



Incident Report

November 23th 2020/ KHRG #20-123-I1

Dooplaya District Incident Report: Sexual violence (rape) in Noh T'Kaw Township, September 2020

This Incident Report describes a rape case that occurred in Noh T'Kaw Township, Dooplaya District on September 26th 2020. A 21-year-old female, Naw¹ G---, was raped by U² Maung Nyein, who has denied any wrongdoing. After the incident, Naw G--- went home and told her husband about what happened, whereupon she received two blows to the face by her husband. The case has not yet been resolved. Further investigation needs to be undertaken by the Karen National Police Force (KNPF)³ before a decision can be made.⁴

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	Sexual violence
Date of Incident(s)	September 26 th 2020
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	D--- village, Noh Tar Hkaw village tract, ⁵ Noh T'Kaw Township, Dooplaya District

Victim Information	
Name	Naw G---
Age	21
Sex	Female
Nationality	Karen
Family	Married
Occupation	Plantation
Religion	Christian
Position	Villager
Village	D---

¹ Naw is a S'gaw Karen female honorific title used before a person's name.

² U is a Burmese title used for elder men, used before their name.

³ The Karen National Police Force is the law enforcement agency of the Karen National Union. It was established in 1991.

⁴ 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.

⁵ A village tract is an administrative unit of between five and 20 villages in a local area, often centred on a large village.

Perpetrator Information (Civilians)		
Name(s)	Occupation	Village
U Maung Nyein	-	D---

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

I was informed by a villager in Noh Tar Khaw about this incident. Once I knew about it, I went to meet with village leaders in Noh Tar Khaw village and with the survivor.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

Those who gave me information and those who knew about this case are local village leaders and committee members. After the incident happened, the survivor, Naw G--- herself, reported to local village leaders what happened to her.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.

The details of the incident were explained by Naw G--- as follows: On September 26th 2020 at 6:30 pm, Naw G--- went to the toilet [there is no toilet, so she just went to relieve herself in the bushes]. When she arrived at a tree near her house, she heard the sound of a branch crack behind her [while she was relieving herself]. When she turned around, she saw that U Maung Nyein was approaching her. He then pushed her against the tree. When she was about to cry out for help, U Maung Nyein pressed her neck tightly, and told her: “*Don’t cry out, if you do so, I will kill you*”. Since there was barbed-wire fence next to the tree, Naw G--- was afraid of being killed, so she did not cry out. [According to Naw G---], U Maung Nyein raped her but did not let her go yet. He then tried to find some object to hurt her. During that time, Naw G--- pushed him away and ran back to her house.

When Naw G--- told her husband about the incident, he got angry and punched her twice [in the face]. Later that evening, Naw G--- reported the case to local village leaders who then arrested U Muang Nyein. However, U Maung Nyein would not admit that he had done anything wrong. The next day, U Maung Nyein was sent to the KNPF station in Noh T’Kaw Township. On October 2nd 2020, police officers investigated the case with the survivor [by interviewing her] and continued the investigation again on October 15th 2020 [due to conflicting information]. During the investigation process, U Maung Nyein did not admit that he raped Naw G---. Instead he said that Naw G--- agreed to it [sexual relations with him] and that they already have some form of relationship, which is why she agreed to have sex with him and to meet him [that evening]. He said that he has slept [had sex] with her three times already and that she allowed him to do so.

Regarding this matter, Naw G--- said, “*I have never had a relationship with you [sexual intercourse], this was the only time and you raped me.*” Due to these complications [the conflicting statements by the perpetrator and the survivor], the case has not yet been decided. On October 16th 2020, the village leader and local Karen Women’s Organisation (KWO) staff sent Naw G--- to a KWO safe house elsewhere in the district because she said that she is feeling uncomfortable due to criticism and discrimination [by local villagers]. This case has not yet been resolved. According to the KNPF, a decision will be made at a later stage [after they conduct further investigations].

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 permission to use the information as necessary.

Further background reading on the situation on rape case in Southeast Myanmar can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- [“Dooplaya District Incident Report: Child rape case in Noh T’Kaw Township, July 2020”](#), (November 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.khrq.org.

Dooplaya (Southeastern Karen State) District

