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## Incident report | Da--- village, Kay Bpoo village tract, Lu Thaw Township, Papun District (November 2010)

*The following incident report was written by a villager trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions, based on information provided by Saw We---, a 34-year-old hill field farmer and head of Da--- village in Kay Bpoo village tract. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Saw We---  
**Age:** 34 years old  
**Ethnicity:** Karen  
**Marital Status:** Married  
**Occupation:** Hill field farmer  
**Position:** Village head

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010, I met with the Da--- village head, whose name is Saw We---. He is 34 years old and lives in Kay Bpoo village tract. Saw We--- reported:

*"In 2010, we never had to flee from the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw]. In the past we had to flee, and slept in the forest in the rainy season and in the dry season. We didn't have food, so we had to listen [monitor Tatmadaw activity] and steal our rice and things back [after fleeing]. We did not dare to make a light, and walked blindly. Now, the SPDC Army is located [based] in T'Ler Ker Koh in Kay Bpoo village tract, and it takes one and a half hours to get to our village. The people who take security always warn us that we have to be careful and keep an eye on our farms, and leave nothing [at the farms]. They warned us that they [the Tatmadaw] would put ka thi ['medicine', in this context likely implying poisoning of food supplies]. Nothing happened, but we always had to be careful. This year [in 2010], because it was dry, the civilians had to face a food shortage. Not only in my village but also other villages which are near my village complained about food shortages. I hope that our leaders will make an arrangement for us in any way they can. That is what I wanted to report."*

Saw We--- (male, 34), Da--- village head, Kay Bpoo village tract, Lu Thaw Township  
(November 2010)

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## Incident report | Ko--- village, Kay Bpoo village tract, Lu Thaw Township, Papun District (November 2010)

*The following incident report was written by a villager trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions, based on information provided by Saw Hs---, 51, who was the head of See Day village, Lu Thaw Township, before he fled to a hiding site at Ko--- village in Kay Bpoo village tract. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Saw Hs---  
**Age:** 51  
**Ethnicity:** Karen  
**Marital Status:** Married  
**Position:** Village head

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010, I met with a village head, Saw Hs---. He is 51 years old and lives in Kay Bpoo village tract. The village head reported:

*"Since I fled from my village, See Day, in 1995 I have never had a chance to go back and stay in my village. I always have to face food shortages every year, because there are no places to farm hill fields. This year [2010] was worse than previous years because there was a drought. We expect that our leaders will organise [support] for us. The SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] base is close to us. It takes only one hour to walk there from Ko--- [village]. The people responsible [for security] always notify us to stay alert. Moreover, they ask villagers to take care of their own security and monitor [Tatmadaw activities] for themselves. This is a big responsibility. We hope the situation will change as quickly as possible."*

Saw Hs--- (male, 51), Ko--- village head, Kay Bpoo village tract, Lu Thaw Township  
(November 2010)

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## **Incident report | Kay Bpoo village tract, Lu Thaw Township, Papun District (November 2010)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions, based on information provided by Saw So---, a 25-year-old hill field farmer, who was the head of Ke--- village, Lu Thaw Township, before he fled to a hiding site in Kay Bpoo village tract. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Saw So---

**Age:** 25 years old

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Occupation:** Hill field farmer

**Position:** Former Ke--- village head

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010, I met with the [former] Ke--- village head, whose name is Saw So---, 25 years old, in Kay Bpoo village tract. Saw So--- reported:

*"This [coming] year, my villagers will have to face food problems because it was dry [in 2010]. That was a big problem, so we hope that our mo bpa koh na ['leader parents,' likely referring to KNU officials] will think about it and arrange [support] for our civilians. This year [in 2010], the rice became expensive until it was 300 baht (US \$ 10) for one big tin of rice (16 kg. / 35.2 lb.) and 100 baht (US \$ 3.30) for one big tin of unhusked paddy grain (10.45 kg. / 23 lb.). We didn't have [a place to purchase] rice near here. It [the place to purchase rice] was in Ha--- [village], and it takes four days to go there and come back. Because of this, it caused trouble for our villagers. This year [in 2010], the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] activities decreased but we always have to stay aware. We, villagers, have to take security when the SPDC Army is near us."*

Saw So--- (male, 25), in hiding in Kay Bpoo village tract, Lu Thaw Township (November 2010)

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## **Incident report | Kay Bpoo village tract, Lu Thaw Township, Papun District (November 2010)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions, based on information provided by Saw Ht---, the 45-year-old former village head of Ma--- village, Lu Thaw Township, who is currently living in hiding in Kay Bpoo village tract. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Saw Ht---

**Age:** 45

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Position:** Village head

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010, I met with the [former] Ma--- village head. His name is Saw Ht---. He is 45 years old. He is a resident of Kay Bpoo village tract. Saw Ht--- reported that since 1995 and until now, he has never gone back [to his original village]:

*"I can not go back and stay in my village because the Burmese [Tatmadaw] camp is located at Ta Ler Gker Koh, close to our village. It takes 30 minutes to walk there. Villagers have experienced [Tatmadaw patrols] killing villagers and burning their paddy grain, rice, houses, animal pens and toilets. They [the Tatmadaw] are fighting their enemy, but they are just attacking villagers. So we need to take security to protect ourselves. Because there are only a few [KNLA] soldiers who take security [for villagers], they can't provide complete security to us. We also can not provide food for them. That is a problem. So we, villagers have to pick up our guns that we use for shooting or killing animals [hunting] and provide security for ourselves whenever the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] is operating. We can do our own work when they are far away from us. We expect our leaders and the international [community] to consider [what can be done] for us. We don't want to live in a country in which danger and killing exist."*

Saw Ht--- (male, 45), Kay Bpoo village tract, Lu Thaw Township (November 2010)

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## **Incident report | Kay Bpoo village tract, Lu Thaw Township, Papun District (November 2010)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions, based on information provided by Saw Sa---, a 45-year-old former village head of Bp--- village, Lu Thaw Township, currently living in hiding in Kay Bpoo village tract. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Saw Sa---

**Age:** 45

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Position:** Village head

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010, I met with the [former] Bp--- village head. His name is Saw Sa---. He is 45 years old. He is a resident of Kay Bpoo village tract. This village head's village has been destroyed since 1995 and he has never gone back to his village. He reported:

*"My village is located close to the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] camp which is based in Htaw Mu Bpleh. It is one hour away. I saw villagers had to flee and faced problems because of the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] attacks. So I organized and founded a gher der [Home Guard]. We monitor SPDC Army activities to prevent them from arresting us. We let each other know [about Tatmadaw movements]. We don't have a set [walkie-talkie] so we will have to find a way to buy one ourselves. When there is a lot of SPDC Army activity, we can't inform [communicate with] each other. So we tell each other to run when we fire [a gun] three times. That means: 'We can't come back and inform you.' So we give each other a sign in this way. This year [in 2010], we can say that the operations of the SPDC Army decreased. But they always have a plan. We expect our leaders and*

