controlled by the 6th and the 7th KNU Brigades. The 8th Battalion which had its base in the 7th KNU Brigade area withdrew from the region even before Bo Htain Maung's group started the peace talks. What I can say is that the movement of the ABSDF units in Karen territories is now restricted and none of the ABSDF leaders could predict what would happen in the future. [End recording] That was a report by Ko Maung Too, a correspondent who had closely been monitoring the fight between the KNU and the SPDC.

Democratic Voice of Burma, Oslo, in Burmese 1430 gmt 18 Apr 07

Refugees Fear Attacks on Camps in Thailand

Increased security measures

have been initiated at refugee camps near the Thailand-Burma border as tensions within rival Karen rebel groups continues to mount, according to sources along the border. Officials at the Mae La refugee camp in Thailand's Tak Province have ordered residents to keep their lights out after dark and to stay alert following skirmishes between the Karen National Union and two splinter Karen groups, the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army and a second group that calls itself the KNU/KNLA Peace Council. Both splinter groups are allied with the Burmese army. "We have to shut down all the lights at 8 p.m., including all electric generators and even candle lights," said one Mae La resident. The order came after reports that the splinter Karengroups were planning an attack on the refugee camp, one of the largest in Thailand with an estimated population of more than 40,000. Relatives of many KNU members live in Mae La camp. The potential threat to camp refugees has caught the attention of international rights groups. "These civilians face grave threats as the



Burmese-government-backed ethnic Karen militias appear to be positioning artillery and heavy machine guns overlooking the Mae La refugee camp," a statement issued by New York-based Human Rights Watch said. Burmese communities in the nearby city of Mae Sot have also been alerted to stay indoors after dark for security reasons, border sources said. Clashes between the opposing groups have increased since the DKBA and its allies launched attacks on KNLA bases near the Thai-Burmese border. At least three of their camps, including the headquarters of the KNLA Battalion 101, located opposite the Thai village of Mae Ramat, have been captured by the splinter Karen rebels. The threat to the Mae La camp is "real," KNU General Secretary Mahn Sha told *The Irrawaddy* on Friday, adding that the rival groups have turned against civilians who did not support their break from the KNU. Despite elevated security concerns, no clashes were reported on Friday, according to Mahn Sha.

Irrawaddy
20/4/07

DKBA 907 Battalion poised to attack Noh Poh Refugee Camp

The DKBA's 907 Battalion is preparing to attack Noh Poh refugee camp in Thailand's Umphang district according to sources close to the DKBA. The 907 Battalion will be joining troops of the DKBA's 999 Special Battalion and the KNU/KNLAPC in threats to refugee camps in Thailand.

The market area in the camp has



already been closed and goods, which are normally transported from Mae Sot, are not longer allowed into the camp. The threats are likely to cause major disruption with the camps population soon to receive UN negotiated Refugee cards clearing stating thier current status - which up until now was not recognized due to Thailand's failure to ratify the appropriate UN - as refugees.

KHCPS
20/4/07

Rebels Clash Along Thai-Burmese Border

At least four skirmishes broke out on Tuesday morning between the Karen National Liberation Army, the military wing of the Karen National Union, and Karen splinter groups aligned with Burma's ruling junta, according to KNLA sources. "Until this afternoon, there have been four clashes near the Thai-Burma border village of Thay Baw Bo," an official from the KNLA headquarter told *The Irrawaddy* on Tuesday. "The enemies have reinforced the area with about one hundred soldiers and more battles are expected later today," he added. No casualties have yet been reported from today's fighting. The skirmishes occurred in KNU-controlled areas of 6th Brigade opposite Thailand's Phop Phra district of Tak Province, where one

of the junta-backed splinter groups, the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, began operations against the KNU in early March with support from the Burmese army. The DKBA left the KNU and negotiated peace with Burma's military government in 1995. Residents in Phop Phra district said that about 200 villagers have fled the area since last month in anticipation of the fighting. A medic from the Mae Tao Clinic in Mae Sot, Thailand, told *The Irrawaddy* that four DKBA soldiers from Shwe Kokko village near Myawaddy, three KNLA soldiers from 6th Brigade, two villagers and one porter have been admitted to a hospital in Mae Sot after sustaining injuries from land mines. Refugees in Noh Poe camp, opposite 6th Brigade on the Thai side of the border, remain watchful after reports that the DKBA may target the camp. "We have to be careful since we heard that they [DKBA and Burma Army] will come and attack the camp," one resident of Noh Poe said. "But so far, we have seen no sign of it. Meanwhile, refugees in two other camps—Mae La, about 30 km outside Mae Sot, and Mae La Oon, opposite 7th Brigade in Thailand's Mae Hong Son Province—have feared for several days that DKBA troops would attack the camps. Camp authorities have warned residents to keep their lights out after dark under penalty of punishment. According to one camp resident in Mae La, refugees could lose their ID card, their refugee status and even their place in the camp if they do not follow the camp leaders' warnings.

Shah Paung
Irrawaddy
24/4/07

I want to tell [the military] not to shoot us civilians, burn down our villages or our food supplies. It is more important for them to attack their target, the KNU,

Karen Villager Saw Atoo after USDF troops burned down his village

Secret Kawthoolei Peace Commission formed: Statement

A new Karen organization, heavily critical of Karen armed groups, including the Karen National Union, was formed yesterday. The so-called Kawthoolei Peace Leading Commission formed by some Karen veteran leaders and new generation commanders blamed the two Karen groups - the KNU and its faction the KNU-KNLA Peace Council of failing to usher in peace for the Karen people, said a email statement sent to Mizzima.

The secret organization, which does not mention the names of its members and does not have even a contact phone number, said in the statement that the KNU was a "political lackey" and that one of the longest surviving rebel groups in Southeast Asia is "fighting battles continuously which is producing refugees".

The faction led by former KNU commander General Htain Maung who recently fought against the KNU has also been criticized and blamed by the Kawthoolei Commission.

"The KNU-KNLA Peace Council yet to prove that it can stop armed conflicts in Karen State. It



has failed to release a statement appealing for peace," the statement said. Mizzima is not clear whether the Kawthoolei Commission actually exists or who could have hosted the letters on the internet. Pado Man Sha, the spokesperson of the KNU said "We don't know who distributed it and what this organization is and what their aims are. I can't comment on it." Maung Kyaw, the liaison officer of the KNU-KNLA Peace Council said "Possibly, they are not impressed with the leadership living in Maesot (KNU) as well as with us." "I am sure this letter is not by DKBA... I guess someone is trying to create more conflicts between us," he added. The editor of the Thai-Burma border based monthly publication on Karen affairs Karen Information Center said "There are some former members of the KNU living in other countries and they may have done it. Who knows?" "I think they are aiming to bring about peace between the two groups and have distributed it. However, it should be open for discussion. It can be discussed. Otherwise, it is difficult to consider the matter," she added.

Karen Villagers protest the conflict in 6th Brigade (KNU/KNLAPC)

Than Htike Oo
Mizzima
8th May 2007

Unidentified intruder Killed at Hto Kaw Koe

An armed unidentified intruder was killed outside the KNU/KNLAPC base at Hto Kaw Koe three days ago according to the group.

The man, apparently wearing a DKBA uniform, was killed after opening fire on a security detail at around 9.30 in the morning. The man's identity is still unknown

further investigation is continuing to establish whether man was actually DKBA or in disguise.

KHCPS
10th May 2007

Karen women's rights defender honored

Zipporah Sein, a Thailand-based Karen women's activist will receive the Perdita Huston Human Rights Award this year. Zipporah, the executive secretary of the Thai-Burmese border-based Karen Women's Organization, works to aid women's struggle for freedom, democracy and equality in Burma. She has documented human rights violations committed by the military government against ethnic Karen people and run safe houses in refugee camps, providing shelter and counseling to women and children facing violence. Last year, she was nominated by an international women's organization for the Nobel Peace Prize. The Perdita Huston Human Rights Award was established in 2002 to commemorate American journalist and women's rights

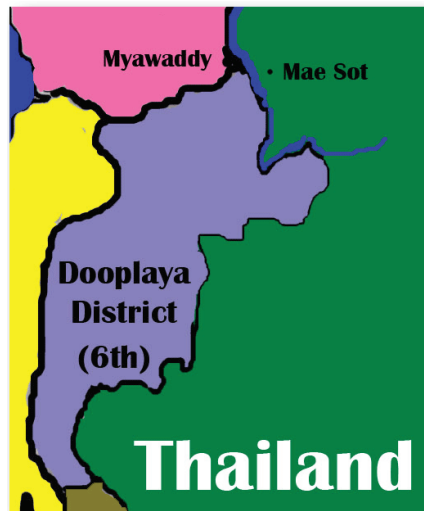


Naw Zipporah Sein

activist Perdita Huston and to honor the life and work of others who are outstanding advocates for women's rights in the Third World. This year's recipients also included Samar Minallah of Pakistan and Bishnu Maya Pariyar of Nepal. The award ceremony will be held in Washington DC in June.

Irrawaddy
23/05/07

KNU outpost attacked



A Karen rebel outpost came under attack yesterday afternoon by joint forces of the Burmese Army and the ceasefire group – the Democratic Karen Buddhist Association.

The outpost of Brigade 6 of

the military wing of the Karen National Union in Kawkayeik, Karen state close to the Thai-Burma border was under attack for an hour by government troops of 202 and 203 Infantry battalions backed by rival Karen troops.

"They were not able to come forward but they fired from big guns," said Pado Man Sha, KNU spokesperson.

KNU has been fighting against successive Burmese regimes for more than five decades for self-determination rights.

The allied troops are stationed around the battle zone but heavy rain has been coming in the way of their operation.

"If they come again, we will fight back", said Col. Nerdah Mya from KNU.

Mizzima
23/05/07

Karen villages torched by Burmese troops

Five villages that were home to more than 540 internally displaced Karen civilians have been fired on and burnt to the ground by the Burmese military. The Karen National Union told DVB today that Burmese light infantry troops were behind the attacks that occurred earlier this month in the KNU's brigade three area.

Baw Htoo from Lehwah village, which was also destroyed, said he and the other villagers were able to escape unharmed before their homes were torched. "They started launching their attacks in areas around Shwe Kyin and Tatkyi townships on May 11.

On the same day they burnt down the villages in the Lehwah area," Baw Htoo said.

"I want to tell [the military] not to shoot us civilians, burn down our villages or our food supplies. It is more important for them to attack their target, the KNU," he said. The attacks follow a high number of strikes also committed by the military last month according to Saw Kyaw Bwe from the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People. He said seven villages were fired on by Burmese troops in April and that one villager, a 61-year-old man, had been shot and killed by the Burma army. KNU general secretary Padoh Mahn Sha also told DVB that thousands of people had been forced to flee military attacks in Pha-pon district.

"They burnt down villages in Khae Oo, an area located on the edge of northern Pha-pon district. About 4200 villagers from 28 villages fled their homes," Padoh Mahn Sha said.

DVB
24/05/07

Obituary: Major Mary Ohn



Major Mary Ohn (far right) Kawthoolei Organiser visiting and meeting refugees fleeing enemy atrocities in Thaton area, 1987 - KNU Bulletin

Major Mary Ohn, 73, chairwomen of the Karen Refugee Committee and officer in the Karen National Liberation Army died yesterday afternoon at 2.30 pm Thai time from illness.

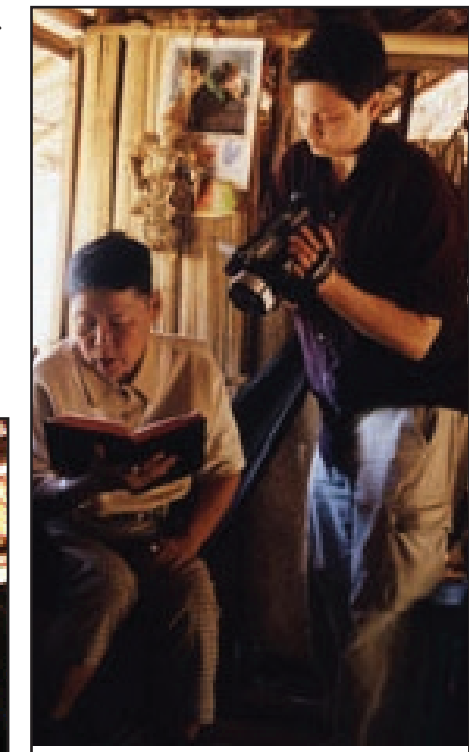
Major Mary was a resolute leader of strong spirit whose support and guidance helped many of the refugees through their times of trouble including the assaults on Huay Kalok refugee camp in 1997 and 1998 which saw the camp destroyed by the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army.

She was the subject of a 2004 documentary 'Don't Fence Me In: Major Mary and the Karen

refugees from Burma' directed by Ruth Gumnit.

A funeral service will be held for her at Umpium Mai refugee camp tomorrow.

KHCPS
26/5/07



Mary Ohn being filmed by Ruth Gumnit for the documentary 'Don't Fence Me In'

JUNE

'The entire Karen people must firmly uphold the aim to gain the right to decide their own destiny and strive on. We must determinedly oppose all the counter-revolutionary activities and activities using the Karen people as a stepping stone for selfserving interest.'

KNL Statement on anti-national activities



KNLA Peace Council 'Regret Child Abduction Allegations

In a statement issued 9th June 2007, the KNU/KNLAPC has denied allegations made in a KHRG report, that it abducted 9 children and forced them to become child soldiers. The report 'Child soldiers recruited to support expansion of KNU/KNLA Peace Council' can be found [here](#). The full text of the statement is below.

Date; 09.06.2007

The KNU/KNLA Peace Council regret that the KHRG's "field report" on the 28 May 2007, "Child soldiers recruited to support expansion of the KNU-KNLA Peace Council" has came out in a way as a propaganda article rather than a true story "field report". We do not know if the KHRG innocently believed the stories –or-

they have been used. As we know very well what KHRG is and appreciated for what they have been doing in the past, we prefer to believe that it was a misunderstanding of the situation, due to the following facts we found out. # The "field" they covered the story was in side the Mae La Refugee Camps where people dare not tell any positive of the KNU/KNLA Peace Council. We have the information of six innocent Karen have been secretly executed in the camp by Mahn Sha and Bo Johnny supporters, for such reason, very recently. # The main stream of the accusation itself is..... Gen. Htain Maung and "only 15 soldiers" who "signed" a peace

deal with the SPDC has, in four months, recruited 9 children to establish a battalion or a brigade!!! And it has become a fully elaborated big issue for the KHRG. # Out of 9 child-soldier, 4 of them is age-unknown. We do not know how the KHRG has considered those 4 as child-soldier without knowing their age. # During the EU track-2 delegation visit we made it clear there has been no signatory between the KNU/KNLA and the SPDC. # Mentioning, "joining the KNU-KNLAPC and denied permission to leave" -and then- "Bah Soh Gay, a commander from the KNU-KNLA PC, told KHRG on May 21st 2007 that children under the age of 18 were free to join the army if they



KNU/KNLAPC troops on Parade (Video capture)

were willing and that anyone who wanted to go back to the camp to study was free to leave. # Ba Soh Gay is not a commander but a Corporal and the close body guard of Gen. Htain Maung. # Without the approval and help of the KNU/KNLA Peace Council and the DKBA, "the children" (even the adult) would never be able to manage to escape and return home" to Mae La Camp from Hto Kaw Koo Base. They would have to pass through our various check points, military posts and old mine fields. # Anyhow, we have to admit that 5 boys were in our base during the March and April 2007. # The true story background are here to be mentioning in a shame. * After the peace victory ceremony on the 11.02.07, the SPDC has promised the KNU/KNLA Peace Council that they would provide special food ration for each and every of our soldier, for one year.

