

'With only our voices, what can we do?': Land confiscation and local response in southeast Myanmar

Appendix 1 & 2 (December 2012 to January 2015)

Appendix 1: Raw data testimony

This appendix includes the full text of 113 pieces of KHRG field documentation, which serve as the data set for 'With only our voices, what can we do?': Land Confiscation and local response in southeast Myanmar. KHRG received this information during the period between December 2012 and January 2015.

KHRG staff coded the documents based on the four broad land use categories covered in Section II. Documents were also coded for the type of actors involved in the confiscation of land, the location of the incident, whether or not compensation and consultation occurred, what consequences arose from the confiscation of land, and what village agency strategies, if any, were employed by individuals and communities. It should be noted that a single document may cover multiple issues so that the total number of actual documents is smaller than the number of total number of issues mentioned or cases cited.

This Appendix includes a number of different types of documentation, including: Situation Updates, Short Updates, Interviews, Incident Reports, Photo Notes, and Video Notes. Taken together, these constitute 113 of the total documents used as a data-set for this report. The remaining 13 documents are Land Grabbing Forms and are included in Appendix 2. These 126 reports were cited and quoted extensively throughout the main body of the report; some have been previously published on KHRG's website, whereas others are being published here for the first time. It should be noted that censoring in the published online reports, in the main body of this report, and within these appendices may not correspond to one another.¹

A full list of acronyms and commonly used terms mentioned throughout these appendices is included prior to the full length source documents in Appendix 1.

Appendix 2: Land confiscation forms (December 2012 to January 2015)

This appendix includes the full text of 13 pieces of KHRG field documentation, which, taken with the 113 source documents in Appendix 1, serve as the data set for 'With only our voices, what can we do?': Land Confiscation and local response in southeast Myanmar. KHRG received this information during the period between December 2012 and January 2015.

¹ See the Methodologies subsection of the Introduction to the main report for more details regarding KHRG's censorship policy.

Land confiscation forms were designed by KHRG’s field team for the specific purpose of documenting instances of land confiscation in the region. They seek to identify the victim(s) and perpetrator(s) in any given case, as well as specific information regarding the date, location, reason for, and scope of such cases of land confiscation. Villagers were then asked standardised questions that pertained to three components of land confiscation: whether or not compensation was paid; whether or not consultation occurred; and what strategies, if any, were employed to try and resist or rectify land confiscation and its associated impacts. Photo evidence, when available, was also collected.

These 13 land confiscation forms have not been previously published by KHRG, and are being published here exclusively as a component of the full report. They have been cited and quoted throughout the report, and it should therefore be noted that the censoring in the main body of this report and within this appendix may not correspond to one another.²

Contents

Appendix 1

Terms and Abbreviations	5
Acronyms	5
Commonly Used Terms	5
Currency and measurements.....	7
Burmese language terms.....	7
Karen language terms	7
Source Documents #1 - #113	8
Source Document #1	8
Source Document #2	13
Source Document #3	14
Source Document #4	16
Source Document #5	17
Source Document #6	18
Source Document #7	21
Source Document #8	22
Source Document #9	24
Source Document #10	28
Source Document #11	30
Source Document #12	32
Source Document #13	33
Source Document #14	35
Source Document #15	38
Source Document #16	47
Source Document #17	51
Source Document #18	53
Source Document #19	56
Source Document #20	60
Source Document #21	62
Source Document #22	63
Source Document #23	68
Source Document #24	69

² See the *Methodologies* subsection of the *Introduction* to the main report for more details regarding KHRG’s censorship policy.

Source Document #25	70
Source Document #26	72
Source Document #27	74
Source Document #28	80
Source Document #29	84
Source Document #30	85
Source Document #31	88
Source Document #32	93
Source Document #33	96
Source Document #34	97
Source Document #35	99
Source Document #36	101
Source Document #37	115
Source Document #38	118
Source Document #39	118
Source Document #40	120
Source Document #41	124
Source Document #42	125
Source Document #43	128
Source Document #44	129
Source Document #45	130
Source Document #46	131
Source Document #47	136
Source Document #48	137
Source Document #49	143
Source Document #50	144
Source Document #51	146
Source Document #52	148
Source Document #53	150
Source Document #54	152
Source Document #55	155
Source Document #56	156
Source Document #57	158
Source Document #58	159
Source Document #59	164
Source Document #60	167
Source Document #61	169
Source Document #62	171
Source Document #63	175
Source Document #64	179
Source Document #65	181
Source Document #66	184
Source Document #67	187
Source Document #68	192
Source Document #69	194
Source Document #71	196
Source Document #72	198
Source Document #73	200
Source Document #74	201
Source Document #75	202
Source Document #76	203
Source Document #77	207

Source Document #78	211
Source Document #79	214
Source Document #80	216
Source Document #81	217
Source Document #82	220
Source Document #83	222
Source Document #84	224
Source Document #85	227
Source Document #86	227
Source Document #87	230
Source Document #88	233
Source Document #89	234
Source Document #90	236
Source Document #91	237
Source Document #92	243
Source Document #93	245
Source Document #94	250
Source Document #95	252
Source Document #96	253
Source Document #97	268
Source Document #98	269
Source Document #99	273
Source Document #100	282
Source Document #101	283
Source Document #102	284
Source Document #103	287
Source Document #104	289
Source Document #105	290
Source Document #106	291
Source Document #107	292
Source Document #108	295
Source Document #109	296
Source Document # 110	298
Source Document #111	306
Source Document #112	311
Source Document #113	312

Appendix 2

Source Documents #1b - #13b.....	314
Source Document #1b	314
Source Document #2b	317
Source Document #3b	321
Source Document #4b	324
Source Document #5b	327
Source Document #6b	330
Source Document #7b	333
Source Document #8b	336
Source Document #9b	339
Source Document #10b	344
Source Document #11b	348
Source Document #12b	351
Source Document #13b	355

Terms and Abbreviations

Acronyms

BGF	Border Guard Force
BPHWT	Back Pack Heath Worker Team
EAG	Ethnic armed group
CBO	Community-based organisation
DKBA	Democratic Karen Benevolent Army
IB	Infantry Battalion of the Tatmadaw
IDP	Internally displaced person
KCCSC	Karen Communication Co-operation and Supporting Community
KHRG	Karen Human Rights Group
KNDO	Karen National Defence Organisation
KNLA	Karen National Liberation Army
KNU/KNLA-PC	KNU/KNLA-Peace Council
KNU	Karen National Union
KPF	Karen Peace Force
LIB	Light Infantry Battalion of the Tatmadaw
LID	Light Infantry Division of the Tatmadaw
MOC	Military Operations Command
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
SLORC	State Law and Order Restoration Council
SPDC	State Peace and Development Council
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
USDP	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Commonly Used Terms

BGF battalions of the Tatmadaw were established in 2010, and they are composed mostly of soldiers from former non-state armed groups, such as older constellations of the DKBA, which have formalised ceasefire agreements with the Myanmar government and agreed to transform into battalions within the Tatmadaw. BGF battalions are assigned four digit battalion numbers, whereas regular Tatmadaw infantry battalions are assigned two digit battalion numbers and light infantry battalions are identified by two or three-digit battalion numbers.