*the international community will organise [arrange] for us to be able to go back and stay in our village."*

Saw Sa--- (male, 45), Kay Bpoo village tract, Lu Thaw Township (November 2010)

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## **Incident report | Mu--- village, Nah Yoh Htah village tract, Lu Thaw Township, Papun District (November 2010)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions, based on information provided by Saw Gk---, a 40-year-old hill field farmer and head of Mu--- village in Nah Yoh Htah village tract. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Saw Gk---

**Age:** 40 years old

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Occupation:** Hill field farmer

**Position:** Village head

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010, I met with the Mu--- village head, whose name is Saw Gk---, 40 years old, and who lives in Nah Yoh Htah village tract. Saw Gk--- reported:

*"This [coming] year my village will have to face a big problem with food shortages because it was dry [in 2010]. We have about 100 households in my village. There are about 50 households of people who farm hill fields and didn't get enough food [in 2010]. So the villagers will have to find their own ways [to have enough food]. I think that our leaders will think about it and arrange something for our villagers. That is my hope from this report. The SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] activities decreased a lot [in 2010] and I hope that in the future it will be peaceful and we will stay peacefully. That was what I wanted to report."*

Saw Gk--- (male, 40), Mu--- village head, Nah Yoh Htah village tract, Lu Thaw Township (November 2010)

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## **Incident report | Pe--- village, Nah Yoh Htah village tract, Lu Thaw Township, Papun District (December 2010)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions, based on information provided by Saw Ta---, a 27-year-old hill field farmer and head of Pe--- village in Nah Yoh Htah village tract. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Saw Ta---

**Age:** 27

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Occupation:** Hill field farmer

**Position:** Village head

On December 26<sup>th</sup> 2010, I met with Saw Ta---, 27 years old, the Pe--- village head in Nah Yoh Htah village tract. Saw Ta--- reported:

*"In my village, there are 15 households and there are 91 people. We all farm hill fields. They [villagers] do not all have enough food. In 2010, it was dry and the entire crop of paddy died so they didn't get enough food. This year [in 2011], we have to pay 300 baht (US \$10) for one big tin of rice (16 kg. / 35.2 lb.) and 100 baht (US \$3.30) for one big tin of unhusked paddy grain (10.45 kg. / 23 lb.) so it causes us a big problem. For the SPDC [Tatmadaw] located in Htaw Mu Pleh Meh, it takes half an hour for them to walk to our village. If they want to shoot at us with big guns, they will arrive and it will happen. But this year [in 2010] we have never had to flee. The people who are in charge [probably a reference to KNU/KNLA officials] told us that they [the Tatmadaw] aim to be active [conduct military operations] and we always have to be in full awareness. So we hope in the future we will stay in peace. That was what I wanted to report."*

Saw Ta--- (male, 27) Pe--- village head, Nah Yoh Htah village tract, Lu Thaw Township  
(December 2010)

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## **Incident report | De--- village, Nah Yoh Htah village tract, Lu Thaw Township, Papun District (December 2010)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions, based on information provided by Saw Lo---, the 60-year-old head of De--- village, Nah Yoh Htah village tract. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Saw Lo---

**Age:** 60

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Occupation:** Hill field farmer

**Position:** Village head

On December 26<sup>th</sup> 2010, I met with the De--- village head, named Saw Lo---. He is 60 years old. He is a resident of Nah Yoh Htah village tract. Saw Lo--- reported that there are 16 households and 108 people in his village. All the villagers are farmers. Because of the drought [in 2010], not everyone has enough food. This year, the price of rice is going up and one big tin of paddy grain (10.45 kg. / 23 lb.) costs 100 baht (US \$3.30) and one big tin of rice (16 kg. / 35.2 lb.) is 300 baht (US \$10).

*"Our village has a farm and it produces 260 big tins of paddy grain (2717 kg. / 5977 lb.). The school also has a sugar cane plantation. The sugar cane plantation provides 320 viss (512 kg. / 1126 lb.) of naw gkway aye [solid sugar produced by boiling and cooling sugar cane juice]. These [agricultural projects] help villagers who do not have food from starving. They can borrow [food] and give it back at the end of year. These will be easy for villagers. I want to request [organisation name censored for security] to [activity censored for security] for villagers to gain more knowledge about helping and solving problems for each other, and to protect themselves from SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] attacks."*

Saw Lo--- (male, 60), De--- village head, Nah Yoh Htah village tract, Lu Thaw Township  
(December 2010)

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## **Incident report | Ht--- village, Ler Muh Bplaw village tract, Lu Thaw Township, Papun District (December 2010)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions, based on information provided by Naw D---, a 43-year-old schoolteacher from Ba--- village currently in hiding at Ht--- village, Ler Muh Bplaw village tract. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Naw D---

**Age:** 43

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Occupation:** Schoolteacher

On December 28<sup>th</sup> 2010, I met with a Ba--- village schoolteacher. Her name is Naw D--- and she is 43 years old. She is a resident of Ler Muh Bplaw village tract. Naw D--- reported:

*"There were several houses in my village. But we had to flee, so we stay separately. In the place where I live now, in Ht---, there are four households and 35 people. Now the households do not have enough rice. The paddy plants died because of the drought [in 2010]. So no households have enough rice. We hope our leaders will arrange something [support] for us. The SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] is located in Htaw Mu Bplah Meh. It is not far from the place I live. It takes one hour to walk. The men have to become gher der [Home Guards] and monitor [Tatmadaw activity] so that villagers are able to do their work. This year, the Tatmadaw shelled six mortars and shot a lot of small weapons at the time when people were spreading paddy grain in their hill fields. No one got injured [at that time]. Two people got injured by SPDC [Tatmadaw] landmines.<sup>1</sup> The first one was Saw Mo---, 15 years old. He lived in Lo--- [village]. The other one was Saw T---. He was killed [by the landmine]. He was 40 years old. He lived in Ba--- village. He was hit at Thay Kah Bper on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2010. And the other villager was hit on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Yay Gho Kee. So, we always have to be alert."*

Naw D--- (female, 43), Ht--- village, Ler Muh Bplaw village tract, Lu Thaw Township  
(December 2010)

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## **Incident report | Wa--- village, Ler Muh Bplaw village tract, Lu Thaw Township, Papun District (January 2011)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions, based on information provided by Saw Ra---, the 51-year-old former village head of Lo--- village, Lu Thaw Township, who is currently living in hiding at Wa--- village in Ler Muh Bplaw village tract. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Saw Ra---

**Age:** 51

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Position:** Former village head

On January 31<sup>st</sup> 2011, I met with the [former] Lo--- village head who is *bpwah khay aoh gk'mwee* [a person who has fled somewhere other than his or her original village] and lives in a *bpwah khay aoh gk'mwee* site [in hiding] at Wa---. His name is Saw Ra--- and he is 51 years old. He is a resident of Ler Muh Bplaw village tract. Saw Ra--- reported that there are 17

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<sup>1</sup> Naw D--- did not explain how she knew that the landmines that injured the two villagers had been planted by the Tatmadaw.

households and 114 villagers [in Wa---]. Villagers farm hill fields but none of them have enough food because of the drought [in the 2010 rainy season].