* The soldier of the KNU/KNLA PC with family would get a house and a space of land. * Looking for these opportunities, the Karen Men (mentioned in the KHRG report) from the refugee camp rushed to join the Council. They brought their sons, putting on the list of the KNLA without telling the true age of their children. * After receiving a house and one year grantee food ration benefit, the fathers asked for a "leave" to the Council, for looking after their "unhealthy wives" at the Mae La camp and left the children as soldier in our base to get continuous benefit. * We, later, learnt that their family members left behind at the camp were under the threat or pressured by some camp leaders citing that joining the council would cause a cancellation of resettlement abroad.

For that reason the fathers did not come back. * During the field trip of the KNU/KNLA Peace Council and the KST (Germany base) member, responsible for education and women affair, in April 2007, the children were found out and sent back to their parents at Mae La Refugee camps. # In fact, the KNU/KNLA Peace Council, is not facing the problem of "to fill in the blanks" but with "those who want to fill the blanks" for the sake of personal interest and benefit Two people killed during Karen rebel clash Two people were reportedly killed on Saturday when several shells landed near the Burma border town of Myawaddy during a clash between the Karen National Union and the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army.

A young man and a three-year-old child were killed and several other people were injured at about 11pm Saturday when an unknown number of artillery shells were fired into the Sit Hmudan Haung Asu village. KNU spokesperson major Saw Hla Ngwe blamed the deaths on the DKBA's 907th battalion. "Kyaw San Oo, 33, U Khin Maung Aye, 53, and Ma Cho Mar, 23, were wounded and three-year-old Aung Thu and Ko Kyaw San, 25, were killed by the shells," he said. But the DKBA said that it was the KNU that was responsible for the deaths. "They fired at us first. We were attacked by a KNU unit led by Officer Hla Min. We fired in

return because we were attacked. We did not fire at the village only at their unit," a DKBA source said.

DVB
11/6/07

KNLAPC recruiting



Htain Maung

youths from Insein - KNU Statement

The KNU/KNLAPC has been recruiting youths from Karen areas in Rangoon according to a recent KNU statement. The group initially had problems when a number of those who originally joined defected back to the KNU. Approximately 60 KNLA troops joined the group at the beginning which had its numbers bolstered for its surrender ceremony by DKBA troops wearing KNLAPC uniforms. Since then its attempts to recruit have proven unsuccessful in an area which is predominantly a DKBA recruiting ground. The SPDC has apparently given the go ahead for the group to recruit up to 500 troops however it is unlikely they would be able to achieve this number. Full statement below:

June 14, 2007

Statement on Anti-National Activities of Bo Htain Maung Defeatist Group

When Bo Htin Mg defeatist group surrendered to the SPDC military clique on February 11, 2007, it tricked some ignorant children and civilians to go with it and some of those children and civilians have not yet returned to their parents and homes.

As none of the KNLA unit went with the Bo Htin Mg defeatist group at the time of its surrender and all opposed its action, this group is currently trying to recruit, for its own self-interest, Karen youths by various means of trickery.

In an act of grotesquery, Bo Htin Mg defeatist group set up camp in Toekawcoe area, where the Karen martyrs had fallen, and as it confiscate the local Karen people's land, forcibly collect money from them, supposedly for development, and use the people for forced labor work, the local Karen people are facing great difficulties.

The group's current attempt to recruit the ignorant Karen youths into its armed units is a dreadful new step by the group. It is very important for the entire Karen people and all the youths to know this odious and retrograde new step and denounce it.

Towards the end of May, Bo Htin Mg defeatist group recruited ignorant, straying and poor Karen youths in the quarters of Insein and Taungthugon, in Rangoon Division, and managed to get about 25 youths. As these Karen youths will be used as members

of the group's pocket army, to oppose the Karen national revolution and oppress and kill the Karen people, more heinous acts for the Karen people will ensue.

The entire Karen people must firmly uphold the aim to gain the right to decide their own destiny and strive on. We must determinedly oppose all the counter-revolutionary activities and activities using the Karen people as a stepping stone for self-serving interest. For that reason, we earnestly urge all of you to be politically alert and resolutely oppose all acts of treachery.

GNU Supreme Headquarters
14/6/07

GNU, DKBA, Government Troops Clash near Border

New fighting between the Karen National Union, the government-backed Democratic Karen Buddhist Army and the government troops broke out on Monday near the Thailand-Burma border, according to a GNU official. A 2-hour battle started about

6:20 a.m. and ended shortly after 8 a.m. involving the Karen National Liberation Army 103rd Battalion and the junta-backed DKBA 907th Battalion and the government Light Infantry 203rd Battalion in Kawkaeik Township in Karen State, according to Lt-Col Nay Say of the KNLA 103rd Battalion. The KNLA is the military wing of the KNU. Casualty figures were not available. An earlier clash on Friday broke out between the government troops and the KNLA 201st Battalion. Mahn Sha, general secretary of the KNU, claimed that fourteen Burmese soldiers were killed and an unknown number were wounded.

Mahn Sha said that one KNLA soldier died and one was wounded. He added that after the battle, the KNU recovered five guns and a satellite telephone. "They [the government troops] are increasing their attacks because they want to cleanup that area. They came closer and set up six new battalion camps near our KNLA 201 Battalion," said Mahn Sha. "If they come close to us, the fighting must happen. We can't be patient. We are very sensitive on our side." In the past month, more than 200 Karen refugees have fled from their homes in Taungoo District of

Karen State to the Thailand-Burma border in order to seek safe shelter in Mae Hong Son Province-based refugee camps. They have been denied entry by the Thai authorities. Since November 2006, following attacks by the Burmese army as many as 27,000 Karen civilians have been displaced from their homes in Karen State, according to the New York-based Human Rights Watch.

Saw Yan Naing
Irrawaddy
18-6-07

Nine die in clash between rival Karen rebels, says KNU

Fighting between the Karen National Liberation Army-the military wing of the Karen National Union-and the breakaway Democratic Karen Buddhist Army on Thursday in Burma's Myawaddy left nine DKBA soldiers dead, according to KNU officials.

A KNLA special battalion attacked a car carrying troops from the DKBA's 907 Battalion on a road from Pa-an District to Myawaddy Township in Karen State, just opposite the Thai border town of Mae Sot. "Nine DKBA soldiers were killed, including a lieutenant," Maj Hla Ngwe, the secretary of the Karen National Union's information department, told The Irrawaddy on Thursday. A source close to the DKBA's 907 Battalion who asked to remain anonymous for security reasons, confirmed to The Irrawaddy that the attack took place but said only two DKBA soldiers were killed and five others injured in the fighting. "Nobody from our side [KNLA] was killed, but two soldiers were wounded," said Mahn

Sha, the general secretary of the KNU. "We also recovered seven guns from the DKBA." The latest fighting follows an earlier 2-hour battle on Monday in Kawkaeik Township, Karen State, involving troops from KNLA 103 Battalion, DKBA 907 Battalion and soldiers of Burma's Light Infantry Battalion 203, according to KNLA 103 Battalion's Lt-Col Nay Say. Clashes between rival ethnic armies and Burmese government troops have increased in recent weeks. Last Friday fighting broke out between the KNLA's 201 Battalion and government troops in Karen State's Brigade 6. Mahn Sha claimed that 14 Burmese soldiers were killed and an unknown number were wounded.

Saw Yan Naing
Irrawaddy
21-6-07

27 killed, 11 wounded in insurgent shooting spree Terrorist insurgents attack passenger buses in Kayin (Karen) and Kayah (Karenni) States

A monk was among the 10 innocent passengers killed in insurgent attack in Kayin State on 21 June morning.

When the passenger bus with plate No 5/Kha 9123 arrived at Alebote, terrorist insurgents attacked the car by blowing up a bomb and shooting randomly at it. Three passengers were also wounded in the shooting spree that killed 10 others while the bus was on its way to Thingannyinaung from Kawkaeik at about 8.45 am.

In Kayah State also, terrorist

insurgents brutally killed 17 passengers in another shooting spree that occurred at 6 pm on 22 June. Eight other passengers were also wounded in the insurgent attack on passenger bus bearing number plate 3Kha/5054 that was travelling from Mawchi to Loikaw.

The wounded were rushed to Myawady Township People's Hospital and Loikaw Township People's Hospital. Officials are also providing all necessary assistance to them. Tatmadaw columns of the respective regions are in hot pursuit of the terrorist insurgents.

Terrorist insurgents are trying to undermine national stability, community peace and the rule of law just for their survival and are bullying and killing innocent people.

New Light of Myanmar
24-6-07

27 Killed in Attacks on Buses in Burma

Insurgent groups in Burma have attacked passenger buses in two separate incidents that killed 27 people and injured 11, claiming the victims were armed troops, according to the government newspaper. A report on the attacks in state-run newspaper *The New Light of Myanmar* said the victims were "innocent passengers," killed by "terrorist insurgents."

In the first attack, on June 21, 10 people, including a monk, died and three were injured when insurgents opened fire on a passenger bus traveling from Kawkaeik to Thingan Nyinaung, in Karen State. Mahn Sha, general secretary of



DKBA 907 Commander Moe Tho (AFP)

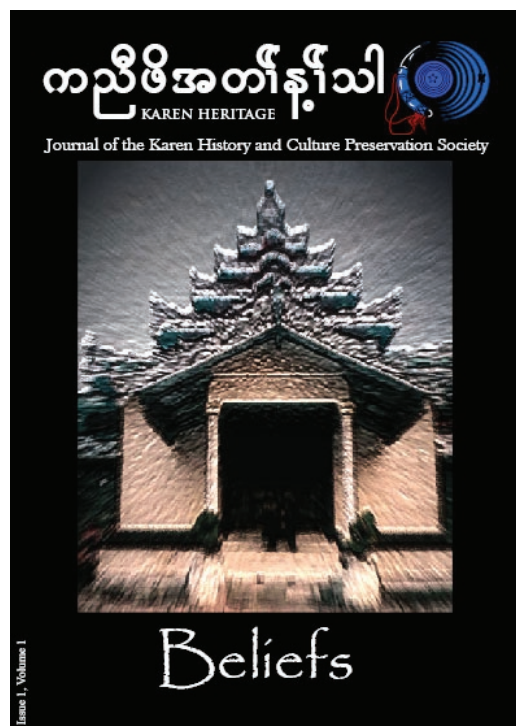
the Karen National Union, which maintains an armed wing, the Karen National Liberation Army, claimed the bus was carrying soldiers of the breakaway Democratic Karen Buddhist Army from Pa-an District to Myawaddy Township, opposite the Thai border town of Mae Sot.

The second attack occurred the following day. Seventeen people were killed and eight others wounded in the attack on a bus traveling from Mawchi to the Karenni capital Loikaw, in eastern Burma. An ethnic armed group, the Karenni National Progressive Party, which is active in Karenni State, claimed responsibility for that attack and said those killed were soldiers of the Karenni Nationalities People's Liberation Front. Five guns had been recovered in the attack, KNPP spokesman Raymond Htoo told *The Irrawaddy* on Monday.

Rimond Htoo claimed the KNPLF had commandeered a civilian bus to transport troops, a common tactic to avoid attack. Clashes between rival ethnic armies and between armed ethnic groups and Burmese government troops have increased in recent weeks. Last Saturday, fighting broke out between the KNPP's 1st Battalion and the junta's Light Infantry Battalion 135 in Karenni State, near the Shan State border. According to Rimond Htoo, two Burmese army soldiers had died and one was wounded. Rimond Htoo said government troops had captured four KNPP soldiers in other action on June 20, near the Salween River in Karenni State.

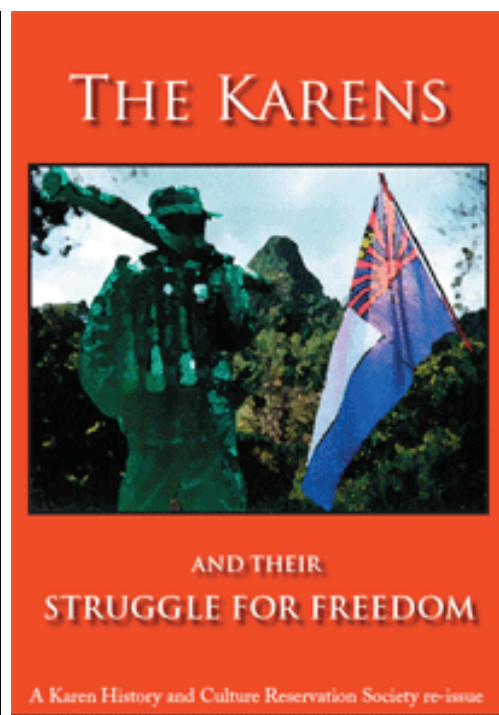
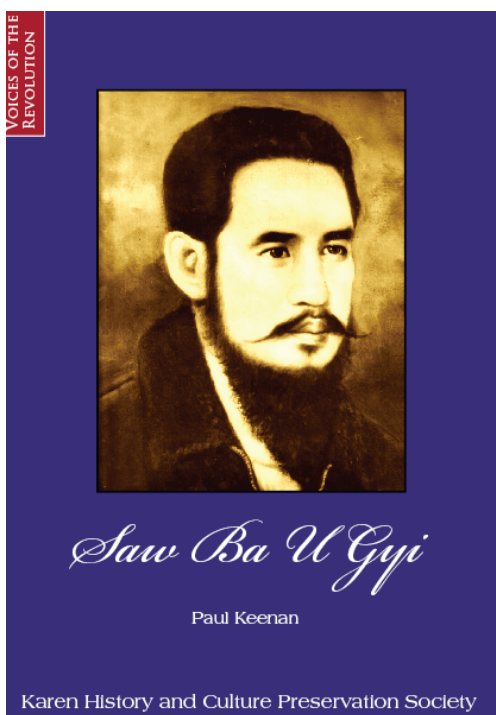
Khun Sam
Irrawaddy
25-6-07

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Myanmar Refugee Finds Life in San Diego a Struggle

More than 300 refugees from Myanmar have arrived in San Diego this year, fleeing from an oppressive regime. Many of them are families who were forced to leave the country decades ago and live in refugee camps on the border of Thailand. KPBS reporter Alison St John visited a young Myanmar mother who is now struggling to find her feet in San Diego.

Hilda: (In Karen) My name is Hilda, I come from Mae Ra refugee camp in Thailand. Hilda Morrow's native tongue is Karen, but unlike most recent refugees, she speaks some



Hilda's life was severely restricted. She wasn't allowed to leave the confines of the refugee camp. She cooked on a charcoal stove, and went to fetch water every day from the communal tap. Three months ago she, her husband and two young children arrived in San Diego. She's discovered electricity and plumbing. She's adjusted to

Hilda: Last month my telephone paying is almost \$100. Money is not something Hilda has had to handle before. She's no ideas how she's going to pay the phone bill. She gets only very basic support from relief agencies and that will run out in the spring. She also gets some support from local churches.

Hilda: Most people when they arrive here have a problem they don't understand and they worry about where we can get a job. St John: So why did you want to come?

