



Incident report

August 28th, 2019 / KHRG Log # 19-58-I2

Hpapun Incident Report: Physical abuse by a BGF soldier in Bu Tho Township, April 2019

On April 3rd 2019, a 20-year-old college student was beaten by a soldier from BGF¹ Battalion #1014 in T--- section, Bu Tho Township. The victim sustained head injuries and was admitted to the Ka Ma Muang public hospital. He was too afraid of retaliation to report the case to the relevant authorities, and thus received no compensation.²

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	Physical abuse
Date of Incident(s)	April 3 rd , 2019
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	T--- section, Ka Ma Muang Town, [Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District]

Victim Information	
Name	Saw T---
Age	20
Sex	Male
Ethnicity	Karen
Family	Single
Occupation	College student
Religion	Buddhist

¹ Border Guard Force (BGF) battalions of the Tatmadaw were established in 2010, and they are composed mostly of soldiers from former non-state armed groups, such as older constellations of the DKBA, which have formalised ceasefire agreements with the Burma/Myanmar government and agreed to transform into battalions within the Tatmadaw.

² The present document is based on information received in July 2019. It was provided by a community member in Hpapun 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.

Village	T--- section, Ka Ma Muang Town
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Perpetrator Information				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Saw Ghaw Hpah	Soldier	BGF Battalion #1014	Ta Dar Oo, BGF Battalion #1014, Lay Poe Htah village tract, Dwe Lo Township	BGF #1014 Commander [Bo] ³ Saw Maung Chit

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

I heard about this incident from a local villager and interviewed the mother of the victim.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

The source is the mother of the victim.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.

On April 3rd 2019, Saw T---, a 20-year-old college student, was beaten by Saw Hpah Ghaw, a 40-year-old soldier from BGF Battalion #1014 who accused him of driving a motorbike while drunk. The incident happened in T--- section, Ka Ma Muang Town, Bu Tho Township. The victim, who is currently studying in Hpa-an, was visiting his family during the water festival.⁴

Saw T--- sustained injuries on his face and head because of the beating, and was admitted to the Ka Ma Muang public hospital for treatment. Although his head injury required him to get

³ *Bo* is a Burmese title meaning ‘officer’.

⁴ *Thingyan* is the Burmese New Year Festival. It usually occurs in mid-April.

stitches, he was discharged from the hospital on the same day. His mother had to cover his medical expenses, which cost around 5,000 kyats (USD 3.29).⁵

Saw T--- was too afraid of retaliation to report this case to the relevant authorities, and his parents felt powerless and appalled. Daw M---, the victim's mother, stated to KHRG: *"The people who were beaten and admitted to the hospital had to pay for their treatment. Who will cover my son's medical expenses, since BGF's Saw Hpah Ghaw beat him?"*

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

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

The mother of the victim gave us permission to use this information.

Further background reading on human rights abuses committed by BGF soldiers in Southeast Myanmar can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- ["Hpa-an Incident Report: A BGF Commander punched a village head in Nabu Township, June 2019"](#), (August 2019)
- ["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: Violent threats and physical abuse by BGF #1013 soldier in Dwe Lo Township, March 2017"](#), (March 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.khrq.org.

⁵ All conversion estimates for the kyat in this report are based on the August 27th, 2019 official market rate of 1,506 kyats to US \$1.

Mutraw (Hpapun) District