*"We want our leaders to give us a suggestion in some way. We fled from our village several years ago because the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] was killing villagers, burning down the village, taking villagers' property from their hiding places, shooting buffalos and eating villagers' pigs, chickens and ducks. The SPDC Army base in Htaw Mu Bpleh Meh is located close to our old village. It takes 15 minutes [on foot]. We have not been able to go back to our village, until now. To be able to do our work, we plant landmines to protect ourselves. It is very helpful for villagers to be able to do their own work. The [activity censored for security] was very good for our villagers. We hope the [activity censored for security] will be conducted more in the future."*

Saw Ra--- (male, 51), Wa--- village, Ler Muh Bplaw village tract, Lu Thaw Township  
(January 2011)

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## **Incident report | Wa--- village, Ler Muh Bplaw village tract, Lu Thaw Township, Papun District (January 2011)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions, based on information provided by Naw R---, a 35-year-old teacher currently in hiding at Wa--- village, Ler Muh Bplaw village tract. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Naw R---

**Age:** 35

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Occupation:** Schoolteacher

On January 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 I met with a schoolteacher, [originally] from Lo--- village, who is *bpwah khay aoh gk'mwee* [a person who has fled somewhere other than his or her original village] and lives in a hiding site for displaced [villagers] at Wa---. Her name is Naw R--- and she is 35 years old. She is a resident of Ler Muh Bplaw village tract. Naw R--- reported:

*"The SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] is still close to the place where we live. The SPDC Army occupies a camp in Htaw Mu Bplaw Meh and it is one hour on foot from us. We do not have places to farm hill fields close to our village. At the place where we farm hill fields, the SPDC Army can see us and can shoot at us with small weapons [guns]. But the gher der [home guards] and Army [KNLA] take security. They plant hundreds of landmines to frighten and prevent the SPDC Army from coming here easily. We can do our own work year by year. In the past, in our village [Lo---] and wherever we fled and stayed, the SPDC Army came and burned down our village and our shelters. They ate our pigs and chickens. They shot our buffalos. They took our property, like shirts and blankets, if they saw them in our hiding places in the jungle. They broke our gk'tee [clay pots used to store water] and cooking pots. They took our kla [a kind of machete] that we use to cut grass in our hill fields, and made them ler hsa [the soldiers used the machetes in the same manner that villagers use stones to support a cooking pot in a fire, burning them and thus weakening the blades]. We are reporting this and we hope that there will be an arrangement for us to be able to stay in peace."*

Naw R--- (male, 35), Wa--- village, Ler Muh Bplaw village tract, Lu Thaw Township  
(January 2011)



## Incident report | Ne--- village, Ler Muh Bplaw village tract, Lu Thaw Township, Papun District (January 2011)

*The following incident report was written by a villager trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions, based on information provided by Saw Mo---, a 30-year-old teacher currently in hiding at Ne--- village, Ler Muh Bplaw village tract. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Saw Mo---

**Age:** 30

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Occupation:** Schoolteacher

On January 31<sup>st</sup> 2011, I met with the Ne--- village schoolteacher. His name is Saw Mo--- and he is 30 years old. He is a resident of Ler Muh Bplaw village tract. Saw Mo--- reported that he could come to school without disruption this year [in 2010]:

*"In previous years they [teachers and students] had to flee once or twice a year because of the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] attacks. We have contacted the gher der [Home Guards] and we have asked them to fire [their guns] three times if the situation is strange [not safe], so that we can let the students know in time and inform them to run back to their homes. I want to request [organisation name censored for security] to [activity censored for security] for villagers to learn and get more knowledge."*

Saw Mo--- (male, 30), Ne--- village, Ler Muh Bplaw village tract, Lu Thaw Township  
(January 2011)

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## Incident reports | Toungoo District, March and April 2011

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*This report contains 15 incident reports written by ten villagers describing 25 incidents of human rights abuse that occurred in Toungoo District prior to April 2011. The reports describe 17 incidents of forced labour, including forced portering of Tatmadaw supplies, the production and supply of building materials and forced messenger duty; four incidents in which villagers were shot and/ or killed; two incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention; one incident of theft and looting; one incident of rape; and one report of travel restrictions in Tatmadaw-controlled areas. The reports also register villagers' concerns about food security as a result of regular demands for forced labour, as well as serious threats to villagers' physical security from exposure to landmines and armed conflict when they are forced to porter for the Tatmadaw. As a result of the serious consequences of demands for forced labour on villagers' livelihoods, one villager reported that villagers negotiate with Tatmadaw officers in order to reduce or alter forced labour demands. These reports were received by KHRG in May 2011, along with other information from Toungoo District including: four other incident reports, five interviews, one situation update, 346 photographs and 36 video clips.<sup>2</sup>*

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## Incident report | M--- village, Thandaung Township, Toungoo District (March 2011)

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<sup>2</sup> When these documents have been processed and translated by KHRG and when sufficient information has been compiled and analysed, a full Field Report on the situation in Toungoo District will be available on the KHRG website. Until then, KHRG's most recent analysis of the situation in Toungoo District can be found in the recent Field Report, "Attacks on cardamom plantations, detention and forced labour in Toungoo District," KHRG, May 2010.

*The following incident report was written by Saw F---, a resident of M--- village, Thandaung Township.<sup>3</sup> It is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Saw F---

**Age:** 40

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married with six children

**Occupation:** Betelnut and cardamom farmer

**Position:** [censored]

In my village, there are 53 households and there are more than 200 villagers. The villagers' [main] job is planting betelnut and cardamom in hill fields. The SPDC [Tatmadaw] keep their camp there [in M---] from 2006 to 2010. On September 15<sup>th</sup> 2010, Lieutenant General Myo Aye, from the SPDC Army [unit] which is based at Kler La camp, under Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) #425, Military Operations Command (MOC) #7,<sup>4</sup> asked villagers to porter starting from Kaw Day camp to T'Aye Hta camp. Our village had to porter twice. The first time, 16 villagers had to go and the second time 15 villagers had to go. The villagers carried rice and each person had to carry 15 bowls (23.45 kg. / 51.58 lb.). Women had to carry 12 bowls (18.76 kg / 31.26 lb.) each.