Hilda: We want to have human rights, have an opportunity, we want to develop our life, how to say -- to get free, to have more education, yes. Hilda and her husband are both going to school and struggling to learn English. Their 8-year-old son is enrolled in Rosa Parks



English. She has spent 23 of her 29 years living in a bamboo hut in a Thai refugee camp. Hilda says there were 100,000 people in her camp, with more coming every year. She is part of a generation that has never had a country. Her parents were forced to flee Burma over 20 years ago to avoid persecution or death. Hilda: I have a problem sometime when people ask me where are you from? People say, "you can't say your from Thailand, you have to say you're from Burma from Myanmar." My mother always say one day she want to go back to Myanmar but for me I never stayed in Myanmar.

sleeping on a bed instead of on a dirt floor.

St John: So when you came here how did you feel?

Hilda: The first time we feel like, homesick...

Hilda's brave face dissolves in tears, other members of her family were granted refugee status, but they got sent to other cities.

Hilda: We all separate. Two of my brothers in Omaha Nebraska, my mother and two brothers are in Texas,

The telephone is one of the best things in Hilda's new life -- it connects her to her far flung family. But that life line has turned out to be expensive.

Elementary.

Hilda: For us, for our generation, it is very hard for us, but maybe next generation for our kids, our children, will be better. Hilda is one of 14,000 Myanmar refugees admitted to the United States this year, up from fewer than 2,000 in 2006. Relief agencies say they expect the numbers to continue rising.

Alison St John, KPBS News.
02-12-07

A Former Rebel's Grief

A compact, formal man, Ler Wah Lo Bo is sitting on the sofa in his small basement apartment on Margueretta St., looking into distant space. He grips his hands and sometimes cracks his knuckles; his worry is intense.

He'd prepared for visitors by vacuuming the carpet. There is a mattress leaning against the wall – some friends had slept over, he explains, because they didn't want to leave him on his own.

Lo Bo, 50, is a former freedom fighter for the Karen National Union, representing the largest ethnic minority in Burma, which

residence status. He's been waiting for almost five years.

The last time he'd seen his wife and kids was in December 2001.

He waited, though Canada has shown emphatic support for the Karen people, most of whom are Christian. In its assault against them, the Burmese military has raped Karen women and girls, consigned villagers to forced labour, and burned their homes. Some 140,000 have fled to the Thai-Burma border.

Last February, Ottawa announced it would welcome 2,000 Karen refugees – calling them “a distinct group with particular protection needs and vulnerabilities” – this year and next. About 1,400

army, the family lived in a crude shelter near the Thai-Burma border. Lo Bo points to a photo that shows a striped tarp over a platform of bamboo sticks, and a few pots. “I'm going to enlarge this photo for my children and put it on the wall, to keep the memory,” he says. “If you have a better life, you don't want to forget your former life.”

In 1997, they moved to the isolated Tham Hin refugee camp in the south of Thailand, settling in a bamboo hut under a plastic tarp. While his wife and children stayed in the camp, Lo Bo went to look for work, though he had no legal status in Thailand. “I told my wife, we have no future in the camp ... I'll go out to get a job and I'll support you.”

should join her sisters in North Carolina. Most of her neighbours in the refugee camp were leaving and being resettled; Pawleena was afraid she'd be sent back to Burma.

“I said, ‘Okay.’ Because I had no idea how long it would take. Whenever I call (Canada's) immigration call centre, they said my application was ‘in process.’ When you call, you wait a long time. You have to hold the phone more than one hour.” Those brought here as government-sponsored refugees receive permanent-resident status on arrival, while people like Lo Bo who enter on their own must first apply for refugee status and then, if successful, for permanent residence, which requires a

newcomers have to get cars and learn to drive to go to work.

Lo Bo says he wasn't able to get travel documents in time to attend his wife's funeral. But a memorial service was held at Young Nak Korean Presbyterian Church of Toronto at the same time as Pawleena's funeral in North Carolina. Lo Bo hopes he'll get the documents in time to travel this week.

The Karen refugees chosen for resettlement from the camp in south Thailand – where Lo Bo's family lived – go to the U.S. and Australia, while the majority from camps in the north are settled in Canada. Lo Bo has helped in the settlement of Karen refugees in Toronto and Hamilton and acted

which he has repeatedly asked be accelerated. “It's unusually slow, but not ridiculously unusual. Their inability to do the interview in a timely fashion is painful, to say the least, but their lack of knowledge about Burma is also painful.”

Copeland wrote to Diane Finley, minister of citizenship and immigration, about Lo Bo. In April he received a letter that said Lo Bo's application for permanent residence “is expected to resume in eight to 14 months, after the background checks are completed.” In his recent conversations with the children, Lo Bo says, they seem to be coping and are looking after each other. But, he adds, “they are in a distraught situation.



for nearly four decades has been fighting for autonomy from the oppressive military regime that rules the country. He has also been a human rights worker, a pop singer, a teacher and, since August 2002, a refugee in Canada.

On Nov. 10 his wife, Pawleena Wah, was killed in a car crash in New Bern, a North Carolina town where she was living with her sisters. Pawleena and their three children, Nerta Wah, 21, Ner Soe Wah, 16, and Maekaba Wah, 12, had arrived as refugees in the U.S. in June.

Lo Bo has not been able to sponsor his family in Canada because doesn't have permanent-

have been settled across the country since then, including 200 in the GTA. (In the wake of the crackdown on September's monk-led pro-democracy protests, Canada further tightened sanctions against Burma, also known as Myanmar.) And still Lo Bo waited. “Whenever my family asked me, ‘When can we come?’ I could only answer, ‘I have no idea,’” he says. Finally, he and his wife decided the most practical course for her and the children was to go the U.S., where Pawleena's two sisters lived. At least it was closer to Canada.

After first fleeing the Burmese

He worked as an English/Thai/Burmese translator in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, and later joined Nonviolence International, doing research on landmines. He also collected film footage for the 2003 documentary Burma: Anatomy of Terror, narrated by Susan Sarandon. Lo Bo is interviewed in the film as a freedom fighter.

Sent to New York to help edit the film, he chose to make a new life in Canada when his work was done. A refugee organization in Vermont drove him to the border.

Since his wife and kids had been waiting so long to come to Canada, Lo Bo agreed Pawleena

security review.

Karen Shadd-Evelyn, a spokesperson for Citizenship and Immigration Canada, said she could not discuss the details of Lo Bo's case, but added, “We're looking into his dilemma and what might be possible.”

To compound the family's tragedy, Ehreela, one of Pawleena's sisters, was also killed in the car crash, along with her young son. Lo Bo's children are being cared for by his surviving sister-in-law, a widow with four children – her husband was a killed in a car accident in 2006. Lo Bo explains that since New Bern has little public transport,

as a translator.

“I feel happy that I can help my people,” he says. “I help the new people who come, but sometimes I feel sick. I want my family to be among them. They were there under that plastic sheet.”

Lo Bo works in a garden centre on Hwy. 7 but has been laid off for the winter months. He is waiting for renewal of his work permit so he can apply for employment insurance. In the meantime, his lawyer, Paul Copeland, a long-time activist for Burma, has started a trust fund for the family. Lo Bo's application for permanent residency is held up waiting for a security review,

If they see me, they will feel stronger.

“I want to go immediately. I feel very frustrated; sometimes I feel I'm being psychologically tortured in this civilized country. I see Burmese defectors – they were soldiers in the Burmese army, part of that notorious regime – they applied for political asylum and came here as refugees. “I have told my situation truthfully, that I was a freedom fighter. Maybe that was a big mistake.”

Canadian writer Karen Connelly, who lived for two years along the Thai-Burma border, is a friend of Lo Bo. Her first novel, The Lizard

Cage, which was published this year and won Britain's Orange Broadband Award for New Writers, is set in Burma, where she was a frequent visitor in the 1990s – until the government refused to let her back in the country

In a way, says Connelly, she can imagine Lo Bo as a character in her fiction. As a young man he became well known for his recorded pop songs, many with political overtones. He joined the Karen National Union as an activist and teacher and, in the late '80s, was a soldier in the Karen National Liberation Army. "But he got tired of being a soldier and became disillusioned with war and started to do human rights work," says Connelly. "He underwent his

Departures of Myanmar refugees from Thailand top 20,000 mark

In a bamboo thatch hut in this huge, crowded refugee camp, some of the 45,000 residents are learning skills they're soon going to need – how to pass through airport security, how to find their seat on an airplane and how to buckle a seatbelt. This cultural orientation is one of the crucial steps on a journey that has opened up new worlds to more than 20,000 refugees from Myanmar who have left South-east Asia to restart their lives in faraway countries under the world's largest resettlement programme.

agency said Tuesday. A further 3,471 Myanmar refugees in camps in Thailand have been approved for resettlement and are just waiting for their departure date, with people now leaving almost every day. "Many of the refugees are very excited about resettlement," said Eldon Hager, resettlement officer in UNHCR's Mae Sot field office, who spends much of his time in Mae La, Nu Po and Umpium camps. "They view it as very positive." After many years – nearly two decades in some cases – of living in camps in Thailand with no freedom of movement, "there's optimism that there's a way out of the camps," added Hager. Most of the refugees fled fighting and oppression in Myanmar, and took

an open-ended offer in 2005 to take refugees from the camps in Thailand – has taken the largest number, 11,737 refugees. They have gone to cities like Minneapolis, Minnesota; Fresno, California; Lansing, Michigan; Dallas, Texas and Syracuse and Buffalo in New York state. Australia has received 2,154 and Canada 2,132 during this period. Other resettlement countries for Myanmar refugees are Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. "Resettlement is an important solution for refugees for whom returning home or integrating into their countries of asylum is not possible, and we are grateful to resettlement countries for giving so many refugees the opportunity

Faith, history unite two communities - Church opens hearts to Karen refugees

The bride and groom approached the Frankfort Avenue church from opposite directions on a raw December morning as guitar-led minstrels serenaded them in their native Asian language of Karen. Once inside Crescent Hill Baptist Church, the organ played "Here Comes the Bride," and the couple exchanged vows beneath Christmas banners proclaiming "peace" in English and Karen.

Moe Dai -- wearing a traditional fringed shirt over his first-ever



generally older group. It started simply enough -- one of the first refugees learned about the Crescent Hill church from a non-Karen citizen of Myanmar who attended there. The network grew rapidly through word of mouth. Now, the church nursery has tripled from its original size of about a dozen, and a kindergarten class that typically drew about three children now draws eight



own revolution from soldier to human rights activist. He's one of those people who has dedicated his life to fighting the good fight."

Another writer, Anne Bayin, who's part of the new organization Canadian Campaign for Free Burma and the granddaughter of a Burmese politician, says Lo Bo's situation calls to mind that of activists with the African National Congress fighting apartheid in South Africa. She notes that people like Lo Bo were protecting the Karen people against a brutal military regime. "This is the reason his claim is stalled," contends Bayin. "Nelson Mandela would be waiting at the gate on the same grounds."

The number of people who have been resettled in third countries from Thailand since the programme started in 2005 now stands at 20,878, the UN refugee



refuge in nine refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border, which now have a population of 124,300 registered refugees. The United States – which made

of a new life," UNHCR spokesperson Jennifer Pagonis said Tuesday in Geneva. For refugees like those learning to use a seatbelt in Mae La, resettlement is a leap into the unknown. "It's not easy," says Hager. "You have to restart your life, learn a strange language, deal with a new culture, you're expected to work in a foreign country." Refugees are choosing resettlement for the sake of their children, Hager adds. "Starting over in a foreign country is tough, but they say it's worth it because their children will get a good education and will have a better future."

necktie -- and Hay Moo Law Eh -- wearing a long maroon skirt and short-sleeved white blouse -- became the first couple to marry among the nearly 300 ethnic Karen refugees from Myanmar who have arrived in Louisville since last year. The Dec. 8 wedding, with its mix of Eastern and Western cultures, also marked a milestone in the formation of a larger bond between two distant communities joined by a common Baptist faith and history. Up to 100 Karen, many of them families with small children, have been worshipping each Sunday with the Crescent Hill congregation, which until this year had been a mostly white and

or nine. The congregation is increasingly adding Karen hymns, readings and banners to its worship. "These people have come to live here. They're going to be Americans just like us," church member Darrell Adams said. "They have picked us to be their church home. That's called us to step up."

Peter Smith
The Courier-Journal, Louisville
Kentucky
30-12-07

U.S. Locations Where Karen Have Been Resettled

City	State	Number of Karen	City	State	Number of Karen	City	State	Number of Karen
Phoenix	AZ	664	Des Moines	IA	97	Las Vegas	NV	22
Sun City	AZ	6	Boise	IA	161	Albany	NY	61
Tucson	AZ	6	Aurora	IL	55	Buffalo	NY	526
Altadena	CA	1	Chicago	IL	245	Ithaca	NY	28
Anaheim	CA	17	Elgin	IL	8	New York City	NY	132
Antioch	CA	1	Joliet	IL	10	Rochester	NY	233
Bakersfield	CA	44	Moline	IL	19	Syracuse	NY	288
Colton	CA	6	Rockford	IL	126	Utica	NY	599
Columbia	CA	3	Wheaton	IL	90	Watervliet	NY	8
Covina	CA	4	Fort Wayne	IN	675	Webster	NY	5
Daly City	CA	10	Indianapolis	IN	153	Akron	OH	284
Freemont	CA	1	Kansas City	KS	62	Cleveland	OH	74
Fresno	CA	14	Bowling Green	KY	140	Oklahoma City	OK	45
Fullerton	CA	5	Louisville	KY	267	Tulsa	OK	10
Garden Grove	CA	5	Baton Rouge	LA	14	Portland	OR	134
Los Angeles	CA	11	Boston	MA	82	Allentown	PA	20
Oakland	CA	2	Worcester	MA	28	Lancaster	PA	44
Pinole	CA	1	Baltimore	MD	5	Philadelphia	PA	93
Pittsburg	CA	14	Columbia	MD	7	Pittsburgh	PA	125
Redlands	CA	1	Fredrick	MD	2	Columbia	SC	45
San Diego	CA	321	Laurel	MD	4	La Vergne	TN	58
San Francisco	CA	78	Owings Mills	MD	3	Nashville	TN	115
San Jose	CA	81	Silver Springs	MD	6	Amatillo	TX	116
Santa Ana	CA	6	Battle Creek	MI	6	Austin	TX	224
Union City	CA	2	Lansing	MI	108	Dallas	TX	260
Upland	CA	18	Inner Grove Heights	MN	23	Fort Worth	TX	259
Westminster	CA	13	Maplewood	MN	22	Houston	TX	442
Aurora	CO	20	Minneapolis	MN	5	San Antonio	TX	79
Broomfield	CO	18	Roseville	MN	11	Salt Lake City	UT	355
Centennial	CO	4	St. Paul	MN	726	Charlottesville	VA	83
Denver	CO	247	Kansas City	MO	53	Hampton	VA	26
Englewood	CO	12	Liberty	MO	3	Richmond	VA	83
Highlands Ranch	CO	13	St. Louis	MO	74	Roanoke	VA	5
Indian Hills	CO	14	Carrboro	NC	143	Belvue	WA	54
Lakewood	CO	18	Chapel Hill	NC	55	Richland	WA	7
Thornton	CO	6	Durham	NC	8	Seattle	WA	110
Bridgeport	CT	49	Greensboro	NC	129	Spokane	WA	63
Hartford	CT	226	High Point	NC	136	Burlington	WI	4
Quaker Hill	CT	1	New Bern	NC	262	Elkhorn	WI	4
Jacksonville	FL	177	Raleigh	NC	132	Kenosha	WI	5
Orlando	FL	21	Bennington	NE	26	Lake Geneva	WI	7
Tallahassee	FL	1	Lincoln	NE	54	Milwaukee	WI	237
Tampa	FL	66	Omaha	NE	207	Racine	WI	9
Alphretta	GA	2	Camden	NJ	61	12,800		
Atlanta	GA	78	Linden	NJ	163			
Decatur	GA	211	Trenton	NJ	95			
Stone Mountain	GA	139						

August 7, 2007

OPE BKK Report

Page 1

DKBA claim civilian deaths in latest clash

The Democratic Karen Buddhist Army said on the weekend that two civilians, including a 10-year-old child, had been killed last Thursday during a clash with Karen National Union special forces.