KNLA Battalion refers to three companies, sometimes responsible for an area. It consists of 250-300 soldiers and they are almost always under strength.

Camp is an army base or outpost, ranging from remote hill posts of ten soldiers to battalion headquarters of several hundred soldiers.

Ceasefire refers to the January 12th 2012 preliminary ceasefire agreement which was signed between the KNU and Myanmar government in Hpa-an. Negotiations for a longer-term peace plan are still under way.

Karenni (or Kayah) people are the descendants of the people of a semi-independent kingdom that existed until World War II in what is now Myanmar's Kayah State. The Karenni are one of the eight 'main national races' officially recognised by the Myanmar government. For the Myanmar government, the term is primarily geographic in nature, and the majority of government-identified Karenni people live in the Myanmar government demarcated area of Kayah State, located in the southeast of Myanmar and bordering Kayin State, Shan State, and Thailand.

KNLA is the armed wing of the KNU.

KNU is the main Karen group opposing the Myanmar government

LIB (Tatmadaw) is comprised of 500 soldiers. However, most Light Infantry Battalions in the Tatmadaw are under-strength with less than 200 soldiers. Primarily for offensive operations but sometimes used for garrison duties.

LID (Tatmadaw) is commanded by a brigadier general, each with ten light infantry battalions specially trained in counter-insurgency, jungle warfare, "search and destroy" operations against ethnic insurgents and narcotics-based armies. LIDs are organised under three Tactical Operations Commands, commanded by a colonel, (three battalions each and one reserve), one field artillery battalion, one armoured squadron and other support units.

Mon people are believed to be some of the oldest inhabitants of Southeast Asia. Most live in the central Myanmar government demarcated areas of Mon State, located in the south of Myanmar and bordering Kayin State, Bago Region (formerly Pegu Division) and Tanintharyi Region (formerly Tenasserim Division). These areas overlap to an extent with KHRG's research areas, which follow a locally defined system of demarcation.

Paddy refers to rice grain that is still in the husk.

Pwo Karen is a Karen language.

S'gaw Karen is a Karen language.

SPDC of the military junta ruling Myanmar from 1988 was officially dissolved March 30th 2011 by Senior General Than Shwe following the election of a quasi-civilian government in Myanmar in November 2010. In Karen, the Burmese phrase *Na Ah Pa* (SPDC) is commonly used to refer to the Myanmar government or to Myanmar's state army, the Tatmadaw. Many Karen villagers who were accustomed to using the phrase *Na Ah Pa* (SPDC) continue to use that phrase, despite the official dissolution of the SPDC in March 2011.

Tatmadaw is the Myanmar state military.

Taw Thoo are a Karen minority group.

USDP (*Pyi Khaing Pyo* in Burmese, *Pa Ka Hpa* in Karen) is the successor of the Union Solidarity and Development Association. It was officially registered as a political party on June 2nd 2010 and is headed by Burmese President Thein Sein.

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

Yaba which means “crazy medicine” in Thai, is a tablet form of methamphetamine. First developed in East Asia during World War II to enhance soldiers' performance, methamphetamine has become increasingly popular in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and in Myanmar where it is typically manufactured.

Currency and measurements

baht	Thai currency; US \$1 equals approximately 33 baht at market rate (May 2015) and do not necessarily correspond to conversions made in the main body of the report.
basket	Unit of volume used to measure paddy, husked rice and seeds; one basket of paddy equals 20.9 kg. / 45.08 lb. in weight; one basket of husked rice equals 32 kg. / 70.4 lb. in weight.
big tin	Unit of volume used to measure paddy, husked rice and seeds; one big tin of paddy equals 10.45 kg. / 23.04 lb. in weight; one big tin of husked rice equals 16 kg./ 35.2 lb. in weight.
bowl	A bowl is a unit of volume used to measure paddy, milled rice and seeds. One bowl is equivalent to 1.28 kg. or 2.88 lb. of paddy, and 2 kg. or 4.4 lb. of milled rice. A bowl is also equivalent to 2 mess tins, 8 milk tins, or 1/8 of a big tin.
cubits	A cubit is a standard measurement for the length of bamboo poles, commonly referred to in Karen as the length from one's fingertips to one's elbow, about 45.7 cm. or 18 in.
furlong	A furlong is a unit of distance equivalent to 0.2 of a km. or 0.125 of a mile.
kyat	Myanmar currency; US \$1 equals approximately 1,093 kyat at market rate (May 2015) and do not necessarily correspond to conversions made in the main body of the report.
viss	Standard unit of weight measure; one <i>viss</i> equals 1.6 kg / 3.5 lb.

Burmese language terms

<i>Bo Gyi</i>	'Captain', referring to the rank of a Tatmadaw officer
<i>Bo Hmu</i>	'Major', referring to the rank of a Tatmadaw officer

Karen language terms

<i>kaw la thu</i>	“ <i>Thu</i> ” meaning black, is a S'gaw Karen term which is sometimes used to refer to individuals in Myanmar who are perceived to have a darker skin colour. In Kayin state, it is often associated specifically with followers of Islam (Muslims), although this association is sometimes erroneous, and Muslim individuals do not typically self-identify with this term.
<i>kaw thoo lei</i>	The term <i>Kaw Thoo Lei</i> refers to Karen State as demarcated by the KNU, but the exact meaning and etymology is disputed.
<i>gher der</i>	'Home guard' groups organised by local villagers to undertake armed self protection activities; may cooperate with KNLA forces but not under their direct command.
<i>Maw</i>	Maw is a S'gaw Karen title used for men, before their name.
<i>Naw</i>	<i>Naw</i> is a S'gaw Karen title used for women, before their name.

T'la aw Teak-like trees with large leaves, which are traditionally collected by villagers and used to make thatched shingles for the roofs of houses.

Saw Saw is a S'gaw Karen title used for men, before their name.

Thara/Tharamu 'Teacher', a term of respect used for a man or woman, respectively.

Source Documents #1 - #113

Source Document #1

KHRG Log #:	12-165-A4-I1
Publishing Information:	"Hpa-an Interview: Saw Hs---, December 2012," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Nabu Township, Hpa-an District
Actors:	Myanmar private company, other
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, no consultation
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Other
Full Text:	
<p>Name: Saw Hs--- Gender: Male Age: Village: W--- village, Noh Pa Doh village tract Religion: Ethnicity: Karen Family Statue: Occupation: Position:</p> <p>What is your name?</p> <p>Saw Hs---.</p> <p>Where do you live?</p> <p>W--- village.</p> <p>Is that village tract or village?</p> <p>W--- village is in Noh Pa Doh. [It] is a village tract.</p> <p>I would like to know and interview you about land confiscation?</p>	

When they [the people from the company] do something they just point out the reason for constructing road. The orchard people already grow plants like mango trees but when they sold it, they did so secretly to Khin Oo who lives in Kruh Tuh [Kyonedoe Township, Doolaya district] without letting anyone know about it.

Is that a villager who bought the land?

Yes.

Are they [a] company?

I don't know.

Is that [the company] connected to the [Myanmar] government?

I don't think it is related to the government. It might be private because he [village head] only sells to rich people or to those who have money.

Who sold the land?

The village head because he has power.

What is his name?

Aye Maung

Where does he live?

He lives in Kruh Tuh Kee.

Who bought the land? The company?

