



Appendix to Displacement Monitoring Update #27
December 18th, 2010 / KHRG #2010_U27 - Appendix

Appendix to Update # 27: Interview Transcript

The following report contains the full transcript of an interview conducted with Saw E---, a resident of Thay Baw Boh village, Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District on December 14th 2010. In the interview, Saw E--- described the how military situation in the Thay Baw Boh village area has resulted in the recent school closures there. He reports that the villagers are making arrangements to send their children to other schools in the surrounding area, while the school closure in Thay Baw Boh village continues.

Interview | Saw E---, (male) Thay Baw Boh village, Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District (December 14th 2010)

We heard that villagers from Thay Baw Boh were fleeing from their village – could you tell us why they had to flee from their village?

Because this is the case: The DKBA got news that the Burmese Army [Tatmadaw] planned more [military] action, so they [the DKBA] planned to move to positions close beside the village. The DKBA army worried that, if the Burmese Army came up, they wouldn't be able to ensure the villagers' security. So they [the DKBA] told the villagers that they had to move. Some villagers moved to Thailand and some remained in the village but the villagers that moved to Thailand outnumber those who are still in the village.

How many people are there in Thay Baw Boh village and how many households are there?

There are many people in Thay Baw Boh village. We guess maybe we have 150 houses and each house maybe has 5 people, so the number of villagers is more than 500 people. The villagers who moved to Thailand are mostly women and children.

Right now there is no fighting but what will happen with this situation in the future?

I asked a DKBA officer about the situation and he told me that the SPDC [Tatmadaw] troops that stay in Kyo G'Lee have arrived in Maw Tuh. We have to make our villagers secure. Now our village location is in the middle – sometimes we hear gunshots from Waw Lay village and sometimes we hear them from Palu. If we're ready then it's better for us. This month is December so how will we have Christmas? It's not easy, that's also why the school had to close.

You said the school had to close. Do you have any plans for the students' examinations?

We thought we should stop school. If the school was still open, we know the students wouldn't

be interested in their studies because they're staying in a terrible situation. I already talked about this with Saw T--- [a villager in Thay Baw Boh]. We decided that we'll talk with a local school teacher in M--- village and a local school teacher in N--- village and arrange to take some of our students to M--- school and some to N--- school because they have the same curriculum as our school. Saw T--- said we'll collect the two schools in the same place and our teachers will teach and work together. I'll take my two sons there; the elder one is a level three student.

If the situation continues like this, how will it affect the villagers' lives in the long term?

Everything is up to the SPDC [Tatmadaw] Army. They came to live in a DKBA place and, if they start to be more active, maybe the DKBA will fight them. When they're fighting we only think about running to Thailand. We can't guess the situation now. If the SPDC starts to be more active in the future the villagers will have to run to Thailand. After that, they'll need more supervision and care because they won't have their own land to work. But if the SPDC doesn't start to be too active, then some villagers can go back to their land and work. If they can't go back, then they can't make a living and will need protection.