On March 13<sup>th</sup> 2011, villagers had to carry food for the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] starting from Kaw Day camp to T'Aye Hta camp. At this time, 30 villagers had to go, including 10 women. The villagers had to carry rice and milk. It took three days for the villagers to carry that. We started from our village and had to sleep in Gh--- village, and the second day we took things from the SPDC Army camp which is located in Ko Day. To go from the SPDC Army camp at Ko Day to Th'Ay Hta camp takes three hours. Because there are landmines along the way, it took a long time because we had to avoid them. On our journey, no SPDC soldiers came with us, we went by ourselves. If we look now, no cars travel and there are only motorbike taxis [on the road between Ko Day and Th'Ay Hta]. The SPDC Army asked the villagers who have motorbikes to carry for them also. On March 15<sup>th</sup> 2011, the SPDC Army asked villagers with motorbikes to carry food. In our village, they called five motorbikes and we carried rice and, on each motorbike, there were three sacks of rice (150 kg. / 330 lb.) starting from Kler La to Kaw Day camp. If we look at this, the SPDC always forces us to porter.

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## **Incident report | W--- village, Thandaung Township, Toungoo District (March 2011)**

*The following incident report was written by Saw B---, 36, a resident of W--- village, Thandaung Township. It is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Saw B---

**Age:** 36

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

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<sup>3</sup> KHRG incident reports are written or gathered by villagers who have been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. KHRG trains villagers 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 or gathering incident reports, villagers are encouraged to document incidents of abuse that they consider important, by verifying information from multiple sources, assessing for potential biases and comparing to local trends.

<sup>4</sup> A Military Operations Command (MOC) typically consists of ten battalions. Most MOCs have three Tactical Operations Commands (TOCs), made up of three battalions each.

**Occupation:** Betelnut and cardamom farmer

**Position:** [censored]

Since the early 2000s, I have been working for ten years as a [censored]. In 2008, one of the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] units put me in wooden stocks for four days. The SPDC soldiers told [accused] us that we had contact with the KNU and they arrested us. It included four pastors. As for me, they have arrested me four times. The first time, they put me in jail for four days; the second time was for two days; and the third time was for three days. That SPDC Army unit was under Military Operations Command (MOC) #10 and their Operation Commanders are Myait Thay and Aung Ko Ko Way.

In 2009 and 2010, Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) #341, under MOC #5, came and built their camp in our village and forced two of our villagers to become camp guards. Their Base Commander was Kyaw Kyaw La and they are called ‘Ya Khaing’ [Rakhine]<sup>5</sup> Battalion. They forced us to carry water for them and cut bamboo for them. If we look at 2009 until 2010, starting from December and for four months, they changed their places [rotated troops to different camps] and forced the villagers to carry things for them such as rice, yellow beans and canned fish. We had to carry starting from Than Daung Gyi for the battalion based at Ba Yin Naung, and go back to K’Weh village camp. There were 50 villagers and it took four hours. In August 2010, Khaing Lay, the Battalion Commander of LIB [#420 or #421], under MOC #7, shot one of the Re--- villagers. The villager went to her shop in the market [in Than Daung Gyi] and sold a’kyaw [a fried snack]. The SPDC [Tatmadaw] came in at 8:00 pm and shot the village shop-keeper in her head. It happened in Than Daung Gyi and it took an hour [for the shop-keeper] to walk back on the way [to Re--- village]. The SPDC soldiers shot the villager and gave 30,000 kyat (US \$36) [compensation] and asked the villagers not to report the case. We sent her to the hospital for treatment and no SPDC soldiers came and looked. The villager’s name is Naw W---, 55, and until now her head is not cured yet. If we look at 2010, the SPDC Army had an election and the KPP [Kayin People’s Party] organization came in and told us that we had a lot of things to make better, so they asked for 1,000 kyat (US \$1.22) from each villager. If we look at these things, they are not benefitting villagers; they are all for the SPDC military.

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## Incident report | D--- village, Tantabin Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)

*The following incident report was written by a villager who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions.<sup>6</sup> Information for this incident report was provided by Saw E---, 42, a resident of D--- village, Tantabin Township. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

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<sup>5</sup> The use of the term *Ya Khaing* here indicates that Saw B--- thought that the Tatmadaw battalion he describes was under the Tatmadaw’s Western Command, which normally operates in Arakan and Chin states in western Burma. The deployment of soldiers from other commands to Toungoo and adjacent districts of eastern Burma, in which battalions under the Tatmadaw’s Southern and Southeastern commands are permanently based, is not unprecedented. In January 2011, for example, the *Narinjara* news agency reported that seven battalions from the Western Command had rotated to the front lines in Karen State; see: “Many Battalions Based in Arakan March to Fight on Eastern Border,” *Narinjara*, January 13<sup>th</sup> 2011. One of the battalions mentioned in the *Narinjara* article, LIB #252, was identified by villagers interviewed by KHRG field researchers as the unit responsible for an attack on Dteh Neh village in February 2011; see: “Tatmadaw attacks destroy civilian property and displace villages in northern Papun District,” KHRG, April 2011.

<sup>6</sup> KHRG trains villagers 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, villagers are encouraged to document incidents of abuse that they consider important, by verifying information from multiple sources, assessing for potential biases and comparing to local trends.

**Source name:** Saw E---

**Age:** 42

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Occupation:** [censored]

**Position:** [censored]

Saw E--- reported that forced labour happened in his village and villagers had to go from D--- village to Y--- village and then to Bpeh Leh Wah village. When they went to carry things for the SPDC [Tatmadaw], it included some other villagers from H--- village and Th--- village. Because the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] forced us to work for them, it caused problems for villagers' occupations.

Saw E--- reported that the SPDC forced villagers to carry their food and cut bamboo to build the SPDC Army camp.

*"During the summer of 2010, two of our villagers had to carry one sack [50 kg / 110 lb] of rice each to the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] camp. Each family had to bring bamboo poles that are 10 cubits long and they had to bring the bamboo from Y--- village to Bpeh Leh Wah camp. The trip takes three hours on foot. Different villages also had to carry for them. The places where we have to carry things are really dangerous for us and, if the SPDC Army is with us, fighting can happen anytime. Our D--- villagers are often forced to carry by the SPDC Army."*

Saw E---, 42, D--- village, Tantabin Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)

The SPDC Army unit that forces D--- villagers to work [currently] is LIB #539, under MOC #9, which is under the command of three-star Captain Lhin Tun and based in L--- and D--- villages. In January 2011, SPDC Army [battalions from] MOC #9 replaced MOC #7.

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## Incident report | L--- village, Tantabin Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)

*The following incident report was written by a villager who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. Information for this incident report was provided by Saw G---, 20, a resident of L--- village, Tantabin Township. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Source name:** Saw G---

**Age:** 20

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Single

**Occupation:** Farmer

Forced labour happened in January 2011, when villagers were forced to carry things from Py--- camp to L--- camp. 100 villagers were forced to carry food for the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw], and other villagers had to go stay at their army camp as *set tha* [messengers].<sup>7</sup> Two people had to go [as messengers] each day, as the army ordered.

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<sup>7</sup> 'Set tha' is a Burmese term for forced labour duty as a messenger stationed at army camps or bases and serving as a go-between to deliver orders from army officers to village heads, but also involving other menial tasks when no messages are in need of delivery. The villager who submitted this report is likely explaining that one or more residents of villages near army camps have to go each day for *set tha*.

According to Saw G---, the SPDC Army forced villagers to carry their things and food from Py--- camp to L--- camp.

*"The SPDC Army [unit] which forced the villagers is LIB #539, which is a different [recently rotated] unit that has been based at the army camp in L--- village since January 16<sup>th</sup> 2011. Villagers always face forced labour. They [Tatmadaw soldiers] force us because they said we help the KNU, and we have to help them as we help the KNU. Since 2006, we have faced forced labour from the SPDC Army, so we do not have time to work for ourselves and it causes problems for villagers' livelihoods. Because we have been forced by the SPDC Army to work for a long time, sometimes if they ask us to work we don't go, and tell the officer, 'This is our important work time, and please can we go next time?' and he doesn't say anything and allows us [to not work]."*<sup>8</sup>

Saw G---, 20, L--- village, Tantabin Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)

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## Incident report | Bp--- village, Thandaung Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)

*The following incident report was written by a villager who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. Information for this incident report was provided by Saw Ht---, a resident of Bp--- village, Thandaung Township. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Name:** Saw Ht---

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Occupation:** [censored]

This is some short information about what is happening. On February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011, [Tatmadaw] Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) #377, Military Operation Command (MOC) #9, under Commander Aung Win, asked Bp--- villagers to carry 25 sacks of rice for them. It also included 25 villagers from K--- village, and Pl--- village had to carry 15 sacks of rice.

*"We had to take things from the 48 Mile camp<sup>9</sup> [Ko Day] to Th'Aye Hta camp. The SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] always asks villagers to carry things for them and, sometimes, they ask motorbike drivers to transport food for them."*

Saw Ht---, Bp--- village, Thandaung Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)

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## Incident report | N--- village, Tantabin Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)

*The following incident report was written by a villager who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. Information for this incident report was provided by Saw Gk---, 30, a resident of N--- village, Tantabin Township. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

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<sup>8</sup> The tactic of negotiating with Tatmadaw officers is a strategy that villagers in eastern Burma employ in order to reduce forced labour demands, or to mitigate adverse consequences on villagers' livelihoods. For more on the ways in which villagers attempt to engage with and manipulate local power dynamics, see *Village Agency: Rural rights and resistance in a militarised Karen State*, KHRG, November 2008, pp. 92 – 116.

<sup>9</sup> Note that Tatmadaw camp names along the Toungoo to Mawchi road are often ascribed according to their distance from Toungoo Town.

**Name:** Saw Gk---

**Age:** 30

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Occupation:** Betelnut farmer

This is some short information about what is happening. Saw Gk--- reported that in March 2006 the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] forced N--- villagers to relocate, so they had to go and stay in W--- village. Also, the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] always forces villagers to transport food to Ky---. Moreover, they also force villagers to transport food, such as meats.

Saw Gk--- reported that, starting from March 2006, the SPDC Army forced the N--- villagers to relocate to the T--- area, which is near W--- village, because it will be easy for the SPDC Army to make demands on the villagers who stay in the relocation area. If the villagers didn't go to the relocation area, the SPDC [Tatmadaw] would come, and destroy and burn their food stores and their things. The villagers and citizens suffer from SPDC Army oppression. At that time, it was Brigade [Tatmadaw LID] #66 that came into our Toungoo District and wanted to change our Toungoo District by *myay la sa nit* [policy of uprooting villagers and forced relocation].<sup>10</sup> The Brigade Commander [of LID #66] was Shan Myain. Villagers had to stay in the jungle and build shelters. Some worked with the KNU to help them to get information.

When villagers stay in relocation areas, the SPDC Army always forces them to labour for them. Starting from January 2011, the Tatmadaw Military Operations Command (MOC) #9 came and changed places [rotated] with MOC #7. LIB #539, under MOC #9 is located in L--- camp and they are active in the Pw--- area. In February 2011, they asked villagers to carry food with 100 carts. Not all the villagers went, so there were only 60 carts. The villages that had to transport rations for the SPDC Army were Sh--- and Ay--- villages.

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## **Incident report | PI--- village, Thandaung Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. Information for this incident report was provided by Saw Th---, 29, a resident of PI--- village, Thandaung Township. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Source name:** Saw Th---

**Age:** 29

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Single

**Occupation:** [censored]

**Position:** [censored]

This is some short information about what is happening. Most incidents that are happening are forced labour. In the past, when the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] forced villagers to carry things for them, they wrote a letter to the village leader and asked the village leader to meet with them. In 2010, MOC #7 went back and MOC #9 changed place [rotated in to replace MOC #7]. On February 14<sup>th</sup> 2011, the SPDC Army forced some villages to carry food for them. If the village

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<sup>10</sup> Previous KHRG reports have documented the forced relocation of a number of villages in the Pw--- area, including N--- village, to a relocation site at L---. For a transcript of a report written by a KHRG field researcher describing forced relocation campaigns in 2006, see *One year on: Continuing abuses in Toungoo district*, KHRG, November 2006, p.15. See also "New SPDC military moves force more villagers to flee," KHRG, July 2006.

was big, the army forced the village to carry 50 sacks of rice. If the village was small, they had to carry 25 sacks of rice.

Saw Th---, 29, reported that in their village they are always forced to carry [porter] for the army. On February 14<sup>th</sup> 2011, the villagers had to carry food for the SPDC Army starting from Kler La to Th'Aye Hta camp. At that time, other villages were also included, such as Ho---, K---, De---, Kh---villages. Each village had to carry 25 sacks of rice. A big village was ordered to carry 50 sacks of rice.

These demands happen a lot when the SPDC Army forces villagers to carry for them. Moreover, villagers always have to cut bamboo in our Toungoo District, and in the western Pa--- area. These things happen because the SPDC Army came and built their camp in our place and always demand us to carry food and *loh ah pay*<sup>11</sup> for them. They demand us to go and, if we don't go, they make us afraid that they will arrest us. Because of this, we are afraid and we help them. The people who suffer this are the citizens. The people who oppress and force villagers is the SPDC Army [units] under MOC #9, which are based in Ma--- village and Kler La camp. Because the SPDC Army forces villagers, they always have to work for the SPDC and have no time to work for themselves, so it becomes difficult for them.

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## Incident report | La--- village, Thandaung Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)

*The following incident report was written by a villager who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. Information for this incident report was provided by Saw Dt---, 41, a resident of La--- village, Thandaung Township. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Source name:** Saw Dt---

**Age:** 41

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Religion:** ---

**Marital Status:** Married

**Occupation:** [censored]

The SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] came to La--- village and abused villagers. When they came to the village, they heard a landmine explode and they said that the villagers planted landmines. They burned the villagers' houses and, moreover, if they see the villagers go somewhere, they ask a lot of different questions. When they came to the village they took pigs, chickens and ducks to eat but they didn't pay and took them for free. One of the villagers from another village in Thandaung Township was killed by LIB #376, under MOC #9, which is based at Ky---, on February 14<sup>th</sup> 2011. The SPDC Army sentry saw him, and they shot and killed him. The villager who was killed by the SPDC Army lived in Zone 1 of Thandaung Township. His name is Saw Ba--- and he was 36 years old.<sup>12</sup> After he was killed, his family faced many problems because he was a daily worker [worked for daily wages]. The reason the SPDC Army killed this villager while they were [on] sentry [duty] was because they said he was carrying a weapon [type of weapon was not specified], and then they killed him.

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<sup>11</sup> *Loh ah pay*; a Burmese term now commonly used in reference to forced labour, although traditionally referring to voluntary service for temples or the local community, not military or state projects.

<sup>12</sup> The killing of Saw Ba--- was reported in four separate incident reports submitted by villagers in Toungoo District in April 2011. Two of these incident reports have been processed and published in this report; the other two incident reports are on file with KHRG.

## Incident report | A--- village, Thandaung Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)

*The following incident report was written by a villager who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. Information for this incident report was provided by Saw R---, 37, a resident of A--- village, Thandaung Township. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Source name:** Saw R---  
**Age:** 37  
**Ethnicity:** Karen  
**Religion:** Christian  
**Marital Status:** Married  
**Occupation:** [censored]

[Tatmadaw] LIB #374 under MOC #7, under Commander Nyoh Hay, based in Ker Weh village, came to A--- village on February 18<sup>th</sup> 2011. A--- villagers have to face difficulty from SPDC [Tatmadaw] demands for forced labour and other things. Villagers have to go and carry SPDC loads of food [rations] so there is no time for them to work. Because the SPDC came and is based in A--- village, 18 or 20 villagers have to go for two weeks at a time and carry SPDC loads of food. Villagers have to go and carry, and the distance to walk is about two and a half hours. They have to start carrying from Ge--- to A--- villages. The SPDC killed one of the villagers named Saw Ba---; he was 36 years old. The reason they killed this person is that they said he was a messenger who would make a problem,<sup>13</sup> so they shot and killed him. Every day the SPDC calls one villager to be their messenger. They ask villagers to go and carry their food and they ask them to go and cut trees also. They don't pay villagers for their work and they don't give villagers food to eat. The SPDC always orders villagers to do forced labour, so villagers don't have time to work in their own workplaces anymore, and will face many problems for food.

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## Incident report | Ma--- village, Tantabin Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)

*The following incident report was written by a villager who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. Information for this incident report was provided by Saw He---, 35, a resident of Ma--- village, Tantabin Township. The following incident report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Source name:** Saw He---  
**Age:** 35  
**Ethnicity:** Karen  
**Religion:** Christian  
**Marital Status:** Married  
**Occupation:** [censored]

The SPDC [Tatmadaw] LIB #336, under MOC #7 and based at Bp'Leh Wa, and LIB #425 based at Ma---, order villagers to go and carry loads of food [rations] for them starting from U--- to Buh Sa Kee and from Bp'Leh Wa to Y--- army camp [near D--- village]. From Bp'Leh Wa the distance they have to carry is about two hours [on foot]. Whenever the army [Tatmadaw] orders villagers to go and carry loads, usually they ask for 30 people to go. If not 30 people [if the

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<sup>13</sup> This statement likely indicates that Saw Ba--- was accused of providing information to the KNU/KNLA.



village sends less than 30 people as porters], they write a letter to the village head and the village head also has to go. They won't accept less than 30 people. If anyone is absent, they come to the village and make a problem, and don't allow villagers to go out of the village or to go to their workplaces. The officer's name is Sa Way Maw from LIB #336, under MOC #7. He also raped a woman. Her name is Naw Y--- and she is 38 years old. Her father's name is Saw Gh---. After they raped her, they let her go. They do not act under orders, but just do as they want.

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## **Incident report | Ga--- village, Thandaung Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. Information for this incident report was provided by Naw M---, 24, a resident of Ga--- village, Thandaung Township. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Source Name:** Naw M---

**Age:** 24

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Religion:** ---

**Marital Status:** Single

**Occupation:** Teacher; farming a hill field

This is short information about an incident that happened. Villagers have to face problems from SPDC [Tatmadaw] oppression. The army [Tatmadaw] attacks the village and villagers face many kinds of problems because they have to flee into the forest and cannot work for their own livelihoods, so they have food problems also. Mostly villagers are farming hill fields and cardamom plantations. In Ga--- village, villagers always have to face SPDC oppression. When the SPDC comes to the village, they shoot pigs and chickens and eat them. More than this, they shot one of the villagers. His name was Saw Ch--- and he was 28 years old. He lived in Na--- village. They shot and killed this villager and left him like that, without doing anything. The villagers had to bury his dead body. When they came into the village and burned houses, the SPDC soldiers shot and killed Naw M---'s uncle, Saw Do---. He was 30 years old and he also lived in Na--- village. They shot and killed him without any reason.

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## **Incident report | E--- village, Tantabin Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. Information for this incident report was provided by Naw S---, 28, a resident of E--- village, Tantabin Township. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Source name:** Naw S---

**Age:** 28

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Religion:** ---

**Marital Status:** Single

**Occupation:** Teacher

Villagers have to face problems and have a lot of difficulties, such as food shortages and having to work for the SPDC [Tatmadaw]. Food shortages are the most difficult for villagers, because

insects eat the food. The SPDC, under the command of Lieutenant General Myo Aye, asks villagers to cut trees but the wood must be old [mature] enough. They ask villagers to cut wood to build their army camp. They built a camp in Shan Shee Bo. It causes trouble for villagers, because the SPDC always asks villagers to work for them.

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## **Incident report | Ra--- village, Tantabin Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. Information for this incident report was provided by Naw K---, 35, a resident of Ra--- village, Tantabin Township. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Source name:** Naw K---

**Age:** 35

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Occupation:** [censored]

The SPDC [Tatmadaw] asks villagers to carry [porter] food and other things for the army, and they [villagers] have to go to carry for the whole day. They demand villagers to cut trees and wood to build their camp, and they built a camp in Ra--- village. When the SPDC asks villagers to work for them, the SPDC [soldiers] also come to villagers' houses and take their food as they wish. Villagers cannot protect themselves. If the SPDC demands villagers to cut one hundred pieces of bamboo, the villagers have to give it to them as they say. The villagers cannot give them only half. The SPDC demands many things from the villagers, so the villagers do not have enough time to work for themselves. Furthermore, the SPDC requires villagers to get permission to travel, so villagers cannot work freely. If the villagers go outside, they always have to have a written permission paper. If they don't, they cannot go.

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## **Incident report | Ke--- village, Tantabin Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. Information for this incident report was provided by Saw Pa---, 67, a resident of Ke--- village, Tantabin Township. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Source name:** Saw Pa---

**Age:** 67

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Occupation:** [censored]

This short information is about the SPDC [Tatmadaw] always demanding villagers to work for them a lot, including forced recruitment, forced labour and demanding villagers to carry food [rations]. Villagers have to face problems from the SPDC, like when the army calls them at night time. The SPDC entered Ke--- village twice. The first time was on February 24<sup>th</sup> [year not specified] and there were twenty soldiers, not including their leader. Saw Pa--- didn't know their leader's name. One of the village leaders went to a meeting and, while he was coming back, the

SPDC, Column [LID] #66, saw him and captured him and put him in prison. After one year, he died because of disease.<sup>14</sup>

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## **Incident report | D--- village, Tantabin Township, Toungoo District (April 2011)**

*The following incident report was written by a villager who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions. Information for this incident report was provided by Saw Bo---, 42, a resident of D--- village, Tantabin Township. The report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.*

**Source name:** Saw Bo---

**Age:** 42

**Ethnicity:** Karen

**Marital Status:** Married

**Occupation:** [censored]

This short information is about the SPDC Army [Tatmadaw] forcing villagers to go and cut bamboo and wood to build their army camp. They also asked the villagers to carry their food [rations] for them, even though the villagers have no time to go. Along the way, the soldiers saw some villagers who didn't go and carry food for them, so they arrested them and put them into the jail at their army camp. The D--- village head had to go and take them from jail at the army camp. In addition, the villagers always have to pay money or give the soldiers food. The SPDC Army also kills villagers. This year [2011], LIB #376 under MOC #9 replaced LIB #436 under MOC #7.

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## **Incident report | Villager shot and killed in Pa'an District, October 2011**

*The following report was written by a villager trained by KHRG to document human rights abuses, and details an incident that occurred on October 29th 2011 in P--- village, during which soldiers from Tatmadaw IB #230 fired small arms at three civilians as they fled their house in P--- village, and two KNLA soldiers who had been cooking food in the house. Saw A---, a 36-year-old married farmer who had returned to P--- to help his wife's family harvest paddy, was shot in the head and killed as the group ran away from the house. The villager who wrote this report visited P--- village two weeks after the incident occurred to document the incident: the villager took the 32 photographs included in this report; spoke with Saw A---'s brother-in-law and mother-in-law, who were the other two civilians who fled the IB #230 soldiers and witnessed Saw A---'s death; and spoke with another P--- resident who heard the gunfire and witnessed the soldiers entering the house after the group fled. The full transcript of a recorded audio interview with Saw A---'s brother-in-law is available in the bulletin "Pa'an Interview: Saw C---, November 2011" published by KHRG on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.*

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## **Incident report | E--- village tract, Lu Pleh Township, Pa'an District (October 2011)**

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<sup>14</sup> It is likely that Saw Pa--- is referring here to an incident that occurred during the Northern Offensive 2005 – 2008, when LID #66 was active in Toungoo District and responsible for the widespread perpetration of human rights abuses. See "Attacks, killings and the food crisis in Toungoo District," KHRG, August 2008.

*The following incident report is presented below translated exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security.<sup>15</sup> This report was received along with other information from Pa'an District, including seven other incident reports, eight interviews, one situation update, and 137 photographs.<sup>16</sup>*

Saw C---, 23 years old, reported that his older brother [in-law] Saw A---, 36 years old, was shot and killed. Burmese [Tatmadaw] soldiers from IB [Infantry Battalion]<sup>17</sup> #230, TOC [Tactical Operations Command] #1, MOC [Military Operations Command] #12 in Kawkareik, under the command of Battalion Commander Tha Teh Soe and Deputy Battalion Commander Bpye Khaing came and were on active temporary duty in Dta Greh Township and in the Thu Mweh Nee border area, based at M--- Camp. The incident happened on October 29<sup>th</sup> 2011, at about 8:00 am. It happened in P--- village, E--- village tract, Lu Pleh Township, Pa'an District.

On November 16<sup>th</sup> 2011, in the early morning, I started to leave L--- village and went to P--- village where the incident happened. It took me three hours to walk there and I arrived in P--- village at 8:15 am in the morning. I met with Saw C--- and he explained: *"Two weeks ago, the SPDC [Tatmadaw]<sup>18</sup> came and shot at my house and it killed my older sister's husband. They also took my mother's six pairs of gold earrings, one gold ring and 20,000 baht."*<sup>19</sup>



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<sup>15</sup> KHRG incident reports are written or gathered by villagers to monitor human rights conditions. KHRG trains villagers in 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, villagers are encouraged to document incidents of abuse that they consider important, by verifying information from multiple sources, assessing for potential biases and comparing to local trends.

<sup>16</sup> When these documents have been processed and translated by KHRG and when sufficient information has been compiled and analysed, a full Field Report on the situation in Pa'an District will be available on the KHRG website. Until then, KHRG's most recent analysis of the situation in Pa'an District can be found in the recent Field Report, "Functionally Refoulement: Camps in Tha Song Yang District abandoned as refugees bow to pressure," KHRG, April 2010.

<sup>17</sup> Note that the villager who submitted this report wrote 'Ka Ma Ya', or 'LIB', #230 in the original handwritten description of the incident.; however, the same villager reported on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 that it was in fact 'Ka La Ya', or 'IB', #230 that was involved in the incident. In the translated text above, 'LIB #230' has been replaced with 'IB #230' to reflect this newer information.

<sup>18</sup> In Karen, the Burmese phrases *Na Wa Ta* (SLORC) and *Na Ah Pa* (SPDC) are commonly used to refer to the Burmese government or to Burma's state army, the Tatmadaw. Many older Karen villagers who were accustomed to using the phrase *Na Wa Ta* (SLORC) before 1997 continue to use that phrase, even though the SLORC has not officially existed since 1997. Similarly, despite the official dissolution of the SPDC in March 2011, many Karen villagers continue to use the phrase *Na Ah Pa* (SPDC) to refer to the Burmese government or to the Tatmadaw; see: "Mission Accomplished as SPDC 'dissolved'," Myanmar Times, April 4-10 2011. The term *Na Ah Pa* was used by the villager who wrote this report, and "SPDC" is therefore retained in the translation.

<sup>19</sup> For the full transcript of an interview with Saw C---, conducted by the villager who wrote this report, see: "Pa'an Interview: Saw C---, October 2011," KHRG, December 2011.

Three people told me about this incident: Saw C--- [the victim's brother-in-law], Naw G--- [the victim's mother-in-law] and Saw H--- [a resident of P--- village]<sup>20</sup>. The first two of them [Naw G--- and Saw C---] ran through bullets and Saw H--- heard the gunfire and saw the SPDC soldiers who came and shot. They knew exactly what happened.