According to the DKBA, the civilians were caught in cross fire when the Karen National Liberation Army’s brigade six led by Hla Min attacked DKBA troops in Myanyanigone village, west of the Thai-Burma border town of Myawaddy, at about 6pm. “There were no casualties among our troops but two villagers were killed when the KNU fired rounds into a grocery store,” an officer with the DKBA told DVB on condition of anonymity. But KNU information officer colonel Saw Hla Ngwe said that KNLA troops reportedly only one civilian casualty as a result of the shootout.

“The area has a mixed population of the DKBA and villagers. The sixth brigade has outposts there but the DKBA is trying to dominate the area by stationing their troops in villages . . . So whenever there is a fight, there are always civilian casualties,” Saw Hla Ngwe said.

DVB

“The manner in which they kept attacking us, proves their statements on reconciliation means nothing...”

Radoh Mahn Shah commenting on SPDC attacks on villages

2-7-07

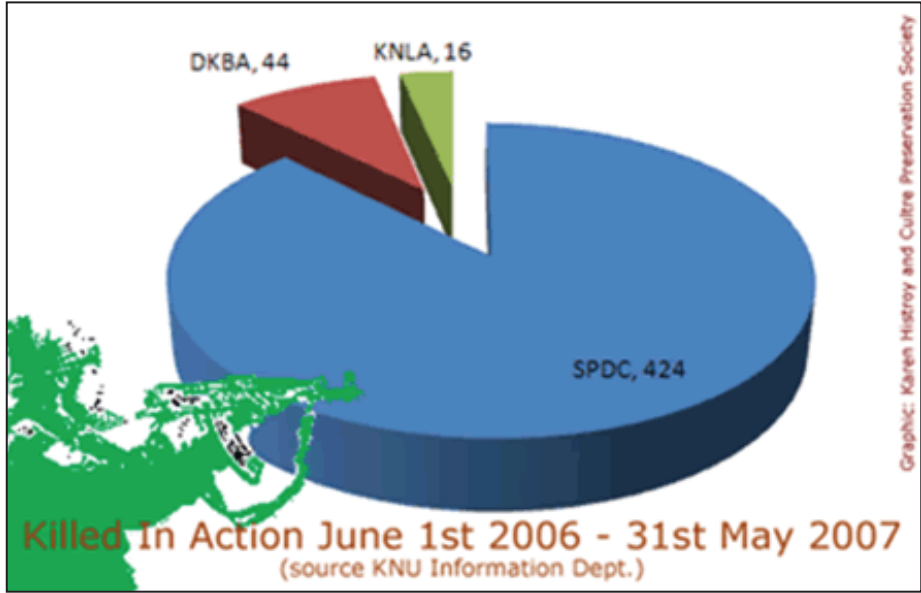
New Statistics show military cost of conflict – Burma Army taking heavy losses

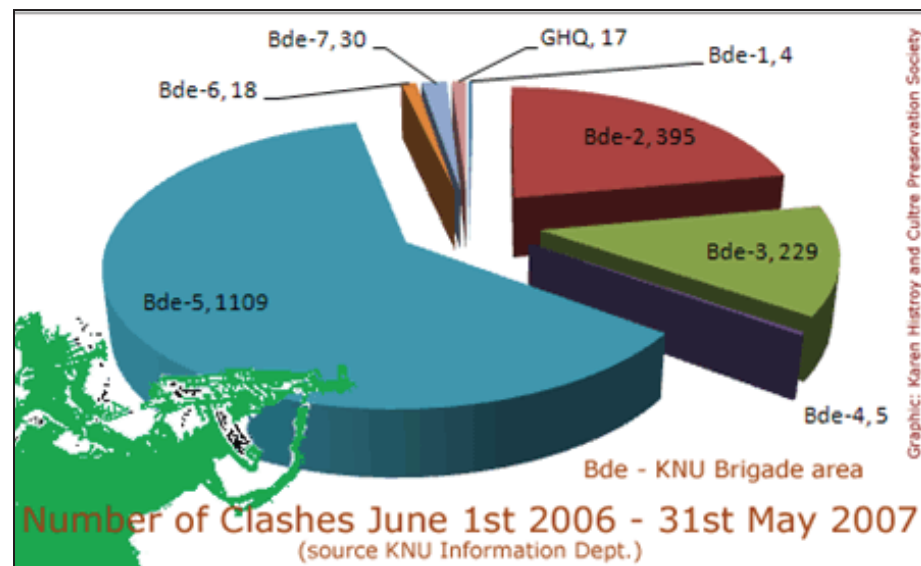
A summary report on military activities from June 1st 2006 – 31st May 2007 shows the military costs of an ongoing offensive in Karen state. The report, issued by the Karen National Union’s Information Department, details the losses to all three sides in the conflict, the SPDC, DKBA and KNLA, in an offensive launched in February 2006 aimed at further subjugating the civilian populace in Northern Karen State.

The SPDC has lost over 424 soldiers and seen 1248 wounded

according to the figures which also record the SPDC- allied Democratic Kayin (Karen) Buddhist Army has losing 44 men and 55 wounded. While the majority of losses for the SPDC are in the northern brigade areas particularly Toungoo, Papun and Nyaunglebin the DKBA figures show the conflict intensifying along the eastern border with Thailand with over 36 of the 44 killed in 6th and 7th Brigades.

The Karen National Liberation Army, the armed wing of the Karen National Union, suffered 15 dead and 15 wounded according to the report. However, such figures are set to increase as the KNLA, forced with an increasingly volatile situation along the border, increases attacks on the DKBA and their SPDC allies to limit further attacks on an ever-growing IDP population



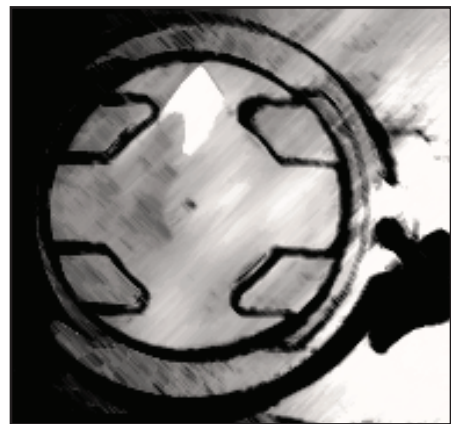


forced to shelter just inside the eastern border.

KHCPS
3-7-07

Landmine death toll rises in Karen state

The number of people killed by landmines in Karen State has increased dramatically this year as tensions continue between rival



Karen rebels, according to staff at the Mae Tao clinic on the Thai-Burma border.

Saw Eh Thamwe, the coordinator of the clinic's mine victim department, said that the clinic had treated 16 people injured by landmines in June alone and that increased tensions between the Karen National Union and the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army

were to blame.

"This year has the highest number of land-mine cases due to intensified fighting. In previous years, there were as few as ten landmine cases a year but in the first six months of this year we had 30 cases," Saw Eh Thamwe said.

Married couple U Pho Htin and Daw La Pyait from Maw Htoo Tha Lae village near Myawaddy were brought to the clinic yesterday after they were injured by a landmine while gathering bamboo shoots in the jungle in the early morning.

"The wife lost both of her legs and her husband has gone blind. Because their wounds were quite serious we have sent them to the Mae Sot hospital with the assistance of the [International Committee of the Red Cross]," Saw Eh Thamwe said.

DVB

5-7-07

KNLA kills nine Burmese soldiers injures ten

Nine Burmese soldiers were killed and 10 injured in a fire fight on July 2 between the Burma Army and the Karen National Liberation

Army (KNLA) in Three Pagoda Pass (TPP) township areas, according to ethnic ceasefire groups in TPP. The KNLA is the military wing of the KNU.

Karen National Union (KNU) Secretary-General Phado Mahn Sha confirmed the casualties on the Burma Army side but claimed none of their soldiers were injured.

IMNA contacted the U Tin Win, Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council in TPP, to confirm the deaths. But he refused to confirm and avoided giving the contact number of the person in charge of the military in the region.

The clash occurred between the Burmese Infantry Battalion No.308 and KNLA troops No.16 under Brigade 6 control areas. The fire fight lasted half an hour between Toung-zun village and Mezali village, TPP Township.

"The manner in which they kept attacking us, proves their statements on reconciliation means nothing. And we are concerned about the people every time clashes occur in these areas," Phado Mahn Sha said.

"Now people in the areas where battles occur are not allowed to go outside their villages," he added.

Recently, fighting between the Burmese military and KNLA has intensified, occurring every week and every day, said Phado Mahn Sha.

The KNLA one of the stronger ethnic armed groups has been fighting the Burmese junta for over half a century for independence of Karen state in Burma.



IMNA
6-7-07

Military offensive must stop for genuine political solution: KNU

If the Burmese military junta is serious about solving the political problems which besiege the nation, the Burmese Army "should stop attacking us", the Karen National Union said today.

KNU, the rebel outfit, which has been fighting the military dictatorship in Burma for over five decades, the longest period of insurgency, said it had been attacked nearly 2,000 times during a span of just one year.

The KNU, citing a recent survey of deaths and clashes, said, it suffered nearly 2000 onslaughts during June 2006 to June 2007 and at least 450 Burma Army and 20 members of the Karen National Liberation Army, its armed wing, died. Another 20 were injured during the conflict.

Pado Man Sha, General Secretary

of KNU, said in order to find a genuine political solution and to initiate a free and fair dialogue, all offensives must stop forthwith.

"More over they [the junta] should release all political prisoners, and should not try to control political parties. Then we can start heading towards political reconciliation. But what is happening is just the opposite. They are doing whatever they want and launching sporadic attacks. So, we can see that the junta is not changing its ways" Man Sha said.

In the latest series of attacks, last night at about 10 p.m. the 907th battalion of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), which is frequently reported to have aided the Burma Army in its offensives, attacked a village, located under the control of the KNLA Brigade 6, which is based about 10 kilometres from Myawaddy, a Thai-Burmese border town.

While the DKBA's attack was targeted at the KNLA Brigade 6, Man Sha said there were no members of the KNLA brigade 6 present there.

Since February 2007 till date, the

KNU faced at least 20 attacks, where at least 30 DKBA troops and three KNU soldiers died with three more KNU members wounded, Man Sha said.

Than Htike Oo
Mizzima
6-7-07

Editorial: Tennesarim – nuclear fuelled

A Russian survey team, accompanied by the Burmese military, has been spotted conducting a survey in Tennesarim by KNU intelligence operatives according to this month's issue of the Irrawaddy. The article quotes unnamed Karen sources as saying that the commander of 505 Artillery Division, along with five Russian experts in radar and air defense, conducted the survey in late May near Maw Valley in the Mergui [Myeik] district of Tennesarim Division, which borders Thailand.

It is interesting to note however the coincidence between what is ostensibly identified as a location for a new air defence system and also the possible area where uranium deposits are likely to be mined. Russia's federal atomic energy agency Rosoton recently made headlines when it confirmed it was going to build a 10 megawatt nuclear reactor in the country.

While fears have largely been due to the international communities' concerns over the regime's possible development of a nuclear capacity, on the ground in areas where uranium is to be mined the increase in Human rights abuses, as evidenced during the construction of the

Villagers near Kawkaareik township, were reportedly ordered by the DKBA to leave their properties by July 9.

“The DKBA said we had to start moving by the 9th. We are supposed to move to a place that is about three hours away,” one villager said.

The DKBA confirmed today that they had asked the villagers to move, saying that it was because



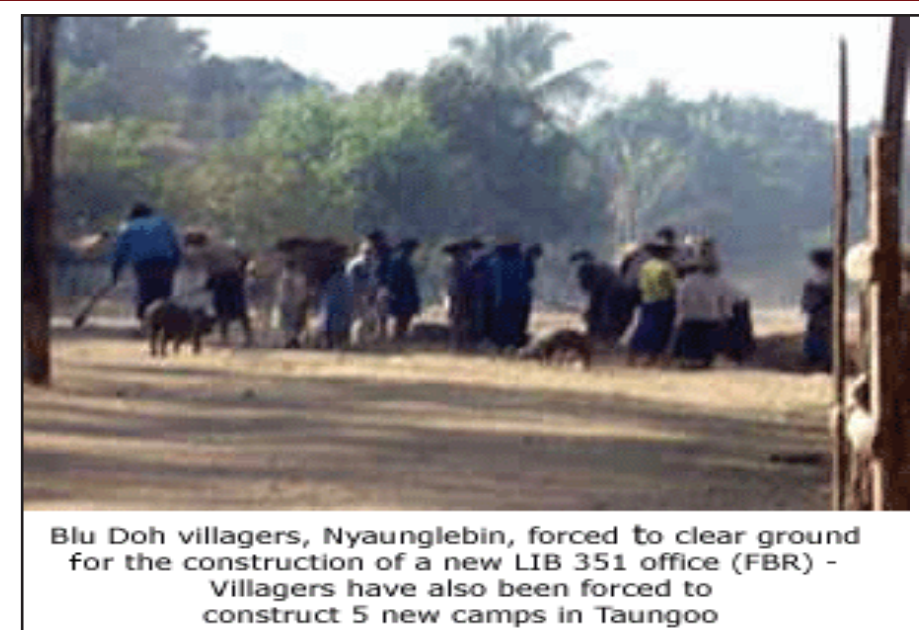
The Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People said force relocations were common across Karen State, with more than 90 villages forced to relocate last year.

DVB
11-7-07

Military builds new Karen bases with

forced labour

Most of the civilians recruited for the forced labour by the military were reportedly from the Tate Phu area, where six villages house about 500 people. Saw Taw Oo also said that several villagers had been shot by the Burmese military's light infantry battalion 30 and that four other civilians, including two



seventeen-year-old girls had been kidnapped by the troops. "They opened fire in Htantabin township and killed 60-year-old Saw Pho Thee from Kyauk Sin Taung on the spot and they injured a man who was 25," he said.

DVB
12-7-07

Authorities restrict movement in refugee camp following assassination of KNU official

Thai authorities are restricting Burmese refugees from leaving a containment camp after a senior Karen National Union intelligence official was assassinated by an unknown armed group near the Mae Lah camp along the northern Thai-Burmese border.

According to Mae Lah residents, Thai officials have enforced restrictions on movements both exiting and entering the Mae Lah camp since Saturday. On Friday evening, Maj Tha Shee, a long-time military intelligence officer in the Karen National Union, was killed near the refugee

camp.

Adun Nuipakdee, a Thai district security official in Tasongyang District, said a second Karen soldier who accompanied Tha Shee died of his injuries following the attack.

He said the 17th Regiment Infantry Task Force has stepped up security in the area.

Sources in the area said it's likely Tha Shee was assassinated by members of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, a splinter group of the KNU.

However, other Karen sources said that Thai authorities suspect he may have been killed by people from his own organization. KNU sources said an investigation is underway.

