



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Incident Report

May 29, 2014 / KHRG #14-22-I3

Toungoo Incident Report: Sexual assault in Thandaunggyi Township, December 2013

This Incident Report describes an attempt by a Tatmadaw soldier to sexually assault a villager, Naw Z--- from N--- village, Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District on December 10th 2013. Naw Z--- reported the incident to elders in her village who detained the perpetrator and took him to the nearest Tatmadaw camp for interrogation. It is not known if the perpetrator was punished or if any form of redress was granted to Naw Z---.

Incident Report | Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District (December 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 March 2014 along with other information from Toungoo District, including seven other incident reports, six interviews, 89 photographs and five video clips.²

Part 1 – Incident(s) Detail

Type of Incident	
Date of Incident(s)	December 10 th 2013
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	Between Thandaunggyi town and N--- village

Victim Information				
Name	Naw Z---			

¹ KHRG trains community members 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.

Age	22			
Sex	Female			
Nationality	Karen			
Family				
Occupation	Cultivator			
Religion				
Position				
Village	N---village, Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District			

Perpetrator Information				
Name	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander
Tun Thein	Private Service number- Ta/392332	Military Operation Command #1, Light Infantry Battalion #506		

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

I took the photos and got the information by myself.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

I took the photos at Naw Z---'s house in N--- village on December 19th 2013 and she gave me the information.

Part 3 – Incident Details

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.

Naw Z--- is 22 years old and she travels every day from her village, N---, to Thandaunggyi [town] to buy food for her family. Naw Z--- saw a person sitting beside the road when she was coming back to her village on December 10th 2013 at 2:00 pm, and she passed him and continued walking. The man chased her when she reached 100 yards away from him and pushed her down. When she tried to escape, the man told her that he would kill her if she shouted. At that time, another man from the village came and the man ran away. Then, when she arrived at the village, Naw Z--- told the elders from the village about the incident and the villagers found [the perpetrator] three or four days later, and detained him. Then, they took him to the nearest [Tatmadaw] camp and they found out that he was a soldier as a result of interrogation [by the responsible people from the camp]. His [the perpetrator's] name is Tun Thein, his service number is Ta/392332 and he is from Light Infantry Battalion #506 under the control of Military Operation Command #1. Military Operation Command #1 is based in Shan State.³

³ Tatmadaw soldiers are often assigned to operations outside of the areas in which their headquarters are based.



This photo was taken on December 19th 2013 by a KHRG community member in N--- village, Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District. It shows Naw Z---, who was subjected to an attempted sexual assault on December 10th 2013 by Tun Thein (service number-Ta/392332), a soldier of Tatmadaw Light Infantry Battalion #506, under the control of Military Operations Command #1.

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

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

The victim allowed us to use the information.

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

- “Toungoo Incident Report: Villagers request improved communication between KNU and local community, Htantabin Township, September 2012,” (May 2014)
- *Truce or Transition? Trends in human rights abuse and local response in Southeast Myanmar since the 2012 ceasefire*, (May 2014)
- “Toungoo Situation Update: Than Daung and Tantabin townships, February to July 2013,” (January 2014)
- “Civilian and Military order documents: November 2009 to July 2013,” (October 2013)
- *Losing Ground: Land conflicts and collective action in eastern Myanmar*, (March 2013)

[illegible]