



# Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

## Incident Report

May 29, 2014 / KHRG #14-22-I4

### Toungoo Incident Report: Tatmadaw transport rations and ammunition in Thandaunggyi Township, December 2013

*This Incident Report describes the transportation of food and ammunition and the use of heavy weapons in Thandaunggyi Township by the Tatmadaw in December 2013. Villagers reported that such military activity causes insecurity among the local community, as it is perceived as preparation for war. Previously, N--- villagers had constructed a new road to avoid Tatmadaw soldiers, but now the Tatmadaw has started to use that road to transport materials.*

### 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>*

#### Part 1 – Incident(s) Detail

<b>Type of Incident</b>	Transportation of weapons and rations
<b>Date of Incident(s)</b>	December 1 <sup>st</sup> 2013
<b>Incident Location (Village, Township and District)</b>	N--- village, Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District

Victim Information								
Name	Age	Sex	Nationality	Religion	Family	Occupation	Responsible	Village
Saw E--	22	Male	Karen	Christian	Single	Cultivator		N---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

-	year s old							village, Thandaun ggyi Township
---	---------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Perpetrator Information				
Name	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander
		Military Operation Command, Light Infantry Battalion #377		

## **Part 2 - Information Quality**

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

I took the photos by myself on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2013.

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

The Tatmadaw transported rations and ammunition on the road that villagers use for traveling from Thandaunggyi [town] to N--- village on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. They [the soldiers transporting the rations and ammunition] did not disturb the villagers when they transported things like before [as they had done in the past], but their military operations command [local Tatmadaw headquarters] shot heavy weapons for their security [as a threat meant to deter the KNLA from attacking the soldiers who were transporting rations and ammunition in the area]. They used 125 horses for transportation. They [the Tatmadaw] used a different road to transport things in the past and they called that road a military road. [In order to avoid the Tatmadaw], the villagers made their own effort and constructed a motorbike road for traveling. [However, now] the Tatmadaw use horses and transport rations and ammunition every day on the road that the villagers had constructed. It is not easy to avoid the horses and we [the villagers] are afraid of the heavy weapons launched by the Tatmadaw. According to one of the officers who is managing security for the transportation of rations and ammunition, the process will take at least two weeks. By seeing it, the villagers are worried that the war will start again because the Tatmadaw is sending more food and ammunition than they need during the ceasefire.

## **Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details**

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

KHRG can use the photos and news as they want.

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)