Violet Cho
Irrawaddy
16-7-07

SPDC on propaganda offensive

The State Peace and Development Council has increased its propaganda war against the KNU recently in a number of articles published in Burmese in the Myama Alin and Kyemon. The

articles which have been reprinted in English in the New Light of Myanmar from the 28th - 30th July accuse the KNU of forcing people into refugee camps in Thailand and recounts a number of old accusations dating back to the 1950s.

In a spectacular piece of paranoia they also state that the US repatriation programme for Karen refugees is part of a plan similar to that of the failed Bay of Pigs invasion in which anti-Castro Cubans were used to attack Cuba in the early 60's. The articles have been extracted [here](#) for further

[illegible]

reference (please note this is a .pdf document).

KHCPS
31st July 2007

AUGUST

"The Burma Army has also continued the rapid expansion of its road and military camp network which it uses to partition the areas it wishes to clear, squeezing the local population into increasingly smaller pockets and facilitating further attacks."

FBR report on increased Burma Army activity



One Death in Mae La Cholera Outbreak

An outbreak of cholera in Mae La refugee camp near the Thailand-Burma border has killed one woman, while nearly 40 others have tested positive for the disease, according to camp medical officials.

A medical staffer with the non-governmental organization Aide Médicale Internationale, which administers health services in Mae La, told The Irrawaddy on Thursday that more than 30 cases of cholera have been diagnosed since July. The patients are now being treated in the camp hospital.

A Thai health team is also conducting tests for cholera in Mae La among residents suffering

from chronic diarrhea, according to another health worker in the camp. The team has identified nine additional cases in the last two days and has referred them to the camp hospital.

Health officials are distributing medicine to curb the outbreak from the Thai Ministry of Interior office in Mae La camp, where authorities have recently banned the selling of beef, chicken, pork, duck and various homemade snacks.

Since late June, more than 60 camp residents have been admitted to the hospital, but not all have been confirmed as cholera patients.

Two additional cholera patients were identified at Dr Cynthia Maung's Mae Tao Clinic in

Mae Sot. one was transferred to Mae Sot General Hospital, a medic from Mae Tao's In-patient Department told The Irrawaddy.

The medic added that several others admitted to the hospital in Mae Sot were suspected of suffering from cholera, as well as several more residents in Phop Phra district in Thailand, though Mae Sot General Hospital has refused to comment.

Public health officials in Thailand's Tak Province announced in late July that more than 300 cases of cholera have been identified in border districts of the province in the last two months.

Shah Paung
Irrawaddy
9/8/07

KNLA deny defection

A commander of the KNLA 6th Brigade has described the meeting between his group and the Burmese Army officials as just an attempt to reach a mutual understanding and confidence building.

Earlier, the commander Lt Col Kyi Lin is said to be preparing to surrender to the Burmese government after a few meetings with the top brass Lt General Maung Bo in Kawkaik.

He admitted that his recent meeting with the Burmese military intelligence officials was done without the knowledge of the KNU Central Executive Committee in the interview with the BBC.

BBC Burmese Service:
Wed 15 Aug 2007

Thai EGAT team discuss dam project with KNU

Thailand's energy authority EGAT held talks with leaders of the Karen National Union on Thursday on a controversial proposal to build a dam on the Salween River, which has run into strong opposition by local villagers.

According to the Karen River Watch, the KNU gave EGAT permission last month to conduct a feasibility study on the proposed Hat Gyi dam. But the project has encountered heavy criticism and opposition by local authorities and villagers, who say the dam would threaten the livelihoods of more than 10 million people from 13 ethnic groups who depend on the river for their survival. Thirty EGAT engineers and other workers began a three-month study program on July 3. Opposition to their work has held up progress.

An EGAT delegation at Thursday's talks in the Thai border town of Mae Sot is understood to have appealed to the KNU to help the project proceed. The KNU's Lt-Col Roger Khin said no decision had been taken at the meeting, and KNU leaders would now consult with other executive committee members. The EGAT delegation



was promised a decision within two weeks, he said. The KNU team at the two-hour meeting comprised Lt-Col Roger Khin, Col Htoo Htoo Lay, Gen Mu Tu and Col Soe Soe. The five-man EGAT team comprised mostly engineers, a KNU source said. Naw Paw Gay Khu, a special consultant with the Karen River Watch, said: "I believe that the KNU will reach a decision based on the interests of the people, They (KNU) should listen to the people and work with them to stop these dam projects because they will have a long term impact." An earlier EGAT study of the Hat Gyi dam site, which began in May 2004, was interrupted when a surveyor with the authority died in a land mine incident.

Violet Cho
Irrawaddy
23/8/07

More Than 1000 Karens Flee Their Homes

More than 1000 people have fled Burmese military attacks in northern Karen State since the start of the month, according to fresh reports from aid groups operating in the area.

A report released today by the Free Burma Rangers, a grass-roots relief group operating in several states in Burma, said that waves of Karen villagers had fled their homes in the face of attacks by troops from the military's division 88 infantry battalions 83 and 77.

"Two villages have been burned down during the last ten days along the border of Toungoo and Papun districts of northern Karen State . . . Burma Army Light Infantry Division 88 has remained very active in this area," the FBR report said.

"The Burma Army has also continued the rapid expansion



Villagers from the area of Saw Ka Der in Mon Township, hiding in a temporary shelter jungle after Burma Army attacks (FBR)

of its road and military camp network which it uses to partition the areas it wishes to clear, squeezing the local population into increasingly smaller pockets and facilitating further attacks.”

The FBR report also said that villagers in Karen State’s Kyauk Kyi township faced ongoing forced relocation at the hands of the Burmese military and that several people had been maimed this month after stepping on Burmese army landmines.

DVB
27-08-07

KNLA commander’s body found in river with bullet wound to head

The body of the commander of the 18th Battalion of the Karen National Liberation Army was found with a bullet wound to the head in the Haungthayaw River in Kawkaik Township of Karen State on August 20.

The commander, Lt Col Kyi Lin, was reported missing by the Karen National Union 6th Brigade on August 16, amid speculation that he had been involved in a boat accident. His body was found entangled in fishing net. He had been shot in the head, according to a lieutenant colonel in the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army who asked to remain anonymous. He said there are suspicions the commander was killed by his own soldiers. The DKBA broke away from the KNU in 1995. Mahn Sha, the general secretary of the KNU, said the KNU



The body of Kyi Linn in the Haungthayaw River - KHCPS Archive

has not confirmed the events surrounding Kyi Linn’s death. Pictures of the body were widely available in the Burmese community in Mae Sot, Thailand.

Anonymous sources said unconfirmed reports speculate that he was shot by business partners in the logging business or by his own soldiers over a leadership dispute.

Kyi Lin was heavily engaged in the timber business, and he had also been holding meetings with officials from the Burmese State Peace and Development Council, the DKBA and other groups.

Kyi Linn owned two houses in villages near Kawkaik, but he usually lived at a home in Thounzethouns Village. Villagers in the area are reluctant to speculate about how he died. A former KNU soldier who lives in Kawkaik said Burmese army soldiers have repeatedly questioned him about the death, trying to establish the circumstances.

Kyi Linn was interviewed by The Irrawaddy on August 15. He said he had met with Lt Col Min Chit Oo of the Burmese Southeast Military Affairs Security department on August 11. He said he was not considering any plan to surrender to the Burmese military government.

Shah Paung
Irrawaddy
29/8/07

‘...a US Army Brigadier General and a CIA officer arrived in an insurgent camp at the border and are controlling and supervising programmes to provide military aids and launch sabotage.’

New Light of Myanmar accuses the USA in involvement in armed ethnic struggle

Thai worker killed in bomb attack in Burma

A Thai worker for the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) at the construction site of the Hat Gyi dam in Burma died in a grenade attack on Sunday, a security source said on Monday.

At about 7pm Sunday evening, two men on a motorbike threw two grenades into the Egat camp where some 40 workers lived, the source said. The bomb killed Saman (family name unknown) instantly and injured others but the number of injuries remains unclear.

The Hat Gyi dam is part of a series of dams which Thailand and Burma have planned to build on the Salween River since 2005 in order to generate 10,000 megawatts of electricity. The Hat Gyi will be the first to be completed in five or six years, with a capacity of 1,200 MW. The remaining Thai workers at the construction site are reportedly on their way home due to fears for their safety.



As the offensive continued in Karen State civil unrest came to the fore in Rangoon as monk-led protests were brutally suppressed by the Junta.

The dam has been opposed by a number of people, notably armed groups along the border between Thailand and Burma. Sunday’s bomb was not the first. In May, a bomb exploded at the site when workers were washing up after work. Two bombs were planted but only one exploded. The Burmese junta State Peace and Development Council accused the rebel group Karen National Union of being responsible for the explosion.

The Nation
3-9-07

SPDC accuses CIA in KNLA Commander’s Assassination

The State Peace and Development Council have accused the CIA of the assassination of the 18th Battalion commander of the KNLA. Lt. Col. Kyi Linn’s body was discovered in the Haungthayaw River in Kawkaik Township of Karen State on the 20th August with a bullet wound to the head.

According to a recent article in the government controlled New Light of Myanmar, Kyi Lin was assassinated ‘under a CIA plot’ after returning to the 6th Brigade area after making peace negotiations with the regime. The article also claims that ‘...a US Army Brigadier General and a CIA officer arrived in an insurgent camp at the border and

are controlling and supervising programmes to provide military aids and launch sabotage.'

According to KNLA sources the commander had agreed to remain loyal to the KNLA and the KNU, however there is speculation that he had been buying time before negotiating an agreement with the regime. Kyi Linn is the second KNLA commander to be assassinated this year. Maj. Tha Shee, a soldier attached to the GHQ/KNU Defence dept., was gunned down near Mae La

group, adding that they would probably be used in the campaign of violence in Rangoon. The source said, "DKBA Battalion 907 left in eleven trucks on Tuesday night, accompanied by their two senior leaders, Lt Col MoeTho and Col Ba Thein." He added that the DKBA leaders had been summoned to the Moulmein house of Brig Gen Thet Naing Win, Commander of Southeast Command of the State Peace and Development Council. A Karen news agency, Kwekalu reported that about 400 DKBA



DKBA Troops on Parade (DVB)

refugee camp on the 14th August.

KHCPS
11-9-07

DKBA 907 Battalion Mobilized

Eleven trucks of soldiers from the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army—an ethnic army that has declared a ceasefire with the junta—were summoned by the Burmese authorities on Tuesday from Myawaddy, according to an anonymous source close to the

soldiers set off quietly for Moulmein in Mon State and Pa-an in Karen State on Tuesday night. Mahn Sha, General Secretary of the Karen National Union, supported the claims, saying that transportation of the DKBA troops was arranged by Col Myat Htun Oo from Military Affairs Security in Mae Sot.

Saw Yan Naing
Irrawaddy
27-9-07



KNU attacks retreating Burmese Army, kills four

The Karen National Union, an ethnic armed rebel group, said it has killed at least four Burmese soldiers when it attacked a Burmese Army convoy, retreating from the frontline, early yesterday morning.

The KNU spokesperson, Pado Man Sha, said a unit of Battalion 103 of the Karen National Liberation Army, the armed wing of KNU, ambushed the Burmese troops near the Phalu village in Karen State and killed at least four soldiers. "I don't know where this battalion will be posted as they have been ordered to move back to base. I don't know if they will be deployed in Rangoon to kill protesting monks and students. But it is a reinforcement. That's why our people have attacked them," Pado Mann Sha told Mizzima. He added that the Burmese unit's strength was about 40 and the half

"The fights are going to continue as the government is trying to clear the land by supplying the DKBA with all the weapons and facilities they need,"

Saw Hla Ngway comment on SPDC/DKBA attacks in 6th Brigade

an hour battle left three Burmese army officers and a private dead.

Than Htike Oo
Mizzima
30-9-07

Government troops clash with KNLA

Fights between the Burmese government army and ethnic rebels have been on the increase in Karen and Karenni states as the government tries to clear land for a road-building project.

Karen National Union spokesperson Saw Hla Ngway told DVB that fights have been reported between Burmese troops, backed by the Democratic Karen Buddhist Association, and the Karen National Liberation Army, the armed wing of the KNU. The KNLA's Battalion 18 under Brigade 6 has clashed with the government army as it advances into Karen rebel territory to clear land for a major road-building project to take place between Thailand and Burma. Saw Hla Ngway said that another skirmish took place in the Ywartanshae area on Tuesday between KNU troops and about 400 soldiers from DKBA Battalions 906 and 909 [Most likely the report means 999 Special Battalion of which Maung

Chit Htoo is the Commander], led by Major Chit Thu and Major Nakhanmwe. The number of the casualties is still unknown.



DKBA 906 and 907 commander Major Nakhanmwe

"The fights are going to continue as the government is trying to clear the land by supplying the DKBA with all the weapons and facilities they need," Saw Hla Ngway said. Seven other clashes have been reported from Karenni state involving insurgent group the Karenni National Progressive Party. The group's secretary (2) Khoo Oo Rah claims the fights resulted in one KNPP death, while six from the SPDC side were killed or injured.

DVB
26-10-07

Travelers taxed,

movement restricted by KNU

Many people interviewed by IMNA claimed that the Karen National Union (KNU) troops in their area restricted them from traveling making it difficult to cross their gate.

The KNU has limited 25 passengers in each boat and is making each traveller pay 30,000 Kyat (22 USD) as trip cost.

From Three Pagodas Pass (TPP) to Kyainnseikyi Township is about 60 miles but the KNU has divided the trip into two parts at Kyungyaung village.

Passengers on each boat coming from TPP has to change to another boat to go to Kyainnseikyi while passengers in the boat coming from Kyainnseikyi also have to change to another boat to go to TPP.

"This way the KNU can tax twice because they tax boats arriving boats and leaving," said a local politician.

The ceasefire groups, the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, New Mon State Party, Karen Peace Front, and the State Peace and Development Council are taxing people in this area.

Some have set up gates for taxing. The rate of travel by people has been increasing by the year.

However, another trip from Moulmein to Myawaddy along the Myawaddy-Moulmein Asia highway is far less costly at about 6,000 kyat (4 USD) which makes it five times less than that by boat. "The KNU has done nothing for travelers and the people have not benefited. People have to keep waiting," said a traveler who came back from the border.

IMNA interviewed Hla Ngwe, a spokesman of KNU who said "We don't know of this situation. The local Colonel did not report to us."

The IMNA also tried to contact KNU local officials responsible for TPP area over telephone but could not.

IMNA
30-10-07

Ethnic armies prepare for dry season offensive

The increase in frontline confrontations between the Burmese army and ethnic groups is an indication that the military government is planning a major offensive, according to sources from ethnic groups.

Maj Hla Ngwe, secretary of the Karen National Union's information department, told The Irrawaddy on Wednesday that fighting has increased between Burmese and Karen soldiers in recent weeks, especially in Kawkaik Township in Karen State's Brigade 6. He said, "It is most likely that they [the Burmese army, or

NOVEMBER

'...the KNU and KNLA are no longer involved in the use of child soldiers and violations of child rights...we reaffirm our willingness to welcome those who want to conduct inquiry in our areas and to cooperate with the UN or other organizations working for elimination of child soldiers and protection of child rights.'