Yes, the company came and bought the land [from the village head].

Don't they know that the land that they are going to buy belongs to the villagers?

It depends on the village head. If the village head said it is done, no one dares to go against it [his order].

Did the villagers not inform them [the buyers] that it is their property?

Yes they did. They went and saw it [when their trees were being logged] by themselves too.

How many plants have already been grown?

Some mango trees are already mature enough to eat the fruit.

Are there any rubber trees?

Yes, they have some rubber trees.

How many acres?

I think it is over 200 acres.

Is this only villagers' land or does it include any other land?

He [village head] has very few acres of land; most of it belongs to villagers. Many villagers are working on these land areas. Moreover, the villagers are collecting thatch leaves and vegetables for their livelihoods in their lands. Villagers protect their lands so that the rich people will not be able to enter [and buy] into their area. They rely on this plain lands. Villagers can do nothing about it because the village head has sold it.

How did the villagers react to this case?

The villagers reported [the issue] to the township court and the BBC, then the news was broadcasted and it was spread everywhere.

What did they do following this? Did they already give back the land to the owner?

The village head was overthrown.

What about the land?

I haven't asked them if they got it back or not.

Did they already plough on the land?

They killed and destroyed all of the plants and they replaced them with rubber trees.

Do you know how many villagers' lands were included in this land confiscation?

Many people's land was confiscated including in Kaw Pa Doh village tract. They then came and reported it to me but I cannot take any responsibility for that because it is not my village tract, but if you want to know about it in my village tract I can ask them to come and tell you everything about how many lands have been sold or confiscated.

Can the nearest person come here?

Yes.

Is it very far [from] Kaw Pa Doh [village tract] to Noh Pa Doh [village tract]?

No, very near. And you can ask the elders in the village or villager in charge about this information too. I told them that they cannot do this since it harms the villagers [destroys the villagers' land]. None of the villagers want a leader who will ruin their lives or cause trouble for them. Due to logging, it became difficult for us to find leaves for thatch [roofing].

What about the Burmese government? Have they done anything to solve this problem?

The government does nothing. If a major problem comes up which we can't solve by ourselves, we then go to the township court. When the problem was not addressed, Major General Hay Kyaw's daughter came back into the village and solved the problem. Then the village head was fired and now a new female villager was substituted [elected] to be the village head. Her name is Daw Myit. It was managed and addressed like that. And here, the places have been divided with the village tracts a long time ago. In Noh Pa Doh village tract, Saw Ghruh Per [who is not in this village tract] came and cooperated with the land surveyors and sold the villagers' plain lands without telling me anything. They only told me after they had sold it [the lands]. I replied to them that I do not know anything. I told him that since in the past decade when we decided to divide [the places] fairly into the village tracts. There is now no plain land left for Noh Pa Doh village tract. [I told him] we live in different village tracts but you did not inform me [tell me that you are coming to work] when you come to work [selling the lands] here in my village tract.

Have they already sold the plain land?

Yes.

Does this plain land have an owner?

No, but there was a lot of *t'la aw* trees grown there. We protected and prohibited them from this plain land but they used it for profit and sold it. We preserve this plain land for the reason that many villages rely on the thatch including Noh Kaw Tay village, Kaw Wah Leh village, Kaw Ghay village, Kaw Plaw village and Kruh Tuh Kee village.

Did they notify you when they sold it?

There was no notification during the selling process. He told me after they ploughed it. There was over 100 acres in this plain land. If they plough and plant [the trees] in the place where there is no *t'la aw* trees area, it would be better. But now they just plough and log *t'la aw* tree areas without keeping anything [*t'la aw* trees]. It will become massive issues for villagers and the rest of the community in the future. In the past this plain land belonged to Noh Pa Doh village tract and now they said there is no plain land owned by Noh Pa Doh village tract. For this reason, honestly, if I treat them badly they will be in trouble. Both of Kruh Per and land surveyors together sell it and land surveyors sold 50 acres and Kruh Per village leader sold 100 acres.

Who did they sell it to?

They sold it [the lands] to someone who lives in Kruh Tuh [Kyonedoe Township]. I told a person who bought the land "*Why did you not inform me first before you bought the land?*" [Before he bought the land,] he went and asked for [KNU/KNLA] General *Bo Paw*'s permission [about buying the lands]. Then General *Bo Paw* pointed out [directed] him to come back and had a discussion here [in the village about buying the villagers' lands]. That is not good for us. We preserve the forest but they [he] tried to destroy it [the forest].

The Burmese government didn't take any action regarding this case?

The government has done nothing. Now the Burmese government are selling *t'la aw*

trees for profit. After the villagers lands have been sold, all of the *t'la aw* trees which are on the land were cut down for selling. Now in Maw Ghaw village there are many trees kept for sale. I got back yesterday. if you do not believe me you can go and see for yourself. One day a person came to ask me for permission [for logging] and I told him to just go and do it [logging] by himself. I can't do anything because it [logging] was confusing [in terms of whether or not he should give permission] and will be conflicted with the Burmese [Tatmadaw] military. If I did [say no to logging the trees, it would be] in a rough [impolite] way. Villagers will misunderstand me and think that I am bad person. One day a woman in Maw Ghaw village came to see me and said that the monk from Noh Phu village wrote a recommendation letter to let me give her permission for logging. I replied to her that I can't do anything about this. However, the monk will only do the job which is related to the monk.

What is the purpose for her visit?

She is coming to cut *t'la aw* trees. The Monk from Noh Phu village recommends to give her permission to log the trees. Even I haven't cut down any trees yet, so how can I give her permission for logging. If I allow [her to log], other people will misunderstand me.

Who is that girl?

She lives in Maw Ghaw village.

Do you know her name?

I do not know her name but I know where she is living. There were many *t'la aw* trees in her house's [compound]. We preserve trees but the Burmese government does logging and destroys the trees in order to sell them. There were many people buying and trading including Muslims. I told them [the people who buy the logs] *"I don't know this [about buying and selling the logs illegally] and if someone arrested you I will not take any of the responsibility for you. You know that we are not allowed to trade the trees for business. If you dare to do so, you should dare to take responsibility for yourself."* For me, I have never cut a tree for personal profit because I am worried that our community members will misunderstand me. Some people even used a table saw for logging trees but I am not criticising and saying bad things to them.

Does any other logging happening in this area?

There was no logging happening in our area, only near in Gruh Per boundary. There was no logging *t'la aw* trees in our area only some of people who live in Maw Ghaw did it. In the past, the Peace Council came and did it too. However, I told them *"Although you are the Peace Council, you are not the real Peace Council."* Those who are wearing the Peace Council uniform do not log the *t'la aw* trees for their business purposes. Seriously, I told them: *"If you dare to do [logging], do it."* Nevertheless, after that they stopped [logging]. Military or soldiers also have a rule policy that they shouldn't do such things. I know it because I have a book that they have distributed.

Do you have anything to add or say?

No. if you want to know more information about Kaw Pa Doh land confiscation I can ask people to come [to talk to you].

Thank you.

