



**Incident Report**

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 / KHRG # 19-83-I1

**Dooplaya Incident Report: *Multiple instances of child rape and domestic abuse in Noh T'Kaw Township, 2010 to 2019***

*In 2010, a father raped his 13-year-old daughter in Thailand, after which he took her to live with him in Myawaddy and K--- village, Ler Thaw Maw village tract, Noh T'Kaw Township, Dooplaya District until September 2019. During this period, she faced continuous threats and multiple instances of sexual and physical abuse, and gave birth to two sons. The victim managed to escape in September 2019, and is now living in Thailand with her children. The perpetrator was arrested by the Karen National Union (KNU)<sup>1</sup> and is now awaiting condemnation by a KNU court.<sup>2</sup>*

**Part 1 – Incident Details**

<b>Type of Incident</b>	Multiple instances of child rape and domestic abuse
<b>Date of Incident(s)</b>	2010 to 2019
<b>Incident Location (Village, Township and District)</b>	K--- village, Ler Thaw Maw village tract, Noh T'Kaw Township, Dooplaya District

<b>Victim Information</b>	
<b>Name</b>	Naw <sup>3</sup> N---
<b>Age</b>	22
<b>Sex</b>	Female
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Karen
<b>Family</b>	Single
<b>Religion</b>	Christian
<b>Village</b>	K--- village, Ler Thaw Maw village tract, Noh T'Kaw Township, Dooplaya District

<sup>1</sup> The Karen National Union is the main Karen group opposing the government.

<sup>2</sup> The present document is based on information received in November 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. The parts in square brackets are explanations added by KHRG staff.

<sup>3</sup> Naw is a S'gaw Karen female honorific title used before a person's name.

Perpetrator Information (Civilians)		
Name(s)	Occupation	Village
U <sup>4</sup> Aung Min	-	K--- village, Ler Thaw Maw village tract, Noh T'Kaw Township, Doolaya District

## Part 2 - Information Quality

### 1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

A KHRG field researcher interviewed the victim, Naw N---

### 2. Explain how the source verified this information.

The source experienced this incident first hand.

## Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

### Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.

Naw N---'s mother and father divorced when she was 10 years old [presumably in 2007]. After that, her father moved to Thailand to work in the Phop Phra area. He also remarried. Later that year, Naw N---'s aunt took her to visit him but she could not stay with him as he had a new wife. She just stayed with other people and worked as a day labourer. Her father divorced after Naw N--- had worked in Thailand for two and a half years.

In 2010, the father approached Naw N---, who was 13 at the time, and asked to live with her [as husband and wife]. The girl told him: "*You cannot live with me, since I am your daughter.*" He replied: "*Even though you are my daughter, I did not raise you when you were a baby.*" Then, he raped her. After the incident, she asked him: "*Why did you rape me?*" He replied: "*I raped you because I hate your grandmother and I got my revenge through you.*"

Her father forbade her from talking about this incident to anyone. After the rape, she asked him to send her back to live with her mother. Instead, he brought Naw N--- back to Myanmar with him. They stayed in Myawaddy for one year. Then, he took her to K--- village, Ler Thaw Maw village tract, Noh T'Kaw Township, where she lived until 2019. She had two children and experienced one unsuccessful pregnancy while living in K--- village.

He did not allow her to call him "father". He said that if she called him "father" or talked about the case to anyone, he would kill her. He knew that if she had told anyone the truth, he would have been arrested. The victim did not tell anyone anything about her situation until May 2019, because she was scared and did not know who to trust. People from the village just knew them as husband and wife. No one knew that they were father and daughter because they were originally from another village.

He never fulfilled his responsibilities as a father or husband nor worked for the family. He would drink alcohol frequently and sometimes use drugs [yaba]<sup>5</sup> with his friends. He often abused the victim further after drinking. The worst incident happened after she visited her neighbours on one occasion [KHRG was not able to find out the exact date]. They were moved by her suffering and they tried to find ways for her to escape. But when she got back home, her father tortured her badly. He even dug a hole in which to bury her if she visited the neighbours again.

<sup>4</sup> U is a Burmese title used for elder men, used before their name.

<sup>5</sup> Yaba, which means 'crazy medicine' in Thai, is a tablet form of methamphetamine.

In May 2019, she told her neighbour, Naw H---, about her situation. She is a villager who participated in a KHRG Village Agency Workshop and was chosen to report or let local authorities know about any human rights violations that happen in the village. The case was reported to the Karen Women's Organisation (KWO) on August 7<sup>th</sup> 2019.

The victim was ultimately able to escape and reach a safe house in the O--- refugee camp [Thailand] in September 2019, while her father was in another village. She hoped the authorities would take action even though she was gone. KWO told KHRG about this and both organisations referred the case to the Noh T'Kaw Township KNU authorities and Dooplaya District KNU authorities on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2019. Before referring the case, KHRG field researchers conducted the necessary investigations to make sure that this incident happened as described. These included an interview with the victim.

The perpetrator stood trial at the Dooplaya KNU District court and he is now waiting in a KNU jail for the final decision from the court. The victim now lives in the O--- refugee camp with her two sons. The KWO provides food, clothes and access to healthcare for them, and she received materials such as wood, bamboo and thatches from the camp leaders. She worries that the perpetrator will make life difficult for her and her mother if he is released from jail.

#### **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 gave KHRG permission to use this information. She would like to get justice and be safe from hardship. She would like to be assisted with her security and care.



This photo was taken on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 in K--- village, Ler Thaw Maw village tract, Noh T'Kaw Township. It shows what is left of Naw N---'s father's house, where she had to stay after being taken to the village. [Photo: KHRG]



This photo was taken on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 in the O--- refugee camp, Thailand. It shows the house in which Naw N--- is now living with her two sons. [Photo: KHRG]

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

- [\*Hpa-an Incident Report: Arbitrary detention and lack of fair trial in sexual violence-murder case in T'Nay Hsah Township\*](#), (December 2019)
- [\*Nyaunglebin Incident Report: Child rape by a Myanmar police officer in Kyaukkyi Township, August 2019\*](#), (November 2019)
- [\*Hpa-an Incident Report: Rape case in Nabu \(T'Nay Hsah\) Township, 2018 Rainy Season\*](#), (September 2019)
- [\*Dooplaya Incident Report: Attempted rape by a Tatmadaw soldier in Kawkareik Township, June 2019\*](#), (September 2019)
- [\*Suffering in silence? Sexual violence against women in Southeast Myanmar\*](#), (December 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](http://www.khrg.org).