KNU Statement regarding child Soldiers

Tatmadaw] will conduct military operations during the dry season as they used to do. They are trying to clean the way for the Asia highway in Karen state." In Kawkaik Township, the Tatmadaw has reinforced its troop numbers and set up armed camps in areas where the road is due to be built, he said. In previous years the Burmese army would launch military operations in the ethnic areas only during the dry season months (usually January to May). Meanwhile, vice-secretary of the Karenni National Progressive Party, Khu Oo Reh, said that the Karenni army has clashed with Burmese troops an estimated six times since early October. He said

that Karenni soldiers are preparing for conflict in the months ahead. Khu Oo Reh added that two Burmese soldiers die for every one Karenni soldier killed in hand to hand combat. Regular clashes are also occurring in the middle and western regions of Shan State, according to a spokesperson for the Shan State Army (South), Sai Lao Hseng. He added that his troops were always on the alert. On 23—24 October, a skirmish occurred between the Karen National Liberation Army, the regular army of the KNU, and the breakaway Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, the DKBA. One soldier from the DKBA was seriously injured, said Maj Hla



Photo: Ehna

Ngwe of the KNU.

Then on October 27, there was a clash between the KNLA and Burmese soldiers in Kawkaik Township in Karen State. Six Burmese soldiers were killed, but no Karen soldiers died, Maj Hla Ngwe claimed.

Meanwhile, from 24 to 29 October, Burmese army troops from Division 88 and Military Operations Command, MOC 1 sacked two Karen villages—Ler Moo Plaw and Yeh Mu Plaw, in Papun District—and destroyed the villagers' rice harvest, according to a report by the Free Burma Rangers relief team.

The report stated that two villagers were killed and nine villagers were wounded, including two teenage girls. The Tatmadaw forcibly relocates villagers, chases people from their homes, disrupts their planting and harvesting, and kills anyone who resists, the report concluded.

The largest Burmese army offensive in recent years against the Karen people was in February 2006 when 30,000 Karen villagers from the northern three districts of Karen State were displaced from their homes and an estimated 370 people were killed. Since then, 52 new Burmese army bases have been built in the area.

Saw Yan Naing
1-11-07
Irrawaddy

Over 1000 SPDC landmines on Karen state highway

The Burmese Army has replanted over 1,000 landmines along the Kawkaik and Tingu Nyi Noun highways in Karen State, Burma, in an effort to 'clean up' the highway. Sources from the



Images: KHRG/Graphic KHCPs

Karen National Union (KNU) said replanting of mines started two days ago.

"Three Burmese military groups have come together to replant landmines in the north Kot Ka Rait area, along with Khi Mu Hta and Noe Poe villages, General Hla Ngwe said.

"On the October 24 and 25 the KNU fought the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA)-assisted Burma Army. Soon after the gun fight, it became clear that the SPDC planned to plant over 1000 landmines in the area between October 29 and October 31," he added.

The plan was communicated directly from the Burma Army groups of Light Infantry Battalions (Kha Ma Ya 545, 355 and 356)," added General Hla Ngwe. "The SPDC's army didn't design the mines carefully and they planted them in protest against the way we came and fought them, so they didn't cover the mines. Sometimes we hear the mines exploding in the jungle but it is difficult to discern who has set them off."

"Whenever we hear bombs

exploding in the jungle nobody dares to go and look at the situation, so it's hard to say whether it's villagers or wild animals stepping on the mines," a Kawkaik villager said. On October 25 and 27 the DKBA, assisted the Burmese Army Kha Ma Ya (545) and fought the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and KNU in the areas now heavily laid with landmines.

"In Karenni State in early October the Burmese Army increased the number of landmines because they thought that the revolutionary groups were coming to attack them," the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) said. In Three Pagodas Pass on Thai-Burma border on October 27 a land mine exploded in a DKBA head-person's home. One person was injured.

6-11-07
Kaowao

Monk from Karen state flees to Thai border

A Buddhist monk from Karen State arrived at the Thai

border town of Mae Sot on Wednesday after escaping arrest by the Burmese army and the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army.

The 48 year-old monk, Ashin Sein Tita, from Arr Kaung monastery in Kawkaik Township in Karen State, fled to the border fearing reprisals for his involvement in the pro-democracy demonstrations in August and September. Ashin Sein Tita was one of prominent monks who led hundreds of protesters through the streets in Kawkaik Township, chanting the “Metta Sutta” (the Buddha’s words on loving kindness).

“They [the Burmese authorities] came to arrest me after I twice led protests and gave interviews with the exiled Burmese media three times,” said Sayardaw Sein Tita. He said that he narrowly escaped from the monastery when authorities came to arrest him. He had been followed by the security forces for several weeks. “If I had still been at the monastery an hour later, I would have been arrested and jailed for sure,” he added.

Ashin Sein Tita traveled to the Thai border by foot, avoiding DKBA checkpoints along the way. It took him two weeks to get to Mae Sot.

He said that police and about 30 soldiers—mostly DKBA troops—have surrounded Arr Kaung monastery since he left for Thailand last month.

The monk said that he would continue to fight for the people and for democratic reform in Burma as much as he could. He said that he expected many more people to flee from Burma to Thailand in the near future. Dozens of pro-democracy activists, including monks, have

arrived in Mae Sot since the September crackdown on the nationwide protests in Burma.

Saw Yan Naing
Irrawaddy
8-11-07

Karen Political and Ceasefire Groups Issue Pro-Junta



U Saw San Shwe
UKL Representative
to National Convention

Statements

The Union Kayin League Announcement

Letter No Pa Ka Pha 01/2007
Date 16 November 2007

1. The Union Kayin League is an official political party originated from (Dawkalu) Kayin National Asiyone formed in 1881.

2. The league was formed with the objective of cooperating with other national races of the Union for introduction of genuine democratic practice.

3. The league attended the National Convention from start to finish, which was held from 1993. It took part in the discussions on laying down fundamental principles and detailed basic principles together with other

eight delegate groups.

4. The Union Kayin League will take part in implementation of the future tasks of the National Convention in cooperation with all the national races with the objective of national reconsolidation in accord with the seven-step Road Map.

5. Hence, the Union Kayin League does not agree to the discussion on the affairs of national races by any person or any organization as the league has already participated in the issue of national races in the National Convention. The league supports the government’s measures taken for the emergence of the constitution based on the already-laid down fundamental principles and detailed basic principles in the National Convention. The league will continue to take part in the efforts for implementation of the remaining steps of the seven-step Road Map.

The Union Kayin League

Phayagon Special Region Peace Group Announcement

Date: 14th November 2007

The Phayagon Special Region Peace Group has abandoned the armed struggle line of KNU and unconditionally exchanged arms for peace. Therefore, we participated in the National Convention to secure rights of national races legally. The fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down at the National Convention have guaranteed to give national races the legislative power, executive power and judiciary power that were not enjoyed in the past. Laying down the

fundamental principles and detailed basic principles at the National Convention proved that the national reconsolidation had been realized.

National legal experts are included in the 54-member Commission for Drafting the State Constitution and it shows that national races also get an opportunity to participate in writing the draft constitution. As the third step of the Seven-Step Road Map has been taken, we believe that efforts for implementing the other steps will continue to be made.

However, while implementing the seven-step Road Map, Mr Gambari released a statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her behalf. We believe that according to the statement, the point implying that she will represent the national races is ignoring the national races’ desire that was expressed at the National Convention. In the interests of the country, we do not need to favour the interests of a person or a party. We must consider the interests of over 50 million people.

Hence, we, the Phayagon Special Region Peace Group, announce that we do not accept the act that harms the basic principles approved unanimously by delegates of eight delegate groups including national races and we will continue to fully cooperate with the government to implement the seven-step Road Map. Phayagon Special Region Peace Group

Democratic Kayin Buddhist Association

Date: 14th November 2007

Announcement

The Democratic Kayin Buddhist Association made peace with the

government to be able to serve the interests of Kayin national race and to build the unity of national races and it also participated in the National Convention.

We believe that the National Convention is only place where all political parties, groups representing national races and delegates from all walks of life can hold discussions most comprehensively. We also believe that the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down at the National Convention represent the desires of all national races.

Therefore, we don’t accept the acts which do not recognize the basic principles laid down at the National Convention and those which can harm the implementation of the seven-step Road Map. We do not agree to a statement implying that an individual or a party will represent national races. As desires of all national races including DKBA were expressed at the National Convention, we will continue to support and to fully cooperate in the implementation of the seven-step Road Map.

Chairman
Democratic Kayin Buddhist

Association (DKBA)

Burma rebel group denies child soldier claims

An ethnic rebel group waging a decades-long uprising against Burma’s military regime has denied a United Nations report saying it recruited child soldiers. The Karen National Union (KNU), which has battled the government for 57 years in one of the world’s longest-running insurgencies, said it had banned the presence of children under 18

in its ranks in 2003.

“Some parts of the [UN secretary-general’s] current report, based on data collected in 2005, is no longer relevant,” a KNU statement said.

“Accordingly, the KNU and KNLA (Karen National Liberation Army) are no longer involved



A journalist takes photos of a young boy (the son of a soldier) in uniform at 201 Battalion H.Q. Waley Kee in 2001. Young recruits are often responsible for cleaning and taking care of the camp. (Paul Keenan/KHCPS Archive)

in the use of child soldiers and violations of child rights.” In a statement released Friday, UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon said that both the military government and rebel groups continued to violate children’s rights by recruiting underage soldiers.

Citing a recent UN report, he said that the government was picking up street children or those without national identity cards and offering them the choice of arrest or joining the army.

“Also of grave concern are the reliable reports of a number of incarcerated children/minors who have been convicted of desertion and sentenced to prison terms of up to five years,” Mr Ban said in the statement.

Burma’s military government officially denies using child soldiers and has passed a law to

outlaw the practice. But human rights groups say child soldiers in Burma remain alarmingly common, with boys as young as 12 recruited to fight the ethnic rebel armies in the country's border regions.

Burma Army troops move into Karen state, one killed in clash

Not less than 2,000 Burma Army troops marched to Karen State Kyainnseikyi Township and Three Pagoda Pass (TPP) areas where the Karen Nation Union has influence. A gun battle took place between the two sides at 4



Burmese troops on armed forces day (AP)

pm in Thet-phyu-chung village in Kyainnseikyi Township yesterday killing one Burmese soldier and injuring two, sources from a cease-fire group in TPP said

IMNA tried to contact a KNU leader to confirm the news but his telephone was not available.

The Burma Army troops are from Infantry Battalion (IB) No. 28, IB 403, Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 338, 339, 36 and 403, 405

and 406 which are under Military Operation Management Command No. 8.

LIB No. 338, 339, IB No. 28 are active in Kyaik-Dein area, and 403, 405, 406 are in Pha-yar-ngou-tou area in Kyainnseikyi Township .

IB No. 28 is operating in Myaing Thayar village, Three Pagoda Pass Township .

There are already four battalions in Kyainnseikyi Township and Three Pagoda Pass Township and now troops are flocking to these territories because the junta wants the army in four more places in Mon and Karen ethnic areas in Burma.

A motorcycle trader said he met the soldiers on his way to Three Pagoda Pass border town and heard from a military officer that there were about 85 military trucks transporting the soldier and rations.

The Burma Army's offensive in Karen Nation Union territory is to clear the opposition army group because in this area a railway project is coming up in 2008 from Three Pagoda Pass to Thanphyuzayart, according to source close to military in Three Pagoda Pass.

More over, the military regime plans to station an artillery battalion in Chung-zone village area, according to sources close to authorities in TPP.

Joi Htaw
IMNA
27/11/07

KNU not to reopen Three Pagoda Pass-

Thanphyuzayart highway

The Karen National Union in a letter to the Three Pagoda Pass Township Peace and Development Council authorities has announced that it is not going to work in tandem with the Burmese military authorities to reopen the highway from the Thai-Burma border town of Three Pagoda Pass to Thanpyuzayart, Mon State .

The letter was sent not only to TPP authorities, but also to traders and businessmen who operate from across its gate in Kyungyaung village. The officer



at the check point gave the letter to them.

The letter has the seal of the KNU and said that they would not take any responsibility for those passing through the Three Pagoda Pass to Thanpyuzayart road and would shoot whoever uses the vehicular route.

There are three routes, Three Pagoda Pass to Kyainnseikyi Township , Karen State , TPP to Ye Township, and TPP to Thanphyuzayart Township , Mon State .

KNU has allowed businessmen and traders the use of two roads but not TPP to Thanphyuzayart route because there are thousands of Burma Army troops using the road. They are the enemy and KNU have said they will shoot at any car, boat or people they see on

this route, a person who read the letter said.

He added that KNU will take off its gate after its water trip at the end of this month and will have a meeting on December 4 to let car owners and the traders know which route they will be allowed to use.

KNU has prohibited use of the vehicular route from TPP to Thanpyuzayart because the regime armed forces marched to their area of influence to establish four more army bases in Kyainnseikyi and Three Pagoda Pass Townships.

A car owner who used to drive from the Thai-Burma border town to Thanpyuzayart said that this will affect the local people badly because the ban and restriction is not only from KNU but also from the Burma Army's side.

IMNA
29/11/07

Junta launches fresh campaign against KNU

Sporadic guerilla warfare has once again shaken eastern Burma's Karen State as the Burmese Army has begun a fresh offensive against the ethnic Karen's main armed resistant group, the Karen National Union (KNU), said the General Secretary of the group.

Padoh Man Sha, General Secretary of the KNU, told Mizzima that sporadic fighting has been ongoing in Kawkreik and Myawaddy Townships in the eastern regions of Burma since September, as columns of the Burmese Army - Light Infantry

Battalions 230, 231 and 549 - push into areas controlled by the KNU's 6th Brigade.

"Fighting is continuing. Since they [Burmese army] are using human shields, we [KNU] have to utilize guerilla warfare tactics with sporadic attacks," Man Sha said.

Khaing Mar Kyaw Zaw, a Karen journalist based on the Thai-Burmese border, said the Burmese Army is using the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), a Karen armed group which has a ceasefire agreement with the junta, in their campaign against the KNU.

"The current campaign is led by the DKBA, and the Burmese army is joining them. Sources close to the DKBA say they have proclaimed that they will capture areas controlled by the KNU's 6th Brigade within 3 months," Khaing Mar Kyaw Zaw said.

She added that a source in Kawkreik Township, who is close to the DKBA, has revealed that the current campaign is designed to capture KNU dominated areas so as to clear the way for the construction of the Asian Highway, which is to pass through Kawkreik and Myawaddy Townships in Karen state.

The Burmese Army has joined the DKBA's Brigades 333, 907, 901 and Special Battalion 999 in the new campaign against the KNU.

"A DKBA Captain named Bo Mojo is said to have led the campaign and used villagers for portering as well as for human shields, to prevent the KNU from launching counter attacks," Khaing Mar Kyaw Zaw said.

However, Man Sha said that counter offensives have killed several attacking troops, with the KNU suffering only a few casualties.

"Since they [the Burmese army and DKBA] are randomly pushing their way in, they suffer more casualties. Our boys launch sporadic guerilla attacks," Man Sha added.

However, Man Sha could not provide a casualty figure for either side.

Mizzima
30-11-07

Burmese Army Reinforces Troops for Dry Season Military Offensives

The Burmese government has reinforced troops in Karen State in preparation for dry season military offensives against the Karen National Union, according to sources close to the Burmese military regime.

The regime's Central Command has sent about 10 Light Infantry Divisions which make up the Military Operation Command 4, with an estimated 20,000 soldiers, to southern and northern Karen State in November.

MOC 4 was sent to Mon and Kyauk Gyi in Pegu Division and Papun in northern Karen State. LID 88 with some 1,500 soldiers was sent to Kawkreik and Kyar Inn Seik Gyi in southern Karen State, according to the source.