This photo, taken on November 16<sup>th</sup>, shows Saw C---, 23, standing in front of his house, which he fled on October 29<sup>th</sup> under fire from soldiers from Tatmadaw IB #230. His brother-in-law, Saw A---, 36, who fled the house at the same time, was shot in the head and killed as he ran away. [Photo: KHRG]

On October 29<sup>th</sup> 2011, at about 8:00 am, in P--- village the Burma government [Tatmadaw] soldiers came and shot at some villagers because they saw those villagers were running. Saw C--- said: *"The incident also happened at the same time when two of the KNLA soldiers came and cooked with us, so that is why it happened. But the KNLA soldiers didn't bring anything, they just stayed as villagers."*<sup>21</sup> *The two KNLA soldiers cooked in the kitchen and Saw A--- sat in front of the house. As soon as he saw the Burmese military, he jumped out of the house and called 'Burmese!' so all of us in the house with my mother ran down [out of the house] and the Burmese soldiers started to shoot at us. We all ran down [out of the house] because we were afraid of the Burmese soldiers. If we hadn't run, we worried that the Burmese soldiers would arrest us, hit us and call us to follow them. Seven of the Burmese soldiers came and shot [at us] and their friends [other Tatmadaw soldiers] were waiting for them on the vehicle road which is not far from the village."*

The seven Burmese soldiers came [into P--- village], and two of them arrived beside the vegetable garden in front of the house, two were under the trees, one was on the bridge, and another two were on the slope of the hill. They looked at Saw C---'s house and shot at the people who ran. The places the Burmese soldiers stayed when they shot are shown below in the photos.



<sup>20</sup> In a separate unpublished report submitted to KHRG by the same villager who wrote this report, he mentioned that Naw G--- is 40 years old and Saw H--- is 60 years old, and further clarified that Saw H--- had been hunting outside of P--- when he heard the gunfire and, upon returning to P---, watched from a discreet location as the Tatmadaw soldiers entered the house Naw G---, Saw C--- and Saw A--- had fled.

<sup>21</sup> The villager who wrote this report later clarified that the KNLA soldiers did not bring their guns with them into P--- village, but were likely wearing at least some items of their uniform.





The photos above were taken in P--- village on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2011 by the villager who wrote this report. According to that villager, the photos were taken from vantage points used by IB #230 soldiers when they fired on Saw C---, Naw G---, Saw A--- and two KNLA soldiers when they fled Saw C---'s house, which is visible next to the vegetable garden (top left) and through the trees (middle left and right). [Photos: KHRG]

The soldiers did not shoot at the people who ran directly; they shot at them from behind and a bullet hit A---'s head. One side [of his head] was gone and he fell in the *tho gk'myo mu* [a plant producing small dark berries] vines as shown in the photos below. Saw C--- said A--- was hit on the right [of his head] but C---'s mother, Naw G---, said the bullet hit him on the left side [of his head]. Saw H--- also said it hit the left [side of his head].



In the two photos above, also taken on November 16<sup>th</sup>, Saw C--- indicates the spot where Saw A--- fell when he was shot in the head from behind as they were running away from LIB #230 soldiers. According to Saw C---, the bullet blew off part of Saw A---'s head, and he fell to the ground immediately. [Photos: KHRG]



Before the bullet hit him, other bullets also hit the sides of trees, as shown in the photos below.



These photos where small arms fired by Tatmadaw IB #230 soldiers struck trees near the house which Saw A---, Naw G---, Saw C--- and two KNLA soldiers fled on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Saw C---'s house is visible behind the tree in the photo above right. [Photos: KHRG]

After they [Saw C--- and Naw G---] came back [to their house], the other two people [KNLA soldiers] did not come back. Only the P--- villagers went and took Saw A---'s dead body and put him in front of the house. His blood came out [on the ground] there and later the villagers burned [the ground where Saw A--- had bled]. The place that was burned is shown in the photos below. Saw C--- said the place where Saw A--- fell down [when he was shot] was on a slope so his blood swept down the slope and covered the leaves. That place was not burned.



These photos show the site proximate to the house and vegetable garden (above left) to which Saw A---'s body was moved shortly after he was shot in the head and killed. According to Saw C---, Saw A---'s body was later bathed and prepared for burial, at which time the area where his body had lain was burned in order to clean away the blood (above right). The small area that was burned is visible in both photos above. [Photos: KHRG]

After that, people bathed him [Saw A---] and sent him to the grave. After that, Saw C--- went and showed me Saw A---'s grave, which was near the vehicle road where the Burmese soldiers had waited for their friends who went and shot at Saw A---'s parents-in-law's house in P--- village. Saw A---'s grave is shown in the photos below. Those photos also are of Saw C---, who went and showed me his older brother [in-law]'s grave. When we came back to their place [P--- village], I took a picture of him.<sup>22</sup> Saw C--- said: "*When my brother A--- was sent to his grave, the pastor didn't arrive and didn't dare to come. Only a few people went and sent him to his*

<sup>22</sup> This photo is included with the full transcript of an interview with Saw C--- the report "Pa'an Interview: Saw C---, November 2011" published by KHRG on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.



grave. My older brother and older sister have three children. The oldest one is a girl, who is six years old.”



The photos above show the grave of Saw A--- (top left) and offerings left at the grave (above right). These photos were taken on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2011, two weeks after Saw A--- was killed. Freshly-turned earth on top of Saw A---’s grave is seen in the middle photos, while the bottom photos show Saw C--- walking along the path between Saw A---’s grave and P--- village, while returning from showing Saw A---’s grave to the villager who wrote this report and took these photographs. [Photos: KHRG]

When it happened his [Saw C---’s] older sister didn’t stay in the house [in P--- village]. She went and worked on a flat field in L---, which is called Kw--- [in Burmese]. His [Saw C---’s] older brother [Saw A---] had come back to stay with his parents-in-law for a few days to harvest [paddy] and help his parents-in-law to carry the paddy. When I went to P---, I didn’t meet with



Saw A---'s wife, Naw T---, because, she stayed far away [from P---] near the Burmese soldiers based in E---, so it is not easy for me to go there.

Also, Saw C--- said the Burmese soldiers took six pairs of his mother's gold earrings, one golden ring, 20,000 baht (US \$667) and 10,000 kyat (US \$13).<sup>23</sup> It was not sure that the 10,000 kyat was taken. Naw G--- would know better than her son [Saw C---], and she did not say that 10,000 kyat was taken. For the gold earrings, gold ring and 20,000 baht, [Naw G--- was sure] these were taken. His [Saw C---'s] mother had 20,000 Baht for sure. Saw C--- told me that his mother bought the six pairs of gold earrings three years ago and, among them, one pair had cost 3,000 baht (US \$100). As for the gold ring, that cost 10,000 baht (US \$333) four years ago. These things, now, maybe would be more than double the cost.



The photos above were taken on November 16<sup>th</sup> inside the house Saw A---, Saw C--- and Naw G--- fled on October 29<sup>th</sup> as they were shot at by soldiers from IB #230. Examples of damage caused by small arms fired inside the house is visible in all four photos. [Photos: KHRG]

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<sup>23</sup> All conversion estimates for the Kyat in this interview are based on the fluctuating informal exchange rate rather than the government's official fixed rate of 6.5 kyat to US \$1. As of November 29<sup>th</sup> 2011, this unofficial rate of exchange was US \$1 = 770 kyat.