



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Incident Report

September 8, 2015 / KHRG #15-68-I4

Hpapun Incident Report: Villager killed by Border Guard Force (BGF) Battalion #1013 in Bu Tho Township, March 2015

This Incident Report describes the shooting and subsequent death of Saw A---, a villager from B-- village, Htee Tha Daw Hta village tract, Bu Tho Township. Saw A--- was shot on March 15th 2015 between 7 and 8 pm. The perpetrator was Private Saw Kyaw Ka of Border Guard Force (BGF) Battalion #1013 Company #3, led by Company Second-in-Command Hpah Yuh Khay. The villager was on his way to go spear fishing when he came across the BGF and was shot by accident, as it was already dark outside. When the injured villager protested the BGF shooting of villagers, he was shot twice more. The BGF left Saw A--- at the place where he was shot and he was only sent to Hpa-an Hospital when his fellow villagers came for him later that night. He was under treatment for two days before passing away in the hospital on March 17th 2015. He was buried in the graveyard of Hkaw Taw Town. As a result of Saw A---'s death, his family has been facing livelihood issues so his wife met with Battalion #1013 Commander Maung Hla Kyaing to demand that he compensate her by providing her with financial support for one month. Although the commander agreed, no compensation has been paid out yet.

Incident Report | Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District (March 2015)

The following Incident Report was written by a community member in Hpapun District who has been trained by KHRG to monitor local human rights conditions. It is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.¹ This report was received in July 2015 along with other information from Hpapun District, including five other incident reports, 41 interviews, one situation update, and 82 photographs.²

¹ KHRG trains community members in southeast Burma/Myanmar to document individual incidents of abuse using a standardised reporting format; conduct interviews with other villagers; and write general updates on the situation in areas with which they are familiar. When writing incident reports, community members are encouraged to document incidents of abuse that they consider to be important, by verifying information from multiple sources, assessing for potential biases and comparing to local trends.

² In order to increase the transparency of KHRG methodology and more directly communicate the experiences and perspectives of villagers in southeast Burma/Myanmar, KHRG aims to make all field information received available on the KHRG website once it has been processed and translated, subject only to security considerations. For additional reports categorised by Type, Issue, Location and Year, please see the Related Readings component following each report on KHRG's website.

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	BGF [Border Guard Force] ³ killed a B--- villager
Date of Incident(s)	March 15 th 2015
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	B--- [village], Htee Tha Daw Hta village tract, Bu Tho [Township], Mu Traw [Hpapun] District

Victim Information				
Name	Saw A---			
Age	42			
Sex	Male			
Nationality	Karen			
Family	Has family			
Occupation	Farmer			
Religion	Buddhist			
Position	Villager			
Village	B--- village			

Perpetrator Information				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Saw Kyaw Ka	Private	BGF Battalion #1013	K'Ter Htee	Hpah Yuh Khay
Hpah Yuh Khay	Company Second-in-Command	BGF Battalion #1013	K'Ter Htee	Maung Hla Kyaing

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

I got this information from a radio [walkie-talkie] message. After that I followed up with the victim's family and the other people who were included [present] during the [time] the incident was taking place. I followed up on it [the incident] to get detailed information.

³ Border Guard Force (BGF) battalions of the Tatmadaw were established in 2010, and they are composed mostly of soldiers from former non-state armed groups, such as older constellations of the DKBA, which have formalised ceasefire agreements with the Burma/Myanmar government and agreed to transform into battalions within the Tatmadaw. BGF battalions are assigned four digit battalion numbers, whereas regular Tatmadaw infantry battalions are assigned two digit battalion numbers and light infantry battalions are identified by two or three-digit battalion numbers. For more information, see "[DKBA officially becomes Border Guard Force](#)," *Democratic Voice of Burma*, August 2010, and "[Exploitation and recruitment under the DKBA in Pa'an District](#)," KHRG, June 2009.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

The people who provided information know the details [of the] incident because they were also included [present] when the incident was happening, therefore they know detailed information. It happened on March 15th 2015 in the evening when [the victim] went spear fishing between 7 and 8 pm. When [he] went on the way to go spear fishing, Company #3 Platoon Commander⁴ Hpah Yuh Khay and his private who are [under] BGF Battalion #1013⁵ killed [shot] Saw A---.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail. For each incident, be sure to include 1) when the incident happened, 2) where it happened, 3) what happened, 4) how it happened, 5) who was involved, and 6) why it happened. Also describe any villager response(s) to the incident, the aftermath and the current living situation of the victims. Please use the space prepared below, and create an attachment if needed.

On March 15th 2015 in evening at 7 pm, a B--- villager, Saw A---, [who is] also called Saw C---, decided to go [out] on his own to catch fish for his family. [He lives] in B--- village, Htee Tha Daw Hta village tract, Bu Tho Township. He does not have [eat] meat and he is a vegetarian [but] even though he does not have [eat] meat he did his best to find food for his family and children. In the same evening, before he reached the river at F--- [place], he encountered the BGF. He was directly shot by the BGF unexpectedly.⁶ It [the bullet] hit [him] under his breast and he fell over [on the ground]. He told the BGF, "*We are villagers, why do you shoot us?*" The BGF [soldiers] looked at him and shot him again, twice. It [the bullets] hit his shoulders and also his left shoulder was broken and one of his fingers was cut off [by the shrapnel]. After the people [villagers] brought him to his house he was sent directly to Hpa-an Hospital.