Meanwhile, the Free Burma Rangers, a medical relief team

that aids internally displaced persons, said some 3,000 Burmese soldiers of Light Infantry Division 33 in northern Karen State were sent to Mon in Pegu Division on November 20, accompanied by about 20 Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) soldiers and 100 porters.

Saw Steve, a member of the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People, told The Irrawaddy on Friday, “Burmese troops started to enter Mon in Pegu Division in late November. Villagers are now on alert. After having meals, they [villagers] always keep their plates, pots and cups in a basket and they’re prepared to flee if necessary.”

Mahn Sha, the secretary-general of the Karen National Union, said the Burmese army would probably launch armed operations after it completes stockpiling rations in the area.

“We’ve heard that they [Burmese armies] intend to launch military operations, especially against the KNU. Small clashes between the KNU and Burmese army happen every day in the region of Three Pagodas Pass, Kawkaik, Kyar Inn Seik Gyi, Myawaddy, Pa-an and Taungoo District.”

He said about 150 Burmese battalions are now stationed in Karen State. The Burmese army is also destroying villagers’ paddy fields and forcing villagers to work on the construction of two new roads in Karen State bordering Karenni State, Mahn Sha said.

On November 15, some 300 people, including at least 100 children in Ler Wah and Ta Hoe Aung villages in northern Karen state, fled an attack launched

by Light Infantry Division 11, according to a FBR report. Two local villagers were killed by Light Infantry Battalion 218 and 219, the report said

Meanwhile, on November 20 Burmese units from MOC 8 and 19 arrived in the Three Pagodas Pass border area near Mon Sate in southern Burma, according to a ceasefire group, the New Mon State Party.

Nai ong Ma-nge, a spokesperson of the New Mon State Party, said troops have reinforced soldiers already stationed near the NMSP area, and they are likely to launch an offensive against the KNU.

He said the NMSP is also preparing for an attack from Burmese soldiers.

Nai ong Ma-nge said, “It is not good because they [Burmese soldiers] increased their troops in our ethnic areas while their leaders are talking about achieving political dialogue for national reconciliation. They should withdraw their armies.”

The NMSP is worried about the Burmese reinforcements around the Three Pagodas Pass—an area controlled by the NMSP, the KNU and the DKBA. Recently, the KNU closed down a road from Three Pagodas Pass to Thanbyuzayat because it believed the Burmese army planned to use the road when operating a military offensive against the KNU and Mon and Karen villages in the area.

On November 7, a two-hour clash occurred between Burmese soldiers from Infantry Battalion 577 and the Shan State Army – South at a village in Shan state.

Four Burmese soldiers were killed and four were injured. No SSA-S soldiers were injured, according to Sai Lao Hseng, a spokesperson for the SSA-S.

Tension between Burmese soldiers and the Kachin Independence Organization recently increased with both sides reinforcing troops near the China-Burma border. Burmese soldiers have also begun disrupting KIO businesses in the region, according to a local source.

A Burmese military offensive that began in February of 2006 in northern Karen State has killed more than 370 villagers, including children, and displaced more than 30,000 people. More than 5,000 displaced persons have fled to the Thai-Burma border area.

Saw Yan Naing
Irrawaddy
30-11-07

KNU terrorists shoot at passenger bus

Three KNU terrorists fired at a vehicle on its way back to Thantaunggyi Township leaving a monk wounded and killing another monk and a woman on 25 November.

Thantaunggyi Town-ship Aung Myin monastery presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala died of wounds at the hospital and Thantaunggyi Township MyoU monastery presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nameindha was wounded in the KNU terrorist attack. The 45-year-old woman who was also killed in the attack was Daw Naw Lai Lai, daughter of U Ma Lel Le of No 4 Thantaungthit Ward.

“They are going finish off the KNU, take over the area and then construct the Asia Highway, which will connect neighbouring countries. If the villages or farms are near the highway, they are going relocate all the villagers,”

Khine Mar Kyaw Zaw, Editor K. I. P.

The injured were rushed to Taungoo Township People’s Hospital. The rest in the vehicle were provided necessary assistance. The local military columns are in hot pursuit of KNU terrorists.

New Light of Myanmar
30/11/07

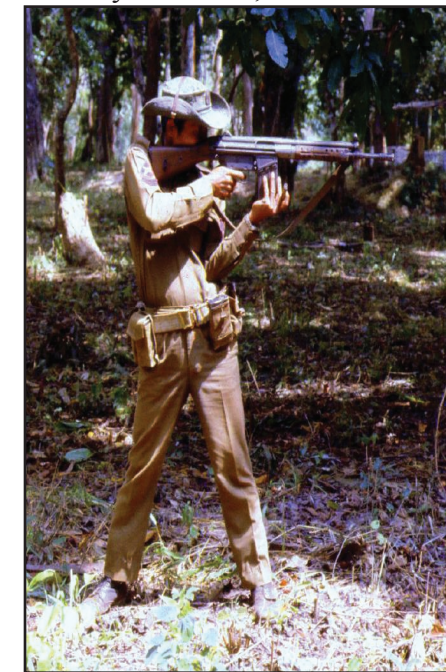
Military offensive forces relocation of villagers

Scores of Karen’s are being forced to relocate in areas where the Burmese Army is gearing up to launch fresh offensives adding to the growing numbers of internally displaced persons (IDP).

“Many people will be forced to work as porters after the army launches an offensive against the Karen National Union (KNU),” said Khine Mar Kyaw Zaw, editor of the Karen Information Centre News Group.” The junta’s troops are also known to order the porters to go to the frontline carrying rations and military equipment when they fight the KNU,” Khine said.

Many villages in Kyainnseiky

Township, Kawkaik Township, which is the main focus of the military offensive, are at risk.



Burmese Soldier (KHCPs Archive)

Villagers scared that the army will use them as forced labour are moving to neighbouring villages.

According to a Colonel of the Karen Peace Force (KPF) many people in Mae Ka Sa village near Three Pagodas Pass on the Thai-Burma have been moving to Three Pagodas Pass and other villages.

“There is an announcement in an official letter for Mae Ka Sa villagers to relocate but some who are apprehensive of being used

as forced labour to carry military supplies have left the village while some are still there,” The KPF Colonel added.

Reports suggest that the Burma junta intends to neutralize the armed KNU in three months. The army plans to launch a major offensive in the area where the KNU operates.

Several thousand troops of the Burma Army have arrived in the region, Khine Mar Kyaw Zaw said.

“They are going finish off the KNU, take over the area and then construct the Asia Highway, which will connect neighbouring countries. If the villages or farms are near the highway, they are going relocate all the villagers,” Khine said.

At the moment, border trade has come to a halt and the Moulmein-Myawaddy highway is not in use for trading as the KNU and Burma Army gear up to fight.

IMNA
03/12/07

Government troops prepare KNU

offensive

Twelve regiments of the ruling State Peace and Development Council army are heading for Karen National Union territory to launch an offensive, according to a KNU official.

Major Saw Hla Ngwe, secretary of the KNU information committee, told DVB that more than 1,000 soldiers were involved in the offensive into territory held by the KNU's 6th brigade in Kawkaik district, Karen state.

The KNU secretary said that the 1st, 2nd and 3rd KNU brigades were also being targeted.

Three regiments each from the 12th Military Operations Command, 8th Military Operations Command and the 22nd Light Infantry Division are taking part in the offensive, along with troops from the SPDC-backed Democratic Karen Buddhist Army. Major Saw Hla Ngwe said sporadic clashes had already taken place and claimed that the SPDC and the DKBA had taken casualties.

On 25 November, a DKBA unit lobbed 10 shells into Lan Pha village, where around 50 DKBA men later took up positions. Further clashes took place in the same area on 26 November when DKBA troops burnt down the rice storage facilities located in the villages north of Lan Pha village. One DKBA soldier was killed and two were seriously wounded in the ensuing battles.

Also on 26 November, KNU troops clashed with the 231st Regiment under the 12th Military Operations Command when the soldiers entered the Dawbla Chedi



Forced relocation site near Ler Doh town, 25 July 2007 (FBR)

Hill area. One government soldier was killed and another wounded.

On 27 November, government forces led by DKBA troops and backed up by SPDC units with artillery fire advanced on Nan Shwe Mon village, resulting in one DKBA soldier being killed and another wounded when KNU troops returned fire.

Attempts to contact the DKBA for comment were unsuccessful.

Maj Saw Hla Ngwe said the KNU would make all efforts to counter the SPDC offensive.

"They intruded into our region first, so we had to prepare whatever we can in order to stop them from whatever they intend to do inside our territory, and to have an impact on them so that they will leave the territory in a hurry," he said.

"We have been resorting to all means, including military, to disrupt their road building and supply routes as well as to defend the territory when they come to clear it. For this reason, the casualty rate between them and us

is nine to one."

Local residents said that the offensive has forced some Karen villagers along the Thai border to flee into Thailand.

Saw Kanyaw
DVB
04/12/07

Myanmar stepping up attacks on insurgents: rebel group

Military-ruled Myanmar has stepped up its offensive against ethnic Karen rebels following a crackdown on pro-democracy protests in September, one of the main insurgent groups said Monday.

The Karen National Union (KNU) said that Myanmar's military began the offensive about one year ago, but that the attacks have intensified since October. The KNU accused the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) of waging a "genocidal war"

against ethnic Karen villagers, saying thousands of people have had to flee their homes to escape the fighting.

"In the offensives, the SPDC army troops ... perpetrate the heinous crimes of arresting and killing innocent Karen civilians, plunder, destruction, forced relocation, forced labor and extortion of money," the KNU said in a statement.

"The current military campaign is in fact a genocidal war and it is diametrically opposed to the process of resolving the political problems by political means," it said.

The KNU is the largest rebel group fighting Myanmar's armed forces and one of the few remaining ethnic insurgent groups yet to sign a peace deal with the junta.

Myanmar, under military rule since 1962, has signed ceasefires with 17 other ethnic armed groups.

The latest military onslaught began after soldiers and police violently suppressed pro-democracy protests in the main city of Yangon and other towns across the country.

The protests, led by Buddhist monks, were the biggest threat to military rule in nearly 20 years. A UN report said Friday that at least 31 were killed and 74 missing after the crackdown, with more than 600 dissidents still in detention.

Military Offensive Targeting Villagers' Food Supplies

The Burmese military government is destroying paddy fields and food stores in a dry season offensive against a Karen armed group and villagers living in

Karen State and Pegu Division, according to Karen sources.

The Karen Human Rights Group field coordinator, Poe Shan, said that government troops have been destroying villagers' farms and paddy fields in a bid to cut off the villagers' food supplies and to force villagers to move into government-designated relocation sites.

"The military authorities want to put these villagers into designated sites to make it easier to control them," he said. "But villagers are refusing to move because they believe the government will use them as forced labor and they will not have time to work for the benefit of their families."

Dry season is the time when Karen villagers collect their paddy and store it until the following year. However it coincides with the reinforcement of Burmese troops for the military's annual

pressure them to move into the designated sites.

"Now it is very difficult for the villagers to find food—some of them must resort to asking for handouts from each other," Poe Shan added.

The Free Burma Rangers relief team reported on November 22 that since the army commenced operations to relocate villagers in 2006 the Burmese troops had killed more than 370 villagers, including women and children. Over 30,000 people have been displaced, most of whom are hiding in the jungle.

Maw Law, the spokesperson for the Karen Office for Relief and Development, said that more than 1,300 villagers sought refuge in Ei Tu Hta camp on the Burmese side of the Salween River from January to November 2007. These displaced persons came from northern Karen State and Pegu



Forced proters and Burmese troops (FBR)

ground offensive against the Karen National Union.

Some villagers sneak off to the jungle and grow paddy and stock food in secret locations; however, if the soldiers find the food stores they destroy them, prevent the villagers from buying food and

Division. The refugee population of Ei Tu Hta, which was built in mid-2006, has now swollen to over 3,900 people.

According to a KNU statement released on Monday, the Burmese junta has positioned 83 new

battalions in the KNU areas. There is now a total of 187 battalions of Burmese soldiers ready to step up offensive operations.

Mahn Sha, the general secretary of the KNU, confirmed that the State Peace and Development Council has sent more troops into the KNU-controlled areas and that they are working together with the existing battalions to build roads. The government is building roads from: Kyar Inn Seik Gyi to Three Pagodas Pass (often referred to as the Payathonsu border crossing); from Kyar Inn Seik Gyi to Kyaikdon; and from Kawkareik to Kyaikdon in Karen State.

Mahn Sha said that of the seven brigades under KNU control, Burmese troops mainly attack brigades 1, 2, 3 and 5, which are in northern Karen State and Pegu Division. However, the Burmese forces had also commenced operations in the 6th and 7th brigades, he added. The KNU and the Burmese military government agreed a ceasefire known as the “Gentlemen’s Agreement” in December 2003 during a meeting between a Karen delegation led by the late KNU leader, Gen Bo Mya, and deposed Burmese Prime Minister Gen Khin Nyunt. However, according to Mahn Sha, the ceasefire agreement was annulled when Khin Nyunt was arrested in October 2004. The KNU ceased all communications with the junta early in 2007 after Maj-Gen Htain Maung, former head of KNU Brigade 7, defected to the Burmese junta.

Shah Paung
Irrawaddy
11/12/07

Karen Villagers Forced to Prepare



Karen villagers forced to prepare roads by the Burmese army (KHRG)

Roads for Tatmadaw Offensive

Burmese troops are forcing villagers in northern Karen state to repair and clear roads that will be used to transport arms and supplies for the dry season offensive against Karen National Union forces, according to the Karen Human Rights Group. KHRG field coordinator Poe Shan told *The Irrawaddy*: “The Burmese military regime is systematically using the rural people as a tool for their military operation against [the] Karen National Union. Because of the forced labor most of the villagers are trying to live in hiding places in the jungle rather than living under the control of [the] military government.”

A KHRG report, released on Thursday, said that in early November people in Papun District, Pegu Division, had been forced by the military to carry out road works, including cutting down and delivering bamboo poles, constructing fences and cutting back roadside forest growth. Old people, women and

children had not been spared the forced labor, the report said. A villager from Bu Tho township, northern Karen state, said local people were also called on to secure roads around the clock while government forces transported their supplies. Another villager said: “We had to work for them [government troops] without any payment. We have to cut bamboo poles and send thatch shingles three or four times a year, and we have to clear the sides of the road twice a year.” Much of the road work ceases during the rainy season, but the onset of the dry season in November marks a return to various forced labor projects in support of military operations. A recent KNU statement said the Burmese junta had deployed 83 new battalions in KNU-controlled areas, bringing Burmese army strength there to a total of 187 battalions. A KNU official said the deployment had necessitated the construction of more roads. In the past year, Burmese troops have attacked KNU brigades 1, 2, 3 and 5 in northern Karen State and Pegu Division, killing more than 300 people and displacing

more than 30,000, many of whom are still in hiding in the jungle. The KNU and the Burmese military government reached a ceasefire known as the “Gentlemen’s Agreement” in December 2003 at a meeting between a Karen delegation led by the late KNU leader, Gen Bo Mya, and deposed Burmese Prime Minister Gen Khin Nyunt. Following Khin Nyunt’s downfall in October 2004 and the defection to the Burmese army of the former head of KNU Brigade 7, Maj-Gen Htain Maung, in early 2007, the KNU ended all communications with the junta.

