



## Incident Report

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 / KHRG Log # 20-104-I1

## Dooplaya District Incident Report: Child rape case in Noh T’Kaw Township, July 2020

*This Incident Report describes events that occurred in Noh T’Kaw Township, Dooplaya District in 2020 [KHRG was not able to establish the exact date]. A 22-year-old man raped a 14-year-old girl in the vicinity of the Kyainseikgyi general hospital. The father of the survivor ultimately found out about the case and reported it to the Karen National Police Force (KNPF)<sup>1</sup> on July 20<sup>th</sup> 2020. The perpetrator was arrested and detained for one and a half months. He was released after both parties agreed to a financial compensation. The survivor did not get any further assistance.<sup>2</sup>*

### Part 1 – Incident Details

<b>Type of Incident</b>	Child rape
<b>Date of Incident(s)</b>	Unknown, 2020
<b>Incident Location (Village, Township and District)</b>	Kyainseikgyi general hospital, Noh T’Kaw Township, Dooplaya District

Victim Information	
<b>Name</b>	Ma <sup>3</sup> A---
<b>Age</b>	14 years old
<b>Sex</b>	Female
<b>Nationality</b>	Burmese
<b>Family</b>	Single
<b>Occupation</b>	Day labourer
<b>Religion</b>	Buddhist
<b>Village</b>	C--- village, Kyain Shwe Doe village tract, Noh T’Kaw Township, Dooplaya District

### Perpetrator Information (Civilians)

<sup>1</sup> The Karen National Police Force is the law enforcement agency of the Karen National Union. It was established in 1991.

<sup>2</sup> The present document is based on information received in October 2020. 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> Ma is a Burmese female honorific title used before a person’s name.

Name(s)	Occupation	Village
B---	Day labourer	C--- village, Kyain Shwe Doe village tract, Noh T'Kaw Township, Dooplaya District

## **Part 2 - Information Quality**

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

[The KHRG researcher heard about this incident from a KNU intelligence officer in Noh T'Kaw Township, who himself got this information from the C--- village head. The KHRG researcher then interviewed the parents of the survivor.]

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

[The sources are relatives of the survivor.]

## **Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident**

### **Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail:**

This child rape case happened in the vicinity of the Kyainseikgyi general hospital, Noh T'Kaw Township, Dooplaya District [KHRG was not able to establish the exact date of the incident]. The perpetrator is B---, a 22-year-old married man with one child. He is a migrant worker from Oak Pya village, Pyu Township, Bago Division [Myanmar government administrative divisions]. The survivor is Ma A---, a 14-year-old Burmese girl. The family of the survivor also migrated from Pyu Township, Bago Region [Myanmar government administrative divisions] to Noh T'Kaw Township. They are now working as day labourers on a rubber plantation.

The survivor and the perpetrator first met at the Kyainseikgyi general hospital while caring for relatives who had been admitted for treatment. As she is from a poor background, she could not go to school. Her father thinks that the perpetrator took advantage of her lack of education and maturity to seduce her. The perpetrator also pretended that he was single. According to the survivor's father, the two 'fell in love' in less than a month [KHRG was not able to establish how long they both stayed at the hospital]. At some point in time, B--- took Ma A--- to a public bathroom in the vicinity of the hospital and raped her violently when she refused to have sexual relations with him.

After the rape, the perpetrator and the survivor saw each other on several instances in C--- village, Kya In Swe Doe village tract, Noh T'Kaw Township. The survivor's father eventually found out that his daughter was seeing B---, and that he was not single. When her parents asked her about it, she told them that she had been raped by B---. The father reported the case to the KNPF in Noh T'Kaw Township on July 20<sup>th</sup> 2020.

The perpetrator was arrested and detained for one and a half months. He admitted during the investigation that he had planned to rape the girl seven or eight times, but did not get the opportunity to do so. The KNPF asked the parents of the survivor whether they would like to refer the case to the Karen National Union (KNU)<sup>4</sup> district authorities. The parents refused and chose to settle the case with compensation.

<sup>4</sup> The Karen National Union (KNU) is the main Karen political organisation. It was established in 1947 and has been in conflict with the Burma/Myanmar government since 1949. The KNU wields power across large areas of Southeast Myanmar and has been calling for the creation of a democratic federal system since 1976. Although it signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in 2015, relations with the government remain tense.

At first, the survivor's family asked for 5,000,000 kyats [USD 3,875.77]<sup>5</sup> in compensation. Since the perpetrator did not have that much money, both parties ultimately agreed to a 900,000 kyats [USD 697.64] compensation. The case was closed and the perpetrator was released after paying the compensation. The survivor did not receive any further assistance.

The survivor's father said: *"I would have let them marry if he [the perpetrator] were single. But now he has a wife and a son, so I could not do that. I also have sympathy for his wife and son."* The mother said: *"For her security, we won't let her go anywhere alone anymore. If we have to go somewhere, she will go with me or with her father. If in some cases she has to go alone, I will go instead."* She added: *"We do not want our relatives or our friends from our village [of origin] to hear or know about this case. We do not want our faces to be exposed in public in relation to this case. We worry that people will look down on us and that we won't be able to find jobs in case we have to move from place to place for work."*

#### **Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details**

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

The parents allowed KHRG to use this information.

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

- ["Southeast Myanmar Field Report: COVID-19, armed conflict, landmines and sexual violence, January to June 2020"](#), (September 2020).
- ["Mu Traw District Incident Report: Child rape by a BGF soldier in Dwe Lo Township, June 2020"](#), (July 2020).
- ["Hpa-an District Interview: Lack of justice in a case of attempted child rape, February 2020"](#), (June 2020).

#### **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.khr.org](http://www.khr.org).

<sup>5</sup> All estimates for the kyat in this report are based on the November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 market rate.

# Dooplaya (Southeastern Karen State) District



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