



# Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

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## Photo Set

February 4, 2015 / KHRG #14-4-PS1

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### **Mergui-Tavoy Photo Set: The impact of development in Mergui-Tavoy District, May 2014**

*This Photo Set shows natural resource extraction projects occurring in K'Ser Doh Township, Mergui-Tavoy District in May 2014. Lead and coal mining projects have damaged the surrounding environment, negatively affecting villagers' livelihoods. Villagers in Hkay Ter village can no longer use the local river for their daily needs, as it has become muddy and polluted and at least one village has been displaced due to a coal mining project in Ka Neh Khaw village tract.*

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### **Photo Set | K'Ser Doh Township, Mergui-Tavoy District (May 2014)**

*The following photos were taken by a community member in Mergui-Tavoy District who has been trained by KHRG to monitor local human rights conditions. They are presented below, censored where necessary for security purposes.<sup>1</sup> The eight photos below were received along with other information from Mergui-Tavoy District, including 34 other photos.<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> KHRG trains villagers in eastern Burma/Myanmar to document individual human rights abuses 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 situation updates, villagers are encouraged to summarise recent events, raise issues that they consider to be important, and present their opinions or perspective on abuse and other local dynamics in their area.

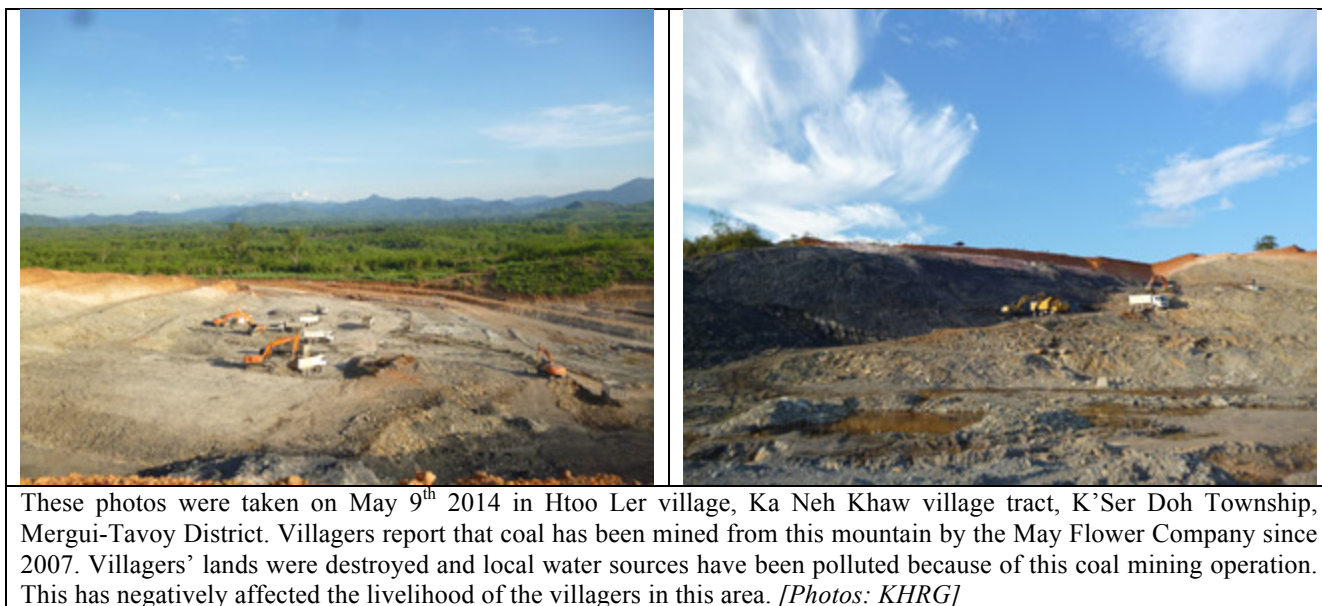
<sup>2</sup> This Photo Set was compiled by KHRG office staff and is based on information from a community member from Mergui-Tavoy District who has been trained by KHRG to monitor local human rights conditions. In order to increase the transparency of KHRG methodology and more directly communicate the 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.



The above photos were taken in May 2014 near Hkay Ter village, Hkay Ter village tract, K'Ser Doh Township, Mergui-Tavoy District. The top-left photo shows workers releasing water used during a lead mining project. The top-right photo depicts the local Hkay Ter river nearby the lead mining project and the subsequent damage to the stream, which has become muddy and polluted. Local villagers can no longer use the water from this stream for their daily needs. [Photos: KHRG]



These photos were taken on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2014 near Hkay Ter village, Hkay Ter village tract, K'Ser Doh Township, Mergui-Tavoy District. These photos depict a lead mining operation conducted by an unknown company and the subsequent destruction of the surrounding environment. The top-right photo shows the former location of a village which had been displaced due to the project. [Photos: KHRG]



Further background on the current situation in Mergui-Tavoy 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)
- "Mergui-Tavoy Situation Update: K'Ser Doh Township, 2013," (June 2014)
- "Complaint letter to the Mergui-Tavoy District administrator concerning land damage from mining," (June 2014)
- "Mergui-Tavoy Incident Report: Tatmadaw tortures villager and demands forced labour in Ler Muh Lah Township, 2002 – 2011," (May 2014)
- Truce or Transition? Trends in human rights abuse and local response in Southeast Myanmar since the 2012 ceasefire, (May 2014)



Mergui/Tavoy (Thanintharyi) District



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