



Incident Report

November 11th, 2019 / KHRG #19-77-I1

Nyaunglebin Incident Report: *Child rape by a Myanmar police officer in Kyaukkyi Township, August 2019*

On August 30th 2019, a 15-year-old girl was raped by a Myanmar police officer inside a police station in Kyaukkyi Town, Kyaukkyi Township, Nyaunglebin District. Her mother reported the case to the police, after which the perpetrator was arrested. Criminal proceedings are still on-going, but the parents were not updated about the process and are now planning to report the case to the Karen National Union. The victim stopped attending school because she is ashamed of what happened.¹

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	Child rape
Date of Incident(s)	August 30 th , 2019
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	Kyaukkyi Town, Kyaukkyi Township, Nyaunglebin District

Victim Information	
Name	Naw W---
Age	15
Sex	Female
Nationality	Karen
Family	Single
Occupation	School student
Village	Kyaukkyi Town

Perpetrator Information				
Name(s)	Position	Unit	Location	Supervisor
Maung Ar Kar Phyo	Police Officer	Kyaukkyi Police Station	Kyaukkyi Town	Saw Shee Sho

¹ The present document is based on information received in September 2019. It was provided by a community member in Nyaunglebin 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. The parts in square brackets are explanations added by KHRG staff.

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

A [KHRG] researcher was contacted by the victim's mother for assistance in reporting the incident to authorities. The former interviewed the latter for the purposes of this report.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

The source's daughter experienced the incident first-hand.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.

In the evening of August 30th 2019, Naw W---, a 15-year-old school student was raped by Ar Kar Phyo, a 27-year-old police officer at the Kyaukkyi police station. At that time, the victim and perpetrator had known each other for two years. The latter was scheduled to be transferred to the Toungoo police station in late August 2019. At the time of reporting, the victim has stopped going to school because she is ashamed about what happened. Her parents want to engage a counsellor for her as she is traumatised by the incident and had suicidal thoughts.

On August 30th 2019 at approximately 9:30 p.m., two individuals, Ko T--- and Sayar Saw M---, saw Naw W--- in a school uniform at a bridge in downtown Kyaukkyi town. When asked where she was going to, she responded that she was going to the police station to see her brother. The victim's mother has reason to believe that the perpetrator persuaded Naw W--- to meet him at the police station. Subsequently, the two individuals gave her a ride and dropped her at the entrance of the police station but were suspicious of the situation. They proceeded to call the local educational assistant, Oo Khin Maung Htway, and explained what they witnessed. After some time, they entered the police station and voiced their concerns to the police officer on duty. The police officers looked around the police station and eventually saw Ar Kar Phyo and Naw W--- half-naked in one of the rooms. In total, approximately eight to nine persons, including five or six police officers, witnessed the incident.

Naw W--- did not discuss the incident with anyone. The next day, the victim's aunt, Daw N---, heard about this incident from individuals at the market and subsequently told the victim's mother.² The victim then reported that she had been raped: *"When I asked my daughter about the incident, she said that Ar Kar Phyo raped her once in the room."* In the morning of the same day, the victim's mother and aunt went to the Kyaukkyi police station. A female police officer, Ma H---, confirmed that the victim was at the police station the previous night and disclosed what she witnessed.

On September 1st 2019, police officers in Kyaukkyi Town went to Toungoo Town and arrested the perpetrator. On the same day, they held a meeting with family members of both parties, including their parents, where neither party agreed to marriage.³ While the perpetrator's

² In Southeast Myanmar, social stigma and a culture of victim-blaming often prevent victims of sexual violence from disclosing and reporting such incidences to family members and authorities. See KHRG (2018), "[Suffering in silence? Sexual violence against women in Southeast Myanmar](#)".

³ The fact that survivors of sexual violence have lost their virginity is seen as something that can bring bad luck to the community. As other men will not agree to marry rape victims, they can feel like they have no choice but to marry the perpetrator. See KHRG (2018), "[Suffering in silence? Sexual violence against women in Southeast Myanmar](#)".

parents wanted to resolve the issue by providing compensation to the victim, the victim's parents preferred to resort to judicial mechanisms and reported the case to the Kyaukkyi police station. The mother stated: "I am reporting [this case] to the police station for my daughter who is still young and also a student. [She] was raped by a man who knows [that he should] respect and follow the law. Therefore, I would like to take the action on this case." On October 18th 2019, the perpetrator confessed to the police that he raped Naw W---.

According to a KHRG researcher, there had been no update about the judgment at the time of drafting. The victim's parents do not know whether the perpetrator is still under arrest or not. Therefore, they are planning to report this case to the Karen National Union authorities.



This photo was taken on September 4th 2019 in Kyaukkyi Town, Kyaukkyi Township, Nyaunglebin District. It shows the Kyaukkyi police station, where a 15-year-old girl, Naw W---, was raped by Ar Kar Phyo, a local police officer on August 30th 2019. [Photo: KHRG]

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

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

The victim's mother allowed KHRG to use this information.

Further background reading on the issue of sexual violence against women in Southeast Myanmar can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- ["Mergui-Tavoy Incident Report: Rape case in Lay Nya Bu Pyin Township, December 2017"](#), (September 2019)
- ["Dooplaya Incident Report: Attempted rape by a Tatmadaw soldier in Kawkareik Township, June 2019"](#), (September 2019)
- ["Hpa-an Incident Report: Rape case in Nabu \(T'Nay Hsah\) Township, 2018 Rainy Season"](#), (September 2019)

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.