The BGF [soldier] who shot Saw A---, [who] is [also] called Saw C---, [his] name is Saw Kyaw Ka. [He] was led by Hpah Yuh Khay. The battalion commander of BGF [Battalion] #1013 is named Maung Hla Kyaing and [his] battalion second-in-command's name is Kyaw Win. The BGF soldier [Saw Kyaw Ka] shot B--- villager [Saw A---] by accident, but they [the BGF] did not do anything with the corpse [injured villager]. They just left the corpse [injured villager] and moved onward [to their destination]. They did not

⁴ The researcher mistakenly refers to Hpah Yuh Khay as a platoon commander here, however, as indicated above and in other KHRG reports, Hpah Yuh Khay is in fact a company second-in-command.

⁵ KHRG continues to receive reports discussing abuses involving BGF Battalion #1013 and #1014, including: "[Human rights violations by Border Guard Force \(BGF\) Battalion #1014 in Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, May 2012 to March 2014](#)," KHRG, July 2015; "[BGF Battalion #1014 forced labour and forced recruitment, April to May 2012](#)," KHRG, June 2013; "[Papun Situation Update: Bu Tho Township, November 2011 to July 2012](#)," KHRG, April 2013; "[Papun Situation Update: Bu Tho Township, August to September 2012](#)," KHRG, April 2013; and "[Papun Situation Update: Bu Tho Township, July to October 2012](#)," KHRG, April 2013. Further reports detailing abuses involving these battalions are also available on the KHRG website.

⁶ In a previous KHRG news bulletin discussing this incident, a KHRG researcher indicated that the BGF stated they had shot the villager by accident, as it was dark and they believed he was a KNLA soldier. For the full report, see "[Violent abuse and killing committed by BGF soldiers in Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, March to May 2015](#)," KHRG, July 2015.

create any rules [that villagers were supposed to follow] before they shot and killed the villager by accident. They did not say [that] starting from [the] evening [and] until morning you are not allowed to go out of the village. Since they killed the villager by accident, they said, “*We created the rule in our area that we are not allowed [to let] any villagers go out of the village after 6 pm and until 6 am.*” However, the villagers which we conducted a meeting with reported that they did not hear [about this rule], nor saw any [signs or notices about the rule] with their [own] eyes.

“We did not know anything [about any rules] therefore we went out of the village to find food, hunting during the night so we can have it with our families. If we [had] heard [about] the order, we really would not have dared to go out. After the incident had occurred, we came to know that BGF Battalions #1014 and #1013, [who] are operating in D--- [village] and E--- [village, which] is also called G--- [area],⁷ had created the rule that starting from 6 pm until [6 am] in the morning no one is allowed to go out of the village [because] you cannot see anything properly. Therefore we don’t dare to go out. Because of the incident, it brought problems for B--- area, D--- village. [Before] 6 pm, before dark, we went to look after our buffalos and cows, but we could not return to the village [by 6 pm]. We need more time to do other things [errands outside the village] before it gets dark. Moreover some people [villagers] could not find their buffalos and cows [to bring them back to the village] and they [the cattle] went into [the plantation and] had [ate] the sugarcane at night, but we didn’t dare to move them out of the sugarcane [plantation].”

Saw A---, [who is] also called Saw C--- and who has been killed by the BGF, his family is facing livelihood problems since [he died]. But the wife of Saw A--- [who is] also called Saw C--- arranged a meeting with the BGF [Battalion] #1013 commander to help her with the [basic] needs of her household. She demanded of the commander, “*How many soldiers [are there] in a battalion? You have to take one month’s salary from all of them and give [that money] to me [to support me] during one month.*” The commander agreed with her but as of now he has not given [her] anything yet. The family of Saw C--- [who is] also called Saw A--- [has] six children and most of his children are old enough to go to school, but one or two children are not ready for going to school yet. Therefore, it [their father’s death] brought on problems for them [since the older children have] to help their mom and their younger siblings [at the expense of their education].

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

Did the victim(s) provide permission to use this information? Explain how that permission was provided.

The [family of the] victim gave us permission to use this information openly.

⁷ B--- village, in which the victim resided, is part of this area.



The photos above were taken on April 6th 2015 in B--- village, Htee Tha Daw Hta village tract, Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District. The first photo shows Saw A---'s wife, Naw E---. She reported that her husband was shot on March 15th 2015 around 7 pm. The incident occurred in F--- place. On the same night, the villagers and village head gathered together and sent the victim to the Hpa-an Hospital. Saw A--- who is also called Saw C--- passed away on March 17th 2015. After he passed away, the doctor performed an autopsy on his body and discovered that his internal organs had been torn by the bullets. He was buried in the Hkaw Taw Town graveyard. The second photo is of a video that was taken by his wife. It shows that his body was disfigured as a result of being hit by several bullets and the subsequent medical treatment and autopsy. [Photos: KHRG]

Further background reading on the situation in Hpapun District can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- "Hpapun Interview: Saw A---, January 2015," (August, 2015)
- "Explicit threats and the indiscriminate firing of mortars and small arms by BGF soldiers in Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, June 2015," (August, 2015)
- "Human rights violations by Border Guard Force (BGF) Battalion #1014 in Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, May 2012 to March 2014," (July 2015)
- "Violent abuse and killing committed by BGF soldiers in Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, March to May 2015," (July 2015)
- "'With only our voices, what can we do?': Land confiscation and local response in southeast Myanmar," (June 2015)

Mu Traw (Hpapun) District



Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG)