



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Incident Report

June 21, 2019/ KHRG #19-36-11

Dooplaya Incident Report: Two Tatmadaw deserters killed seven civilians in Win Yay Township, April 2019

On 5th April 2019, two Tatmadaw deserters shot eight Muslim civilians from W--- village over a motorbike dispute. Seven of them died, but no compensation was provided to the families for their deceased relatives. Local civilians are now worried about their security.¹

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	Multiple killings
Date of Incident(s)	April 5 th 2019
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	W--- Village, Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District

Victim Information				
Name	Ma K---	Maung M---	Daw S---	Daw P--- (survived)
Age	3	1	38	36
Sex	Female	Male	Female	Female
Family	Single	Single	Married	Married
Occupation	Dependant	Dependant	Dependant	Dependant
Religion	Islam	Islam	Islam	Islam
Position	Villager	Villager	Villager	Villager
Village	W---	W---	W---	W---

¹ The present document is based on information received in May 2019. It was provided by a community member in Dooplaya District who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions on the ground. The names of the victims, their photos and the exact locations are censored for security reasons.

Victim Information				
Name	U L---	U B---	U T---	Maung A---
Age	43	38	36	9
Sex	Male	Male	Male	Male
Family	Single	Married	Married	Single
Occupation	Motorbike Technician	Dependant	Dependant	Dependant
Religion	Islam	Islam	Islam	Islam
Position	Villager	Villager	Villager	Villager
Village	W---	W---	W---	W---

Perpetrator Information				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Nyein Chan	Soldier	LIB #275	SOC #1 W---	Operations Commander Soe Moe Kyaw
Myint Wai	Soldier	LIB #339	SOC #1 W---	Operations Commander Soe Moe Kyaw

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

The researcher met with the Karen National Union (KNU) and Karen National Police Force (KNPF) to discuss this incident. He went to the location where the killings took place and met with family members of the victims to gain more information.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

The researcher collected the information about the incident from the victim's relatives, villagers from W---, as well as staff of the KNU and KNPF.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.

The incident happened on April 5th 2019 outside of W--- village, Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District, in a mixed control area. Around 3:30 AM, two Tatmadaw deserters from LIB #339 and LIB #275, Nyein Chan and Myint Wai, reached a local motorbike workshop located 15 minutes away from the village. When the owner refused to give

them a motorbike, one of the soldiers shot him with his service rifle.

The brother of the owner, who lived nearby, was also shot when he arrived at the scene. Then, the two deserters entered his house and shot a woman and children who were sleeping inside. They also shot the family members who tried to run away. In total, 7 persons were killed and one was injured. All the victims were from two local Muslim families.

One of the family members, U F--- managed to escape. He ran to the village and reported the case to the village administrator, U H---, who immediately called the KNPF in Hpah Prah. When the KNPF reached the crime scene at around 3:50 AM, the perpetrators were already gone. They were later arrested by the KNPF, one at a KNLA checkpoint in Lut Shan and the other one outside W--- village, and handed over to the Tatmadaw.

The Myanmar police from Three Pagodas Pass first banned the family from burying the dead bodies, presumably for investigation purposes. KNLA Battalion #16 ultimately allowed the family to proceed with the burials, as these should take place as soon as possible according to Islamic belief.

The two deserters remain in military custody awaiting trial. Tatmadaw soldiers based in the area told KHRG that they are likely to face death penalty. However, local people do not know how the Tatmadaw is processing the case. Crimes committed by military personnel are handled by Myanmar's military justice system. Proceedings of military courts are not public, which makes it difficult to obtain reliable information about pending cases.²

Local people only found out about the killings in the next morning. Some of them were scared because they felt threatened by this incident. U H--- said that Tatmadaw soldiers from Strategic Operations Command's (SOC) W--- military camp patrol every night around the village, which causes security concerns among civilians. He also said that weak leadership and management in the area contributed to this incident.

He recommended to put an end to the mixed control system to fix these shortcomings, and advocated for the demilitarisation of the area: *"We are minorities. We should only have one ruling system. The Tatmadaw should not stay next to the village anymore. We cannot predict whether this kind of incident will happen again. If something happens, it will be dangerous for us because the Tatmadaw established their camp close to the students [children have to travel in front of the camp to go to school] and to our religious land. This can cause additional concerns whenever innocent villagers are killed."*

Operations Commander Soe Moe Kyaw from W--- SOC offered to give 5,000,000 kyats (USD 3267.17) to the victims' family members in compensation, but U H--- said that they refused and asked for 10,000,000 kyats (USD 6534.35) per dead victim. As a result, no compensation was provided to the families for their deceased relatives.

Daw P---, a woman who was injured during the incident, was admitted to hospital at her own expenses. She has now been discharged. A local interfaith organisation helped

² Open Democracy (December 2014), "[Civilian justice trumps military impunity in Myanmar](#)".

her with 1,000,000 kyats (USD 653.44). Commander Soe Moe Kyaw also gave her 1,000,000 kyats in compensation for her injury.

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

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

The relatives of the victims gave us permission to use this information.



These photos were taken in April 2019 in Win Yay Township. The top two photos show the two Tatmadaw deserters involved in the killings. The bottom two photos show a rifle and shells that were found at the incident location. [Photos: KNPF and KHRG]



These two photos were taken in April 2019, in Win Yay Township. The photo on the left shows the bodies of four victims of the killing. The right photo shows the motorbike workshop where the incident started. [Photos: KNPF and KHRG]

Further background reading on human rights abuses by members of the security forces in Southeast Myanmar can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- [“Hpapun Incident Report: A village head sustained serious injuries after being tortured by BGF #1014 in Bu Tho Township, November 2018”](#), (December 2018)
- [“Hpapun Incident Report: Explicit Threats in Dwe Lo Township, April 2018”](#), (September 2018)
- [“Hpapun Incident Report: Tatmadaw killed villager's buffalos in Lu Thaw Township, March 2018”](#), (July 2018)

About KHRG

Founded in 1992, the Karen Human Rights Group is an independent local organisation committed to improving the human rights situation in Southeast Myanmar. KHRG trains local people to document and gather evidence of human rights abuses, and publishes this information to project the voices, experiences and perspectives of local communities. More examples of our work can be seen online at www.khrg.org.