



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Incident Report

June 13, 2014 / KHRG #13-69-I2

Hpapun Incident Report: Attack on villager in Bu Tho Township, January 2013

This Incident Report describes an incident that occurred in Htee Th' Daw Hta village tract, Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District on January 15th 2013, when the Tatmadaw-Border Guard Force (BGF) Battalion #1014 Warrant Officer Saw Day Day fired a grenade launcher at P--- villager, Naw M---, after asking her for gasoline, which she did not have. The grenade struck her calf and grazed her baby's back, whom she was breast-feeding. KHRG published a report on the same incident in October 2013: [BGF #1014 Warrant Officer injures villagers and steals property in Hpapun District, January and May 2013](#)

Incident Report | Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District (January 2013)

The following Incident Report was written by a community member who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights abuses. It is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.¹ This report was received in August 2013 along with other information from Hpapun District, including four other incident reports, 12 interviews, one situation update and 38 photographs.²

Part 1 – Incident(s) detail

Type of Incident	Attack on villager
Date of Incident(s)	January 15 th 2013
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	P--- village, Htee Th'Daw Hta village tract, Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District

Victim Information								
Name	Age	Sex	Ethnicity	Religion	Family	Occupation	Response	Village

¹ KHRG Incident Reports are written or gathered by a community member in Hpapun District who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. KHRG trains community member in eastern Burma 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, 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 categorized by Type, Issue, Location and Year, please see the Related Readings component following each report on KHRG's Website.

Naw M---	23 years old	Female	Karen	Buddhist	Yes	Housewife	ble No	P---
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Perpetrator Information				
Name	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander
Saw Day Day	Warrant Officer	BGF [Border Guard Force] ³ #1014	Meh Seik BGF army camp	Commander Ye'Thway

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

On January 15th, the KHRG community member received a telegram message from the KNU [Karen National Union] regarding an attack on a villager. As soon as I [the KHRG community member] heard the news, I immediately left the KHRG Northern Office and went to P--- village, where the attack happened. In order to find out if the news was true, I met with the victim and her son; the victim's aunt Daw S---; and the victim's uncle U T---. I interviewed them to get strong evidence. I interviewed the victim, Naw M---, first and she told us about her suffering, and after that I also interviewed her uncle and aunt, who are her neighbours and witnessed the attack.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

I have documented the incident in this report after interviewing the victim, Naw M---, and her son. The witness, Daw S---, who is the victim's aunt and also her neighbour, explained that [Naw M---'s account] of the incident is true. Daw S--- said, *"The warrant officer's mortar didn't accidentally go off, but he intentionally fired it."*

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 attach if needed.

The human rights abuse that I am going to report now happened on January 15th 2013 in P--- village, Htee Th'Daw Hta village tract, Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District.

The incident happened when Naw M--- was sitting at the back of the house and a warrant officer of Border Guard Force [BGF Battalion] #1014 fired the 44 mm mortar at her, so Naw P--- and her son were injured. The person who committed the abuse is BGF #1014 Warrant Officer Saw Day Day, led by Company Commander Bo Ye Thway and Battalion Commander Saw Maung Chit.⁴

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 Burmese government and agreed to transform into battalions within the Tatmadaw. BGF battalions are assigned four digit battalion numbers, whereas regular Tatmadaw infantry or 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.

⁴ Commander Maung Chit, also referred to as Maw Hsee, is the commander for Tatmadaw Border Guard Force (BGF) battalion #1014 in Hpapun District. Maung Chit is not to be confused with Maung Chit Thu (typically

Warrant Officer Saw Day Day travelled from P--- village army camp and then came into the village.⁵ While he went around the village and arrived at Naw M---'s house, he saw that she was sitting with her son, Saw K---. The time was around two in the afternoon. At that time, Saw Day Day was slightly drunk, so when he saw Naw M--- and her son, he asked if she had gasoline or not. Naw M--- replied to him that she did not have it. Saw Day Day told her that he would fire a 40 mm mortar [grenade launcher] at her. A few seconds after he started [aimed] the mortar, the sound of the mortar [being fired] went off. So, it hit Naw M---, who was breast-feeding her son, on her calf and the grenade grazed her son's back. The bullet [grenade] stopped four yards away from the mother and son. Fortunately, the bullet did not explode.

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

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

U T--- allows [KHRG] to use this information as it is needed.

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

- "Ongoing militarisation prevents Lu Thaw Township IDPs from returning home," (February 2014)
- "Hpapun Photo Set: Stone collecting impacts agriculture in Bu Tho Township," (February 2014)
- "Hpapun Interview: Saw B---," (February 2014)
- "Hpapun Situation Update: Bu Tho Township, August to October 2013," (February 2014)
- "Hpapun Situation Update: Bu Tho Township, March to May 2013," (December 2013)

referred to as Chit Thu), who is a senior level BGF commander overseeing battalions #1017, #1018, #1019 and #1020 in Ko Ko, Hpa-an District.

⁵ The army camp is based next to P--- village and is therefore called P--- army camp.

