



# Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

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## Photo Set

February 25, 2016 / KHRG # 16-3-PS1

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## Thaton Photo Set: Land Confiscation in Thaton Township, January – October 2015

*This Photo Set shows the construction of a caustic soda factory in Thaton Township, Thaton District, in January 2015, and the completed factory in October 2015. The construction was carried out on land that had been confiscated from villagers.*

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### Photo Set | Thaton Township, Thaton District (January – October 2015)

*The following photos were taken by a community member in Thaton District who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. They are presented below, censored where necessary for security purposes.<sup>1</sup> The 16 photos below were received along with other information from Thaton District, including 124 other photos, one video clip, two situation updates, and four interviews.<sup>2</sup>*



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<sup>1</sup> KHRG trains community members in southeast 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.

<sup>2</sup> This Photo Set was compiled by KHRG office staff and is based on information from a community member from Thaton 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 southeast 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.



These photos were taken by a community member on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2015, in Noh Ta Hsguh village, Noh Ta Hsguh village tract, Thaton Township, Thaton District. These photos show the companies Tha Zin Nyein and Tun Tauk Ngway Kyel in the process of building houses for factory employees.<sup>3</sup> [Photos: KHRG]

<sup>3</sup> In total, there are 11 companies involved in the construction of the factory: 1) Mother Construction Company, 2) Yi Mun Pa Se Myay Company, 3) Kyaw Tha Company, 4) Sein Shway Hteik Tan Company, 5) Myanmar Ma Ha Tun Company, 6) Shway Sin Nan Taw Company, 7) Tun Tauk Nway Kyel Company, 8) Tha Zin Nyein Company, 9) Nway Sin Hsan Thit Company, 10) KTK Electrical Engineering Company, and 11) Ka Ba Thein Company. For more information, please see “[Thaton Situation Update: Thaton Township, January to February, 2015](#),” (October 2015)



These photos were taken by a KHRG community member on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2015, in Noh Ta Hsguh village, Noh Ta Hsguh village tract, Thaton Township, Thaton District. These pictures show the ground being prepared for the construction of the caustic soda factory. The land that it is being built on was confiscated from villagers. *[Photos: KHRG]*







These photos were taken by a KHRG community member on October 14<sup>th</sup> 2015, in between Noh Ta Hsguh and Noh Hpa Htaw villages. They show the completed caustic soda factory that was built on confiscated land. The general manager of the factory is U Maung Myin. The caustic soda factory produces papers, soaps, and other materials.

*[Photos: KHRG]*

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

- “Thaton Short Update: Hpa-an Township, October 2014,” (February 2016)
- “Thaton Situation Update: Thaton Township, January to June 2015,” (January 2016)
- “Thaton Field Report: January to December 2014,” (November 2015)
- “Thaton Interview: Saw A---, October 2014,” (October 2015)
- “Thaton Situation Update: Thaton Township, January to February 2015,” (October 2015)

# Doo Tha Htoo ( Karen)