Saw Hs--- (male, 63), W--- village,
Nabu Township, Hpa-an District, (Interviewed in December 2012)

Source Document #2

KHRG Log #:	12-165-S1
Publishing Information:	“Hpa-an Situation Update: T’Nay Hsah Township, November to December 2012,” KHRG, March 2013 http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/khrq13b14.pdf
Project Type:	Agriculture
Location:	Nabu Township, Hpa-an District
Actors:	Myanmar government officials, wealthy individuals, Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown

Full Text:

On November 30th 2012, I travelled through T’Nay Hsah Township area, Hpa-an District, and the ground situation that I saw will be described in the following.

[I] would like to write up the issue regarding paddies that were destroyed: on November 30th 2012, I went inside the country [Burma] and arrived at T--- village and E--- village; then, I saw that villagers have been grieving over the paddies that were destroyed by paddy bugs. When paddy flowers grew, bugs ate them; when paddy flowers re-grew for the second time, they [villagers] had just a few paddy grains. A flat field farm, which usually produces 300 baskets of paddy grain, can now produce only ten baskets of paddy grain. Based on interviews with villagers regarding paddies that were destroyed, this has badly impacted three village tracts, which are Htee Wah Blaw, Htee Kyah Rah and Meh Pleh. Paddy fields owners who I met and interviewed include a T--- villager named Naw S--- who got 160 baskets from her paddy field last year, but this year, she could get only three baskets of paddy grain. Saw K--- received 180 baskets of paddy grains from his paddy field last year, but this year, he could get only 12 baskets of paddy grains. An E--- villager, Saw N---, received 430 baskets of paddy grain from his paddy field last year, but he could get only 45 baskets of paddy grain from this year. A T--- villager, Naw M---, previously received 250 baskets from her paddy field but she could get only 37 baskets of paddy grain from this year, and numerous paddy field [owners] in this area still remain to be interviewed by me.

Situation report

I am inclined to report about [the] cutting down [of] trees, bamboos and *t’la aw la* trees [a teak-like tree with large leaves, which fall in dry season and are collected by villagers for roofing thatch], which has caused the biggest negative impact to the place where villagers do livelihoods and find food [forage for vegetables and hunt wild animals].

On December 8th 2012, I stayed in A--- and Y--- villages and travelled through village-by-village; then, I heard that many villagers have been grieving because people have cut down *t'la aw la* trees, which are used for roofing thatch. As far as I saw when I went through villages, only ten percent of people use zinc roofing for their houses, that is why they want people to lend a hand to them in order to stop it [the cutting down of *t'la aw la* trees]. Some people make a living by collecting *t'la aw la* [leaves] and selling them. The price of one hundred sheets of thatch is 5,000 kyat (US \$5.82) to 7,000 kyat (US \$8.15), so, from my point of view, *t'la aw la* [leaves] have a huge benefit to villagers. I travelled around and saw villages and village tracts as well as wide *t'la aw* tree hills. People cut them down and replaced them [*t'la aw* trees] with agricultural plantations, which are full of rubber trees. Company workers are people who cut down *t'la aw* trees and have planted rubber trees because they cooperate with Burma government. The Burma government sold the land to the company. Rich people have built a relationship with leaders, and then leaders sold those hills [to them].

I would like to report the information about what I have witnessed and villagers reported the information to me, concerning Border Guard soldiers who have been recruiting soldiers in T--- and E--- villages, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District.

On November 30th 2012, I met with two villagers from T--- and asked them about the recruitment issue; they voiced that E--- and T--- village heads went to Koh Ko [army camp] and the Border Guard ordered each of them to contribute money for soldiers who choose not to quit but continue serving in the military, even after they have completed military service. After that the village heads came back and started collecting money from villagers with three levels: 1,000 baht (US \$33.48) was collected from people who work and get enough food [upper class]; 800 baht (US \$26.76) was collected from people who work and have not quite enough food; 500 baht (US \$16.74) is collected from people who are in the worst condition. They did not collect the money as before, instead village heads wrote down people names on small piece of paper. For instance, villagers gave me two pieces of paper, which I attached with this report's papers: "*Naw W--- pay 500 baht (US \$16.74); Naw H--- pay 1,000 baht (US \$33.48).*" Border Guard soldiers call the way they recruit soldiers a 'contribution'. I interviewed villagers from many villages and many village tracts, but most of them refuse to pay money. They [Border Guard soldiers] threatened villagers and village heads, that they would arrest people who did not pay anything to them. People [villagers] told them that it is peaceful, so we do not need to pay it to you anymore. Village heads who get benefits from them [Border Guard soldiers] have the opportunity to do it [collect money from villagers] and they want to do it, but they do not dare carry it out. In addition, Border Guard soldiers worry that the news will spread out [of the local community], so they have carried it out, but they did not dare to accomplish it forcibly. This year, 2012, T--- and E--- villages have to support 13 soldiers and pieces of paper were distributed to them in September, but not everyone has paid it to them yet.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Nabu Township, Hpa-an District, (Received in December 2012)

Source Document #3

KHRG Log #:	13-1-12
Publishing Information:	"Thaton Incident Report: Changing rotation and enlargement of military camps," KHRG, December 2012," KHRG, (first

	publication)			
Project Type:	Militarisation			
Location:	Yoh Klah village, Yoh Klah village track, Bilin Township			
Actors:	Tatmadaw			
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation			
Consequences:	Livelihood issues			
VA Strategies:	Unknown			
Full Text:				
Part 1 – Incident Details				
Type of Incident	Changing [rotation] and enlargement of the military camp			
Date of Incident(s)	December 4 th 2012			
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	Yoh Klah village, Yoh Klah village tract, Bilin Township			
Victim Information				
Name	Yoh Klah villager			
Age				
Sex				
Nationality				
Family				
Occupation				
Religion				
Position				
Village	Yoh Klah			
Perpetrator Information				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Myo Htunt So	Battalion Deputy Commander	LIB #3	Yoh Klah military camp	Myo Min Hla (Battalion Commander)
Part 2 - Information Quality				
1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.				

Regarding this information, during the time that the incident took place, because I was away, I had to ask for some of the information from the villagers and some of the leaders.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

Since he is a Yoh Klah villager, he knows the condition of his village and some people who [give me the information] were in charge in the [village] tract.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail. For each incident, be sure to include 1) when the incident happened, 2) where it happened, 3) what happened, 4) how it happened, 5) who was involved, and 6) why it happened. Also describe any villager response(s) to the incident, the aftermath and the current living situation of the victims. Please use the space prepared below, and create an attachment if needed.

On December 4th 2012, because of the order from the battalion commander to build a military place [camp], Yoh Klah military camp enlarged the campus by making wider fences with a bulldozer. Yoh Klah military camp is based in the land of the monastery. So, now they take out their camp [move their camp to a different place] from the monastery compound and move it back to the back of their camp. This included the shrine area and the place for old monks and also included villager's land. The villagers dare not say [anything] and they had to wait [to get back their land]. The only thing that is good for the villagers is that the soldiers have been removed from the monastery area. Now, because the ceasefire has been made, the soldiers are moving [going around] among the villagers as civilians. So, this villager dares not to say nonsense [the cause and condition of the issue in front of others].

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

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

This information can be used as needed because we have permission from the villager.

