



# Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

## Incident Report

May 29, 2019/ KHRG #19-34-I1

## Dooplaya Incident Report: Tatmadaw soldiers steal two buffalos belonging to a local farmer, December 2018

*A Tatmadaw Corporal and his two soldiers stole two buffalos belonging to a local farmer in Kyainseikgyi Township in December 2018.<sup>1</sup>*

### Part 1 – Incident Details

<b>Type of Incident</b>	Theft
<b>Date of Incident</b>	December 16, 2018
<b>Incident Location</b>	V--- village, Kyainseikgyi Township, Dooplaya District

Victim Information	
<b>Name</b>	Naw K---
<b>Sex</b>	Female
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Karen
<b>Family</b>	Married
<b>Religion</b>	Christian
<b>Village</b>	V--- village

Perpetrator Information				
Name	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Nee Chay	Corporal	Infantry Battalion #32	Kyainseikgyi town	-Battalion Commander Thein Soe Htiak -Battalion Deputy Commander Than Zaw

<sup>1</sup> This report is based on information received in March 2019. It was provided by a community member in Dooplaya District who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions on the ground. The names of the victims, their photos and the exact locations are censored for security reasons.

## **Part 2 - Information Quality**

### **1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.**

A local villager told me about this case. I met with the victim, Naw K---, to ask her about the theft. She agreed to tell me about her case but did not want to conduct a full interview or have her photos taken for security reasons.

### **2. Explain how the source verified this information.**

This information was provided by Naw K---, a local farmer whose buffalos were stolen.

## **Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident**

### **Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.**

On December 16<sup>th</sup> 2018, Corporal Nee Chay and two soldiers from Tatmadaw Infantry Battalion # 32 stole two buffalos belonging to Naw K---, a local farmer. They sold the buffalos for 1,000,000 kyat (US \$650) to U T---, a local Muslim farmer. [This is a violation of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Chapter 2, which prohibits signatories from stealing property from civilians.]

When Naw K--- was searching for her buffalos, she found them with U T---. She submitted this case to the village authorities. U T--- was arrested. When he was questioned, he explained that Corporal Nee Chay and his soldiers had sold the buffalos to him.

The IB # 32 Deputy Commander Than Zaw told Naw K--- to not share this information. He told her that he would take action to resolve this case. The soldiers received a six-month punishment in line with the policies of their Battalion.

This is not the first incident in which soldiers from IB # 32 stole cows and buffalos from local farmers to sell them. A community member said: *“I want to share this information with you to try to stop this type of incident from happening again. I would like for this information to be published because IB # 32 oppresses local people in Kya In township.”*

According to the customary village justice system, U T--- had to give 600,000 kyat (US \$ 390) as compensation to the buffalo owner, Naw K---. He was too afraid to ask Corporal Nee Chay to give him back the money he had paid for the buffalos.

## **Part 4 - Permission to publish details**

### **Did the victim provide permission to use this information? Explain how that permission was provided.**

Naw K--- gave us permission to use this information.

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

- [Dooplaya Incident Report: Child Rape Case, March 2018.](#)
- [Dooplaya Short Update: Kawkareik Township, October 2018.](#)