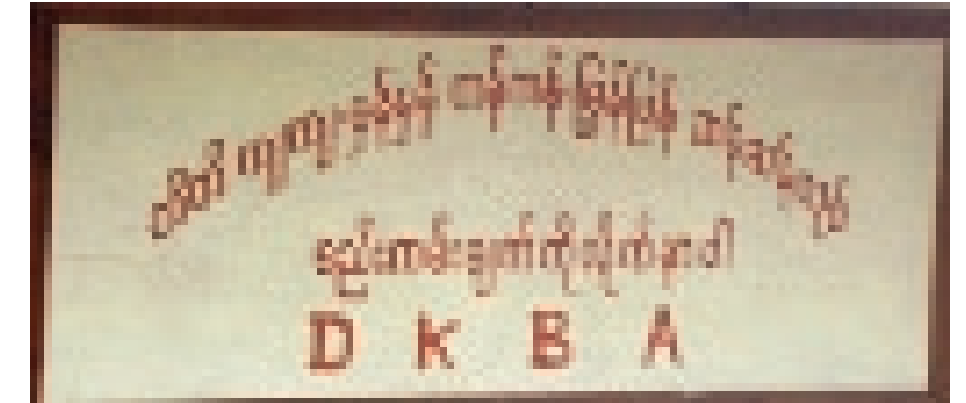
Violet Cho
Irrawaddy
December 13, 2007

KNU insurgents committing all destructive acts

*Mine and attack passenger bus,
killing 8 and wounding 6*

KNU insurgents are constantly committing all destructive acts such as undermining stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order, killing and bullying innocent people, detonating bombs, armed robberies, collecting extortion money, and burning public property. At 7.45 am yesterday, about seven KNU insurgents detonated a mine and fired small arms at a passenger bus on its way to Myawady from Kawkareik, at a place between Aukbote and Yedagunlay. In the incident, Ma Zin Mar Htwe, 30, of Bilin Township, and her baby, Maung Nay Win, 20, and Maung Sein Tun Naing, 19, of Kyaukkyi Township, Ma San San Htwe, 25, of Kyaikto Township, Daw Mi

Reh, 42, of Kawkareik Township, Ma Hla Kyi, 36, of Bilin Township, and Saw Pe Aung of DKBA, totalling 8 were killed and U Zar Law Kay, 33, of Hlaingbwe Township, Daw Nu Khin, 70, of Kamamaung Township, U Maung Hnin, 80, of Kawkareik Township, Maung Min Zeyar Soe, 19, of Kyaukkyi Township, Ma Win



Nanda, 5, of Hpa-an Township and Saw Myo of DKBA, totalling 6 were wounded. Officials concerned rushed the wounded to Kawkareik People’s Hospital and provided necessary assistance for them. Tatmadaw columns were in hot pursuit of the insurgents.

NLM 20-12-07

Karen rebels kill 8 in Burma bus attack

Karen rebels have attacked a passenger bus in eastern Burma, killing eight people and injuring another six, state media reports claimed Thursday. On Tuesday members of the Karen National Union (KNU) detonated a mine under the passenger bus as it drove from Kawkareik to Myawady in the Karen State and then fired on passengers, said The New Light of Myanmar, a government mouthpiece. The state-run newspaper blasted the KNU for “constantly

committing all destructive acts such as undermining stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order, killing and bullying innocent people, detonating bombs, armed robberies, collecting extortion money, and burning public property.” The KNU is one of Burma’s

oldest, longest-lasting insurgencies. It has been fighting for the autonomy of the Karen State since 1949, the year after Burma won its independence from Great Britain. While Burma’s state-controlled media occasionally reports about the petty acts of sabotage committed the KNU, it steadfastly ignores the atrocities committed by the Burmese military against Karen villagers including rape, forced labour and an offensive in their state that has been described as genocidal by outside observers.

DPA
20-12-07

Ethnic Rebels Kill 8, Wound 6 in Burma Highway Attack

Ethnic rebels attacked a passenger bus carrying soldiers from the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army heading toward the Thai-Burmese

border, killing eight people, including an infant and a member of the rival group, a state-run newspaper reported Thursday. Six other people were wounded in the Karen National Union's attack Tuesday on the bus, which was carrying several soldiers belonging to the DKBA, a breakaway group that reached a ceasefire agreement with the Burmese military government in 1994, the New Light of Myanmar newspaper reported.

The newspaper said KNU rebels detonated a landmine and fired at the bus as it headed from the southeastern town of Kawkaik in Karen State to the border town of Myawaddy.

The KNU is the only major ethnic rebel group not to have concluded a ceasefire agreement with the military government. Its separatist struggle in eastern Karen state is one of the world's longest-running insurgencies.

Casualties identified in Tuesday's attack included a DKBA member, an infant and passengers with no apparent connection to the separatist struggle, while the wounded included another DKBA member and a Buddhist monk, the state-run newspaper stated. However, an official on the frontline of KNU's Brigade 6 told The Irrawaddy on Thursday that three DKBA soldiers, two Burmese soldiers and seven civilians were killed. He claimed the number of both injured and dead to be about 40. The injured people were hospitalized in Kawkaik hospital.

The official said: "Before launching this attack, the KNU urged civilians not to travel in DKBA vehicles. If something happens to them while traveling in the DKBA's cars, the KNU will not take any responsibility." He added that the DKBA would

probably take revenge on the soldiers of KNU Battalion 18 who launched the attack.

Irrawaddy and AP
20-12-07



Dr Cynthia Maung

Doctor honored for her work with Myanmar refugee

Cynthia Maung, a Karen physician from Myanmar and founder of Mae Tao Clinic in Mae Sot, Thailand, was honored at the 2007 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award ceremony in Taipei Dec. 13, for recognition of her long-term commitment to refugees fleeing from troubled Myanmar.

At the ceremony, President Chen Shui-bian and Chairman of the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy Wang Jin-pyng presented Maung with an award and a grant for US\$100,000. Chen praised Maung for her determination in assisting her fellow countrymen. "On behalf of a democratic and free Taiwan, I would like to pay our highest regards to Maung," he said. Addressing an audience of over 100 invited guests from around the world, Maung first expressed appreciation to the TFD, which

initiated the award in 2006, for choosing her as the recipient of this year's honor, saying, "We [the people of Myanmar] strongly believe that the accomplishment of Taiwan's peaceful transition into a democracy is a landmark event in the worldwide spread of democracy."

The Myanmar doctor then described the worsening humanitarian conditions in her country, including the destruction of villages, displacement of people, forced labor, conscription of children and systematic rape. "The military junta is the source of all the problems in Myanmar," Maung said.

Nevertheless, the people's hope for a peaceful and stable country has never left their hearts, she noted. "I call on the international community and our Taiwanese friends to support the long-term struggle for peace and [democratic] development in Myanmar," she concluded. Taiwan's president mentioned that in light of the great trials faced by the people of Myanmar in their quest for democracy, Maung's award takes on a far deeper significance. "The military regime's cruelty and indifference look even more contemptible when placed next to her selfless love," he pointed out.

The purpose of the ADHRA is to support democratic development and promote human rights throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The TFD confers an award every year on an Asian institution or individual that demonstrates outstanding leadership in the advancement of democracy and human rights through peaceful means, the foundation stated. The TFD announced Nov. 19 that the 48-year-old Maung had eventually been selected by a review board, which consisted of

seven people from six countries, for her tenacious and long-term commitment to the thousands of refugees and migrant workers who seek refuge from oppression and violence by the military regime that governs the country, and for her dedication to training and educating those refugees to build a community based on respect for life and human rights.

Maung is a refugee from Myanmar herself, having fled from her homeland when the junta clamped down on protesters during the pro-democracy rallies of 1988. After walking through the jungle for many days, Maung and a group of other medical workers finally made it to a refugee camp in Thailand. The following year, she established a clinic near the small town of Mae Sot that now serves around 200 patients a day.

After the award ceremony, Maung attended a seminar organized by the TFD titled "Human Rights in Myanmar." Chaired by the TFD President Lin Wen-cheng, members of the panel included Maung, Michael Hsiao, executive director of the Center for Asia-Pacific Area Studies of Academia Sinica, and heads of local non-governmental organizations. Speaking at the event, Maung stated that the number of displaced people on the Thailand-Myanmar border is estimated to be between 500,000 and 600,000, being mostly people forced to leave their towns and farms because of oppressive campaigns launched by the military junta, according to a Dec. 13 report by Taiwan's Central News Agency. It is very difficult for refugees in Myanmar to gain access to such things as health care, education, clean water and decent accommodation, she added. In addition, the displaced people

have to face the danger of drug addiction, which is a growing problem among disconsolate refugees. Taken together, the issues in Myanmar are simply too serious to be overlooked, Maung said.

Hsiao echoed the doctor's concern, describing the situation as "a living hell," in which many civilians have even been deprived of the right to stay in their hometowns. "As matter of fact, Taiwan might not be able to do much to improve the situation in Myanmar. But Taiwanese people can offer simple support by focusing more attention on the problem, as well as providing direct humanitarian aid to Myanmar," he said.

Edwin Hsiao
Taiwan Journal
21-12-07

Myanmar warns against more mine attacks by anti-gov't armed group

The Myanmar authorities warned on Monday that the Kayin National Union (KNU), the largest anti-government ethnic armed group in the country, may perpetrate more mine attacks to undermine the stability of state following the Dec. 18 incident, urging people to exercise constant vigilance against any possibility.

The authorities also charged the National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB), an anti-government group in exile, with financing the KNU for two times during this year. The KNU also received cash assistance from Major Robert John Still of the U.S. Air Force on Dec. 6 for purchasing arms and ammunition, a report of the official newspaper

New Light of Myanmar said.

On Dec. 18, about seven members of the KNU detonated a mine and fired small arms at a passenger bus which was on its way to Myawaddy from Kawkaik in the border area in northeastern Kayin state with Thailand, killing eight people and wounding six others, according to the paper's earlier report.

The authorities charged the KNU with constantly committing all destructive acts such as undermining stability of the state, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order.

More earlier reports said that on Dec. 12, a mine, planted in bushes in a village of Loikaw, eastern Myanmar's Kayah state, also exploded, killing eight villagers while they were clearing the bushes near the base of a tower.

Again in June this year, a total of 27 people were killed and 11 others wounded in two shooting sprees on passenger buses by unidentified insurgent groups in Myanmar's Kayin and Kayah states in two consecutive days, while in October, three villagers were killed and four others injured as they stepped on mines allegedly planted by insurgents in Ye township in southeastern Mon state and Kyaukkyi township in the Kayin state.

Cornell team seeks to protect Myanmar's ethnic Karen culture, language

Cornell University's Southeast Asia Program (SEAP) has launched a programme to protect and preserve the Karen culture and language of Myanmar. There are an estimated 50 Karen refugees now resettled in Ithaca

on [from] the Thai-Burma border. Working with local teachers and refugee sponsors, Cornell is creating programs and resources



Karen Students wait to perform traditional Don Dancing at Shwe Koako, Karen State (Mu Chaung Khu - KHCPS Archive)

to better serve the Karen and other refugees from Burma and to share their culture with the wider community.

In October 2007, SEAP held a two-day workshop, “Burma, Border Zones and the Karen People,” with more than 60 attendees, including teachers, refugee sponsors, members of the Karen community and Cornell students and faculty. The conference covered background information on Burma and the Karen, including history, current events, culture, ethnic diversity and conflict. “The turnout was amazing,” according to Thamora Fishel (pictured), SEAP outreach coordinator, who organized the workshop. The Karen are an ethnic minority group native to south-eastern Burma and western Thailand. Political violence, instability and persecution by Burmese authorities have driven many Karen into refugee camps on the Thai border. Approximately seven million Karen live in Burma and 400,000 in Thailand.

The state department only recently allowed Karen refugees into the country. Nearly 14,000 refugees arrived in the in 2007; more are expected. Many have settled in Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo as well as in Utica, New York, which now has one of the largest Karen and Burmese communities in the country with 1,000 refugees. The Karen prefers to call their home Burma, which was renamed Myanmar in 1989 after the democracy movement was crushed. Future workshops are being planned for Syracuse and Utica, further extending the positive impact of Cornell’s Southeast Asia expertise and outreach.

ANI
25-12-07

4 KNLA troops surrender to Burmese Military

In a recent article (30-12-07) in the state controlled New Light of Myanmar the SPDC has reported that over 27 members of anti-government armed groups have surrendered, of these the article quotes that:

‘In the area of South-East Command, Private Ye Naing of KNU Armed Group Brigade-7’s 101 Battalion, brining in with one pistol, one magazine, seven rounds of ammunition and one family member...[and that also] In the area of Southern Command, Saw Win Bo with the rank of Cpl of KNU Armed Group Brigade-2’s Battalion-

Refugees in Thailand December 2007



	TBBC Feeding ¹ 31-Dec-07	UNHCR Population ² 26-Dec-07		
		Female	Male	Total
<u>Chiangmai Province</u>				
WH Wieng Heng (Shan Refugees)	607			
<u>Mae Hong Son Province</u>				
Site 1 Ban Kwai/Nai Soi	19,326	9,187	9,726	18,913
Site 2 Ban Mae Surin	3,653	1,680	1,768	3,448
K1 Mae La Oon (Site 3)	15,321	6,600	7,146	13,746
K2 Mae Ra Ma Luang (Site 4)	15,283	5,754	6,021	11,775
Subtotal:	53,583	23,221	24,661	47,882
<u>Tak Province</u>				
K3 Mae La	40,760	19,432	19,807	39,239
K4 Umpiem Mai	18,456	9,670	10,181	19,851
K5 Nu Po	15,581	6,660	7,119	13,779
Subtotal:	74,797	35,762	37,107	72,869
<u>Kanchanaburi Province</u>				
K6 Ban Don Yang	4,537	1,855	1,804	3,659
<u>Ratchaburi Province</u>				
K7 Tham Hin	7,978	3,048	2,977	6,025
Total for sites in Thailand:	141,502	63,886	66,549	130,435

5, Private Htaung Ke of KNU
Brigade-3’s Battalion-8 together

Clashes from 1st January - 31st December 2007

Locations of KNLA Bdes: Bde-1, Thaton District; Bde-2, Toungoo District; Bde-3, Nyaunglaybin District; Bde-4, Mergue-Tavoy District; Bde-5, Papun district; Bde-6, Kawkareik district; Bde-7, Pa-an District; and GHQ Battalions, Kawkareik and Pa-an Districts.

Area	Clashes	SPDC Losses			KNLA Losses		
		Dead	Wounded	Surrendered	Dead	Wounded	Captured
Bde-1	14	8	8	1	-	3	5
Bde-2	507	190	674	2	1	1	-
Bde-3	288	144	303	2	1	1	-
Bde-4	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Bde-5	642	162	381	-	5	8	-
Bde-6	54	61	97	5	1	-	-
Bde-7	24	6	13	7	2	-	-
GHQ	24	18	35	-	-	-	-
Total	1555	589	1512	17	10	13	5

Saw Yi, bringing in with one rifle
and one magazine; exchanged



arms for peace.’

Areas	Clashes	DKBA Losses				KNLA Losses			
		Dead	Wounded	surrendered	Captured	Dead	Wounded	Surrendered	Captured
Bde-1	9	3	9	3	3	3	-	2	3
Bde-2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bde-3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bde-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bde-5	3	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bde-6	30	32	17	3	-	1	6	3	4
Bde-7	7	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
GHQ	8	30	34	2	-	4	3	-	-
Total	57	66	68	18	3	8	9	5	7

Source: Karen Information Centre
It is

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Karen Heritage

Yearbook 2007

*Karen History and Culture Preservation Society
Yearbooks contain articles gathered from a number
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research and promote a greater understanding of the
Karen situation.*