Incident Report written by a KHRG Researcher, Yoh Klah village, Bilin Township, Thaton District, (Received in January 2013)

Source Document #4

KHRG Log #:	13-1-P1
Publishing Information:	"Thaton Photo Notes: Bilin Township, Received in January 2013," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction, infrastructure
Location:	Bilin Township, Thaton District
Actors:	Myanmar government

Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Thaton District in January 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0433, 0435, 0436, 0438 - 0440 The photos show a gold mining place in A--- [River]. Villagers say that after finishing the gold mining the river situation is not [as] good as before.</p> <p>Photo #: 0445 - 0447 Regarding these photos, Saw B---, an A--- villager said, "This area [shown in the photo] is near the gold mining place so [the] paddies are not good."</p> <p>Photo #: 0006 - 0008 The photos show a place where the [Burma/Myanmar] government military [Tatmadaw] will build a clinic. This is [on] villagers' lands.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher, Bilin Township, Thaton District, (Received in January 2013)</p>	

Source Document #5

KHRG Log #:	13-04-P1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Photo Notes: Bu Tho Township, Received in January 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure, natural resource extraction
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Myanmar private company, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpapun District in January 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 2600, 2601, 2603, 2604</p>	

These photos were taken on January 1st 2013. This is a bulldozer beside Meh Tee Loh River which is near Ta Kon Taing flat farm where construction is going to take place to repair their buildings and roads. They went to collect stones beside Peh Klaw Day villagers' farms. They made [room] for their trucks so they can go [into this area]. Collecting stones for road began in October.

Photo #: 3002, 3004, 3005

These photos were taken on January 6th 2013. The photos show 15-year-old and 14-year-old villagers collecting stones in order to get money because people buy the stones [from them]. People who buy the stones are a construction group and they [usually] buy one full truck for 15,000 kyat (US \$14.63). The two boys have been collecting it for three or four days but they have not received money yet. They have not received money because people have not bought their stones yet.

Photo #: 3027 - 3029, 3033, 3034

These photos were taken on January 7th 2013. I went to take pictures of people who collected stones in A--- River, Meh Klaw village tract. The photos show the people who collect stones for their livelihood and work the whole day but only receive 5,000 kyat (US \$4.57) per person. People collecting stones also destroyed farms and canals belonging to villagers from B--- . Villagers from B--- did not like this. However, people who buy stones asked people beside the vehicle roads to collect stones. They would then come with a truck and destroy villagers' things [farms] but they [the villagers] don't say anything. The place [where this occurs is in] Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township.

Photo #: 3102 - 3104

On January 8th 2013, I went with the B--- village head to flat farms and he showed me that due to the stone collecting, if the river swells, it will destroy the flat farms. There are about 20 acres of the flat farms.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in January 2014)

Source Document #6

KHRG Log #:	13-4-S1
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun Situation Update: Bu Tho Township, November 2012 to January 2013,” KHRG, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/khrg13b23.pdf
Project Type:	Infrastructure, natural resource extraction
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Myanmar private company, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
Introduction	

The situation in Bu Tho Township, from November 2012 to January 2013, which is a three month period, is that the villagers still suffer human rights abuses, such as forced labour, but it is becoming much less than before. This is because the Border Guard Force's army camps are not based close to the villages anymore. The kind of forced labour that happened included portering for the Tatmadaw. Regarding human rights abuses, the government's construction contractors come to collect stones beside the [Klaw Day] villagers' farms and canal. They came to collect it even though the villagers did not allow them; they also came to plough land with a car [bulldozer].

Human rights abuse

Starting from November 2012 to January 2013, during the three month period, the things that abused human rights are: along the Meh Tee Loh River in P--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, the Burma government workers will repair a vehicle road and their army camps, and will build more buildings. In order to do that, they came to take stones and sand from the Meh Tee Loh River, beside villagers' farms. They did not ask for permission. The person who is in charge is Ma Tin Tin; she works for a Burma government contractor group and her husband is the chief of the contractor group. They [contractors] tried to meet with some village heads, KNU [Karen National Union] leaders and village tract leaders, but they did not give them permission. They only gave them [permission for] ten days, but they did it [stone and sand collection] more than that.

Even though they were allowed to do that [stone and sand collection], it will not benefit the villagers. Additionally, the people who collected the stones are not the farm owners and they are not villagers from the P---area; they are people from the Way Hsa Way Moo vehicle road area, Ta Kon Taing, Kaw La [Muslim] and Bweh communities. One villager told them not to carry the stones with a car, but [only] with a cart or by themselves, but not to [use carts] beside the farm or the mouth of the canal. The [P---] village head also tried to talk about this [change] with them but they did not listen. Even though people who came to collect the stones are civilians, they are under the Burma governments' control and work as their contractors.

If they [contractors] continue collecting the stones, the nearby lands will be flooded in the rainy season, as there will be no stone or sand. If there is really flooding, there will be approximately 20 or 30 acres of farms that will be gone. Even if these kinds of damages happen, the Burma government will not support them [villagers]. For collecting stone, they give [the contractors] 1,500 kyat (US \$1.37) per pile of stone.

Forced Labour

In Bu Tho Township, forced labour, which was portering for the Tatmadaw, happened on November 22nd 2012. The Hpapun Battalion, LIB #434 soldiers, who are on the frontline and based at Pa Heh army camp, came back to meet with their comrades in H-- village. For that, they ordered four H--- villagers to carry their equipment to Papun [town] and carried it back to H---. However, the villagers do not know what they were asked to carry. The villagers also do not know the officer's name.

Military activities

The armed groups based in Bu Tho Township, are Burma Government soldiers [Tatmadaw], the BGF, the DKBA, and the KNLA, These armed groups are active in different ways.

For the Government case, since the KNU leaders and Burma government held the ceasefire talk, there is not a lot of forced labour happening; but they still have some,

which never will be gone. After the ceasefire talk, the Burma government transported more materials, such as building materials and medicine, to each of their army camps. However; this is not a benefit for the villagers. We had heard that each of their army camps on the border have to be repaired, and constructed with cement.

The DKBA, which is based in Meh P'Ree, travels freely to Pgheh Hta and Kaw Taw [Myaing Gyi Ngu]. They also built up [erected] their buildings in Htee K' Mler Wah, which they now renamed Htoo Wah Kaw. They also have one monk name Khin Maung Win or Hkay Mee Ka. He planted a very large rubber plantation and asked villagers to help him. He said that it is religious work, so the civilians in Meh P'Ree village tract helped him. The villagers do not know from where the monk gets the money [to buy the plantation].

The KNLA is active according to the KNU's policy. Sometimes, they might have abused the civilians' rights, but we do not know about it exactly. They always try to protect and solve the problems for the civilians who suffer from human rights abuses, such as money, thatch and bamboo that are demanded by the Tatmadaw and Border Guard. If the KNLA knows these things happen, they do not allow the civilians to comply or go for labour.

Civilians' livelihoods

Most of the civilians in Bu Tho Township earn their livelihood by farming flat fields and hill fields. Some of them also work small seasonal plantations. During 2012 and 2013, they could not farm as well as the previous years. The paddy in the hill fields mostly turned yellow, because they were eaten by insects and by mice, so that the paddy was not good. For the paddy in hill fields, the paddy plants become white and yellow after being planted and it seems like they had been eaten by caterpillars and other insects, which live on the paddy plants, so the paddy plants died.

