



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

News Bulletin

April 9th, 2010 / KHRG #2010-B6

Appendix to “Attacks and displacement in Nyaunglebin District”

The following document contains an interview with a teacher from Muh Kee village after she and her students were forced to flee during January and February 2010 because of attacks by SPDC Army soldiers under the command of MOC #10. This interview provides supporting evidence for the KHRG report “Attacks and displacement in Nyaunglebin District.”

Interview | Naw N--- (Female, 20), Muh Kee village, Ler Doh Township (March 10th 2010)

Do you have any problems in your teaching?

We have only the problem that we can't run our school if Burma military troops come up to our village.

Have you ever closed your school when SPDC soldiers came up to your village?

Yes, we've closed for a very long time [in the past].

How many standards do you have in your school?

We have until the 6th standard.

Was your school established by the villagers or one of the other organizations?

Our school was established by the villagers.

How many students do you have?

The entire [number of] students I have is 61.

Have you finished your school [year]?

No.

Have you finished your exams?

No.

Now, where are your students and their families?

Some are here and some are still at home. They've been separated to many places.

When did the school start closing down?

On January 17th 2010, it closed down for one week and again from February 2nd 2010 until now. So, the school can't re-open again.

How long have you been in the jungle?

We've been in the jungle for a long time, since February 2nd until now.

Have any villagers gone back home?

Yes, some have gone back home.

Is there any SPDC camp based near your village?

Yes, there is.

Do you know their military unit [battalion number]?

No, I don't.

Did they [the SPDC] come into your village?

No. But they came and burnt Theh Der village.

Were there any other villages that had to flee like you or did only your village flee?

Nearly every village had to flee like us.

How about the other schools?

Mostly they've had to close down. Some finished their exams but some didn't. For Kheh Der School, they only finished their exams for three subjects, then closed down until now.

What are most of the villagers doing there [for their livelihoods]?

Mostly they do hill field cultivation.

Have any villagers gone back home for food?

Yes, some have gone back home for food but some haven't.

How do people who haven't gone back home for food solve their problem?

Some have gone up to district [the KNU district office] but some are still here.

Are there any villagers still doing hill field cultivation?

Yes, some are still working in hill fields.

Did SPDC soldiers destroy the villagers' food when they came?

Until now, we haven't seen yet. They saw it but they didn't destroy.

Did they kill any of the villagers' animals to eat?

Yes, they did. But there were also some animals that were killed and left [behind].

How many villages around your village left?

There are nine villages that had to flee. Now, only a few villages have gone back.

Are there any sick among you?

Yes.

Where did they receive medicine?

No, we only find our own way [take care of them ourselves] and use herbal medicine. There is no organization that has come and supported us since we fled.

Have any women given birth since you've fled?

No, not yet. But we have some pregnant women.

Are there any elderly people who can't walk?

Yes, we have two. One can't walk and one is blind.

Has anyone died from the sickness?

No, not yet.

Are there any villagers who don't have enough food?

Yes, there are some who have to borrow from others. People who have food will share with people who don't.

Who is taking responsibility for the villagers' security?

There are some soldiers from the KNU and some local forces here.

What is your plan for your future?

For the coming year, we hope we will continue our school if the Burma army withdraws.

Is there anything you want to talk more about?

No, there isn't.