



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Incident Report

August 29, 2014 / KHRG #13-108-I1

Thaton Incident Report: Attempted rape in Thaton Township, September 2013

This Incident Report describes the attempted rape of Naw B--, from A--- village in Thaton Township, by a Tatmadaw lance corporal. On the night of September 27th 2013, a soldier searching for alcohol entered Naw B---'s house without permission, lifted up her mosquito net and startled her. The soldier left after Naw B--- informed him that she had no alcohol. However, the soldier returned in the early morning of September 28th and groped Naw B-- until she screamed for help from her mother in the other room. The soldier left after her mother awoke and came into the room with a knife. Naw B--- immediately reported the incident to the village head, Naw C---, who in turn reported the incident to a Tatmadaw deputy commander staying in the village. He asked her not to report the incident to the battalion commander, and asked what he could do to appease the victim. Naw B--- replied that as long as the soldier did not return to her home she was satisfied. No further action against the perpetrator was taken.

Incident Report | Thaton Township, Thaton District (September 2013)

The following Incident Report was written by a community member 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 September 2013 along with other information from Thaton District, including one other incident report, three interviews, one situation update, 206 photographs and 16 video clips.²

Part 1 – Incident Details

¹ KHRG trains community members in eastern 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 eastern 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.

Type of Incident	Attempted rape ³
Date of Incident(s)	September 27 th 2013
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	A--- village, T'Maw Daw village tract, Thaton Township, Thaton District

Victim Information	
Name	Naw B---
Age	27
Sex	Female
Nationality	Karen
Family	Married with one child
Occupation	Hill farming
Religion	Buddhist
Position	Villager
Village	A---

Perpetrator Information				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
	Solider with one chevron ⁴	Column #1, LIB [Light Infantry Battalion] ⁵ #558, MOC [Military Operation Command] ⁶ #13	P'New Klah army camp	Battalion Commander Thein Htun Aung

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.
Regarding this case, Naw C---, the A--- village head, gave me this information as the victim reported it to her.

³ In an unpublished interview with a villager regarding the same incident, the soldier is described as entering Naw B---'s mosquito net, removing her blanket, laying on top of her, and beginning to grope her, before she wakes up and begins screaming for help.

⁴ In the Tatmadaw, soldiers with one chevron are lance corporals. They are second-in-command of one section of a platoon.

⁵ Light Infantry Battalion (Tatmadaw) comprised of 500 soldiers. However, most Light Infantry Battalions in the Tatmadaw are under-strength with less than 200 soldiers. Primarily for offensive operations but sometimes used for garrison duties.

⁶ Military Operations Command. Comprised of ten battalions for offensive operations. Most MOCs have three Tactical Operations Commands (TOCs), made up of three battalions each.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

The people who know this information are Naw C--- and Naw D---. The victim Naw B--- reported it to the village leader on the evening that the incident occurred.

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 September 12th 2013, the Burmese Military [Tatmadaw] LIB #558, which is under MOC #13 from E--- village, came into A--- village and has been based in the village since. [On September 27th, 2013] as the military group [LIB #558] had been staying in the village [since September 12th 2013], their soldiers went to search for alcohol to buy in the village. In the evening at 7:00 o'clock on September 27th 2013, [a soldier with one chevron] went [into Naw B---'s house] and lifted up her mosquito net and Naw B--- asked him, "*What are you doing here?*" and he replied that he had come to search for alcohol. Naw B--- told him that there was no alcohol, so [he should] go away. That is why he went away. The same soldier came again at 1:00 am [September 28th 2013] and began to grope Naw B---. She awakened and shouted to her mother [Naw D---] for help. Her mother awoke and came over with a knife. If she stabbed him, [she feared] he might die, so she dared not [attack him]. [He then left] and they at once went and told the village head [about the incident] who went and told the [LIB #558] deputy commander, because at that time the battalion commander [had already] gone back to military headquarters. The commander [that she reported the incident to] told her not to report [the incident] to the battalion commander and he asked her what they could do to appease [the victim]. The village leader went back and told Naw B--- about what the commander had said and about [his question] regarding what he could do for her. Naw B--- replied to her to just take care of it [on her behalf] and if the soldier did not come again, it was fine. The case ended there.

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

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

[Naw C---] gave us permission to use or publish this case as [she said] the situation was getting better.

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

- "Chapter: The impact of anti-personnel and other mines in Southeast Myanmar since the January 2012 ceasefire," (July 2014)
- "Thaton Interview: U A---, May 2012," (May 2013)

- *Truce or Transition? Trends in human rights abuse and local response in Southeast Myanmar since the 2012 ceasefire,* (May 2014)
- “Ongoing forced recruitment into the People’s Militia in Kyeikto Township, Thaton District,” (January 2014)
- “Thaton Situation Update: Hpa-an, Thaton and Bilin townships, January to July 2013,” (December 2013)

Doo Tha Htoo (Thaton) District



Karen Human Right Group (KHRG)