The other thing is that, because the rain is not falling regularly, it is not good for plantations or farming. It is different from the previous years. In the past, the farms that produced 300 big tins of paddy grains now produce only 150 and 200 big tins of paddy grain. For the hill fields, if people plant five big tins of paddy, they will get only 70 to 90 big tins of paddy grain. If we compare the previous years and now, the problems with livelihoods for the villagers is the food problem. If the flat fields and hill fields continue going like this, it is a sad thing for the villagers. The villagers who earn their livelihood in this way deal with this problem more and more. They cannot protect [themselves] and or find a way to solve these problems by themselves, as their grandparents did in the past.

Civilians' situation

Even after KNU and Burma government ceasefire talk, the civilians in Bu Tho Township who live close to where Tatmadaw and Border Guard Force are based still have to suffer human rights abuses. But, if we compare this to the past, we can say that the situation for the villagers became better. But still, there is not enough freedom for the people who stay close [to these armies].

The civilians who stay [live] in the place that is out of the area in control of the government, they dare not travel and work wherever they want to go and work yet. They are still afraid of them [armed groups]. They dare not go to the town like Hpapun [Town], even though they want to go, because they do not have identity cards. People who live in the side close to the mountain always worry that the ceasefire talk will be

broken. If it breaks, it will be difficult for them to travel, go to work, and to go buy salt, fish paste or clothes. However, for people who live beside the vehicle road, both under the control of the Burma government and out of their controlled area, the situation has not changed. But for the people who can travel, they can travel more easily than the previous years.

Conclusion

The information that I reported is only in some areas that I know and visited already. There will be many information gaps. Because the time now is under a ceasefire, there are no hot or recent incidents that have happened yet. There is only incident that happened, as I reported. Human rights abuses and forced labour still cannot be avoided, until now. These things sometimes happen despite there being a ceasefire.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in January 2013)

Source Document #7

KHRG Log #:	13-5-P1
Publishing Information:	"Toungoo Photo Notes: Htantabin Township, Received in January 2013," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure project, militarisation
Location:	Htantabin Township, Toungoo District
Actors:	Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	Some compensation, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Displacement, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown

Full Text:

[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Toungoo District in January 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]

Photo #: 0174 - 0182

These were taken on December 10th 2012 on the Hkler La to Taw Oo vehicle road. The photos show the repairing of the vehicle road between Hkler La and Taw Oo. It is repaired by the same company that built the Toh Boh Dam. The place is from P'Leh Wa to Hkler La. The villagers said that Shwe Swan Aye company repairing the road is beneficial but we can travel only in dry season. In rainy season, if you travel, it will cause problems because it is a new vehicle road.

Photo #: 0183 - 0185

These were taken on December 10th 2012 in P'Leh Wah. Due to the dam, the water has risen. As a result, the villagers have to deal with travelling problems. The bridge has not been built yet so [villagers] have to travel by motorboats.

Photo #: 0186 - 0196

These were taken on December 10th 2012. The photos show the new vehicle road below the P'Leh Wah. It was taken while Shwe Swan Aye company workers are repairing the road. Shwe Swan Aye company has not build the new road very well so it can cause problems for people when travelling in the rainy season. Moreover, the new road is very bendy so the villagers complain that it can cause accidents when travelling.

Photo #: 0200 - 0205

These were taken on December 15th 2012 in Ba Yint Naung [Tatmadaw] army camp. The lands were confiscated from the villagers.

Photo #: 0214 - 0217

These were taken on December 15th 2012. It shows old man Saw A--- who lives in B--- Section, Thandaung Town. The old man reported about the current situation, his suffering, the Burmese army situation and work. He is the one whose land was confiscated and has been asked to move to other places. The people who confiscated it [the land] is the Burmese army who are based in Ba Yint Naung camp.

Photo #: 0226 - 0227

These were taken on December 15th 2012. The place is Taw Oo [Toungoo] District, Thandaung Town, Ba Yint Naung army training school. The places were confiscated by the Ba Yint Naung army from villagers and built their shelters and training places. They do not allow other people to enter because they have training. Moreover, they have [a] plan to widen the places [training camps]. In the training, there is platoon commander training, battalion commander training and company commander training.

Photo #: 0248 - 0254

These were taken on December 15th 2012, in Thandaung area. The mark [sign] is the Burmese army [Tatmadaw] LIB #124, #546 and #084 who confiscated the lands from villagers and they mark it to build their shelters.

Photo #: 0268 - 0270

These were taken on December 16th 2012. They the photos are of one villager from C-- - [village]. He reported about the Toh Boh Dam and [how it] destroyed local villagers' plantations. He reported that due to the dam, the villagers worry a lot.

Photo #: 0274 - 0274

These were taken on December 16th 2012. It is between 13 Miles and 20 Miles. The plantations show the local peoples livelihood process. Some of the rubber plantations were destroyed and flooded because of the dam. Because the plantations were flooded it created problems for [villagers] livelihoods. The villagers reported that we [they] got compensation for [the] destroyed plantations from [the] company, but it is not easy to buy new places [land].

Photo notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Htaw Ta Htoo Township, Thaton District, (Received in January 2013)

Source Document #8

KHRG Log #:	13-8-P1
Publishing	"Toungoo Photo Notes: Htantabin Township, Received in

Information:	January 2013," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Htantabin Township, Toungoo District
Actors:	Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Some compensation, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Toungoo in January 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0091 - 0020 These photos were taken on December 11th 2012 in Taw Oo [Toungoo] District, Htaw Ta Htoo [Htantabin] Township, Peh Leh Wah place. Due to the Toh Boh Dam, water flooded between Hkler La and Taw Oo road and villagers who stay there have to travel with [a] motorboat.</p> <p>Photos #: 0028, 0029 These photos were taken on December 15th 2012, in Taw Oo [Toungoo] District. Daw Hpa Hkoh [Thandaunggyi] Township, (Ba Yint Naung soldiers' clinic) place. SPDC soldiers came and stayed there so the villagers had deal with land problems.</p> <p>Photos #: 0042 - 0044 These photos were taken on December 15th 2012, in Taw Oo [Toungoo] District, Daw Hpa Hkoh [Thandaunggyi] Township, Thandaunggyi Town area. In the photos, you will see Ba Yint Naung soldiers who stay in Section #5, Thandaunggyi Town. The army started staying [here] in the year 2000 until now. There are about 3,000 acres of villagers' land [which was] lost. [Out of all the] villagers who lost their lands, not all of them received enough compensation.</p> <p>Photo #: 0045, 0046, 0050 - 0057 The photos were taken on December 16th 2012. It is in Taw Oo [Toungoo] District, Htaw Ta Htoo [Htantabin] Township and it shows [a] dam [which] has flooded [in] Peh Leh Wah place so a new vehicle road has been built in between 21 Miles village to Peh Leh Wah.</p> <p>Photo #: 0058 - 0062 These photos were taken on December 16th 2012, in Taw Oo [Toungoo] District, Htaw Ta Htoo [Thandaunggyi] Township. Due to the Toh Boh Dam, the water rose up to Peh Leh Wah so villagers from Hkler La area have to travel by motorboat which transports villagers, motorbikes and trucks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher, Htantabin Township, Toungoo District, (Received in January 2013)</p>	

Source Document #9

KHRG Log #:	13-111-S1
Publishing Information:	“ Thaton Situation Update: Kyaikto Township, November 2013, ” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Agriculture, natural resource extraction, militarisation
Location:	Kyaikto Township, Thaton District
Actors:	Wealthy individual, Tatmadaw, Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p>This is the situation update of Kye Hto [Kyaikto] Township and the situation of the region and the problems in the region such as land problems and militias during my trip from September 8th 2013 to September 25th 2013.</p> <p>Kye Hto [Kyaikto] Township is situated in Mon State³ and it is close to the road and plain. Thu Hkee village tract, Maw Hka Maw village tract, Hka Rah village tract and Pa Lo Hkee village tract are located in the west of this township and K’ Pa Hkee village tract, Meh Lay Hkee village tract, Naw Lah Hkee village tract, Nah Kyi village tract are located in the east of this township. This township is bordered by Brigade #3 (Nyaunglebin District), Brigade #5 (Hpapun District) and Bago Division.</p> <p>It [Kyaikto Township] has <i>Khoh Thee Yuh</i>⁴ which is famous and so many guests are travelling [here to visit]. In K’Per Hkee village tract and Naw Lah Hkee village tract, because there are a lot of mountains, it is difficult to travel in the rainy season. Most of the ethnic groups which are living in this township are Karen and Burmese. Most of them are Buddhist. [Generally], these Karen villagers cannot not read, write and speak Karen very well.</p> <p>Education</p> <p>The eldest people can speak Karen but most of the young and the children speak in Burmese. They are allowed to study Karen and learn about the Karen and the culture of Karen [Kayin] State. The chairman of the township education department, Poe Thaw Kyah, told me that the KNU had the chance to try and explain and organise them [the youth in the village] after the ceasefire. There will be Karen language classes in the summer of this coming year.</p> <p>Most of the Karen villages have school until the 4th standard.⁵ Most of the schools are established by the villagers. Both the Burma government and the KNU could not</p>	

³ Locally defined Thaton District, overlaps with Mon State.

⁴ This is the name of a famous pagoda in Kyaikto Township. In Burmese it is called Kyaik Htee Yo.

⁵ In 4th standard is usually around nine years old.

support them. So, they the villagers have conducted it by themselves. Only a few people passed 10th standard⁶ because there are a lot of difficulties. People quit school after they finished 4th standard. The parents could not afford to send their children because they [the students] have to go to the city if they want to continue their studies.

One of the elders told me when I went to Sit Kwin village, "*Poe Doh Kwah [nephew], we are living in a very poor place and no one supports us. We have to live in the plain and we are surrounded by rubber plantations and we cannot not even find fire wood.*" This is true because people planted rubber on most of the lands. They [the rubber plantation owners] are not the indigenous people but they went to Naypyidaw and got a permission letter, then came back and did it [planted rubber].

Health

I travel around Kyeh Htoh [Kyaikto] Township area and I have not seen any clinics in this area. There are only midwives who give treatment to patients. But during our trip I have seen some organisations come and give medicines and vaccinations to the children because it is the period of ceasefire. The villagers said that they do not come regularly which means [that] sometimes they come and sometimes they do not come. They [the organisations] come and give polio vaccinations and measles vaccinations. I asked them [villagers] the name of the organisation but they could not tell me [they do not know] but [the researcher knows that] this [the organisation] is through [works with] UNICEF.

I arrived at Ka Ba Hkee village on September 18th 2013 and I have seen the contribution of medicine for elephantiasis. Some villagers took it and some villagers did not take it. Some of them suffered urinary retention and swelling of scrotum as side effects of the medicine but recovered in one week. Some people were frightened and said that they would not dare to not take it if people come and give it the next time. This is how they contributed the medicines. The responsible people asked one person from every house to gather and asked them how many family members they have and gave them the medicine according to the numbers. They did not diagnose before letting the villagers take the medicine and this became a problem.

The [Kyaikto] township chairman opened nursing training at township level. The training takes three months and there are 20 trainees. His aim is to improve [the] healthcare services for each village. But the problem is that they dared to enter into the township only this year.

Armed groups

There are only a few Burmese camps in Kyeh Htoh [Kyaikto] Township. But they sent militias into every village. Tee Say Paw is the leader [of the militias] of the western part of Kyeh Htoh [Kyaikto] Township. The village head of A--- [village] told me that he is very happy that the KNU came and set up their office there. If not, Tee Say Paw usually opens up [a] gambling place in the summer. So the life of the youth is ruined because of playing cards and drinking alcohol on the street. He [Tee Say Paw] could not open [a] gambling place since the KNU opened their township office in 2013 and banned gambling. Again, I asked U B---, a village head of A--- village, "*Does he [Tee Say Paw] ask the villagers to work for him?*" He told me, "*Two people [from one village] always had to go and guard his [Tee Say Paw's] house and we [the villagers] had to carry water for him, had to split wood for him and had to do everything that he ordered*

⁶ In 10th standard the student is usually around 15 years old.

[asked].” I asked him [U B---], “*What about this year?*” He replied [to] me “*It depends on the villagers; they can go [work for him] if they want this year since the KNU has set up their offices there.*” He is very happy because he has less duty [to take responsibility for demanding labour].

A--- village is situated in Hsaw Thu Hkee village tract and most of the people in the villages nearby this area speak in Burmese. U Yae Tun came into Pa Loh Hkee village tract and confiscated 2,600 acres of land to plant rubber trees. U Yae Tun dares to do it because he got the permission letter from Naypyidaw. It became [a] problem for the villagers to graze the cattle and buffalo. In 2013, the KNU took back 600 acres of land [from U Yae Tun] for the villagers to work on it, because most of the villagers in this area are doing hill field farming and have plantations like betel nut. Few people are working on rubber plantations. Some of them cut bamboo from the jungle and sell it. They are encountering problems when people came and confiscated land on a large scale. There are one or two places that people are doing gold mining and [other types of] mining in this area. Rich men came and checked in the (Shwe Za Yet, Ngway Za Yet) places in the western part of Kheh Htoh [Kyaikto] Township and they are going to do gold mining again in November. They measured [the land to do gold mining] [which amounted to] over 300 acres. Their leader is U Than Soe. The villagers have no idea of what to do. But they are trying their best to make sure [to register] the grants of their lands that they own on the KNU [side].

Water pollution in Kyoh Ma Ku stream

This place [is] located in Hsaw Thu Hkee village tract. Gold mining on the other side of Kyoh Ma Ku stream was stopped in the middle of October because the villagers gathered together and demonstrated this case to the district level. So the township chairman went and stopped the gold mining because the water became murky and the villagers dare not drink the water. But the villagers will go and demonstrate to the responsible people in Brigade #3 (Nyaunglebin District) if they do not stop the gold mining.

The gold mining in Paw Baw Htah, Ku Htaw Lo and Kler Law Sel was stopped in the last two months. The people [company] who dug the holes were ordered to refill the big holes [with land] but they have not done it yet. These are the holes that were dug by Myah Phu [name of owner of Myah Phu Khaing Company]. But a Chinese company, which was doing panning for gold with machines with seven ships had run their work [for] one month but it was stopped because they did not find any gold. The township chairman of Bilin, Pu C---, told me that the Chinese company signed a contract to give money to the district but [they have] not given any money yet.

Militia problem

The other problem of the villagers is the militia. The villagers do not want to [serve as] militia anymore because the Burmese government and the KNU are in the ceasefire process. But LIB #8 did not allow them and told them to continue holding the guns. The villagers requested [to give] the guns back but they refused. A militia [commander] told me that they were given 16 guns. They requested to return the guns in September and LIB #8 accepted eight guns and they still have eight guns in their hands. The government soldiers accepted the eight guns and at the same time they villagers had to give 25,000 kyat (US \$22.87) for each gun. The villagers were determined to return back the guns [the rest of the guns] again and they will pay them even if they asked 50,000 kyat (US \$45.74) for each gun. People do not get a salary being a militia and more than that they have to do everything that they are ordered to by the government

soldiers.

Almost every village in Kyeh Htoh [Kyaikto] Township has militias. The soldiers from the KNLA and militias met with each other, built a relationship, worked together and celebrated the festival⁷ together after the ceasefire. The KNU set up an office in Kyeh Htoh [Kyaikto] Township in Moe Baw village and the soldier of Battalion #2 of the KNDO have taken responsibility in this area.

Threat for the villages

Some villages in Kyeh Htoh [Kyaikto] Township have problems and threats concerning land. Mon people came and bought lands in Naw Lah Hkee village then they planted rubbers and created rubber plantations [making it] even more difficult for the villagers to do hill field farming. I heard from the villagers that the Mon people have planned to come and take the land. The village tract leader of D--- told me that he will try his best [to ensure that] the lands of the villagers [do] not become the lands of the other people. And he was very grateful to us for giving them a workshop concerning land issues. The staff of the KNU also came and measured yard [gardens] of villagers, measured the border of [the] villagers [land] again, the borders of [the] common forest, religious lands and graves to make sure the villagers have land titles.

Destroying the cultural places of the indigenous people

The destroying of cultural places of the indigenous people, such as destroying shrines, happened in Net Kyi village, Net Kyi village tract, Bilin Township. The place [that was destroyed] is recognised as sacred by the villagers and is a noble place. This place was destroyed on September 22nd 2013 by a senior monk (Htee Saw), the monk of Kin Nyunt [a former top leader of the SPDC]. Monk [Htee Saw] repaired and exposed the old pagodas, together with the subordinates of [BGF] Commander Chit Thu and said that he will repair the place.

But we heard that they found two diamonds and some bronze when they were destroying the pagoda. I heard it from the village head of Net Kyi when he was talking to one of his friends on the walkie-talkie in Burmese. In the morning we heard it [that they found two diamonds and some bronze] from a radio message [transmitted] from somebody in the township in the morning and they told us that they heard this from the villagers.

We cannot confirm it yet as they are still doing construction and they deployed soldiers for security. They said that they are repairing this place for the villagers.

I received some of the information that is included in this report from the villagers and I saw them with my [own] eyes.

Military activity in Bilin Township and Kyeh Htoh [Kyaikto] Township

Villagers said that on September 9th 2013, the BGF and the Burmese government [Tatmadaw] soldiers, who are based in Meh Lah gathered together and came to Meh Lah village, Meh Lah village tract, Kyeh Hto [Kyaikto] Township and took security for the Korean people who visited the school. The villagers said that they [the soldiers] are the subordinates of [BGF] Commander Chit Thu. On September 22nd 2013, the BGF and a senior monk (Htee Thaw), the monk of [Tatmadaw] General Kin Nyunt, came to Net Kyi village, Net Kyi village tract, Bilin Township, Thaton District destroyed the shrine

⁷ The details about this festival were not given by the researcher.

that the villagers view as sacred and said that they will repair it. The villagers are not content with this case but it [the shrine] has been repaired by a village chief. Information emerged from the villagers but they could not confirm yet that the senior monk took two diamonds and one plate of bronze. I heard it from [through] the walkie-talkie.

On October 10th 2013, I received this news from the walkie-talkie of the KNU that the Burmese soldiers came to the [Kyaikto] Township office in Moe Baw and ordered the people to move. The Burmese troops came and stayed in Net Sin village which is 15 minutes from the Township office and the other group stayed in Mo Kha Mauk village which takes 20 minutes from the office. They ordered the KNU to remove the office. I do not know how they solved this case and the office was not removed.

The villagers told me that after the explosion of bombs in the cities,⁸ the Burmese army camps in Lay Hkay, Net Kyi, Yoh Klah, Hkoh Thu Hta and Pa Nweh Klah checked the bags of the travellers and they also questioned them [about] where they will go and what their names are. Moreover, we have seen that they [Tatmadaw soldiers] are active more and more.

The villagers told me that after the explosion of [the] bombs, the soldiers of Yoh Klah camp [MOC #13] left the camp after the KNU turned off their walkie-talkies, after 6:00 pm and were waiting between the villages where villagers were travelling. More than that they [Tatmadaw soldiers] went to the other villages at midnight.

A villager of E---, which takes one and a half hours from Yoh Klah village, told me that a soldier came to him and asked for cheroot and said that he is a Burmese soldier. I asked one of the responsible people of the KNU and he told me that he is still trying to get exact information about this case and cannot confirm it yet. He also said that he is not sure if they [Tatmadaw soldiers] went to other villages, but is sure that they went out at night. So the villagers are afraid and worry that it could be dangerous for their work and livelihood if this kind of thing happens more and more.

It annoyed the villagers and became a problem for the villagers such as Kaw Hpaw Doh village, Htee Hpah Doh village, Htaw Klaw Htah village and Noh Baw Htah village because they have to guard the cultivation fields and farming fields. If not, the wild pigs will come and eat the paddies. Personally, I think that they are active more and more not only because of the bomb case but because they want to be more and more active.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kyaikto Township, Thaton District, (Received in November 2013)

Source Document #10

KHRG Log #:	13-113-I1
Publishing Information:	“Toungoo Incident Report: Stone mining in Thandaunggyi Township, June 2013,” KHRG, August 2014, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/13-113-i1.pdf
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction

⁸ In October 2013 there was a series of bombings in Myanmar which resulted in the death of three individuals and the injury of 10 more. These bombings remain unexplained as there is no strong enough evidence to lay blame on a certain groups but it is likely that the explosions were connected.

Location:	Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District			
Actors:	Wealthy individuals			
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown			
Consequences:	Livelihood issues			
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs			
Full Text:				
<u>Part 1 – Incident(s) detail</u>				
Type of Incident	Destruction of villagers' property			
Date of Incident(s)	June 2013			
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	A--- village, Kyay Min village tract, Daw Hpa Hkoh [Thandaunggyi] Township, Toungoo District			
Victim Information				
Name	Saw B---			
Age	56			
Sex	Male			
Nationality	Bwe Karen			
Family	Married			
Occupation	Villager			
Religion	Roman Catholic			
Position				
Village	A---			
Perpetrator Information				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Gyi Zin Oo	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	
<u>Part 2 - Information Quality</u>				
1. Explain the specific manner how you collected this information.				
We got this information during a VA [KHRG village agency] workshop. We met with a villager who reported this issue when we interviewed him.				

2. Explain how the source verified information accuracy.

The villager who gave us this information knows about this case because it happened close to his village.

Part 3 – Incident Details

Describe the incident(s) in complete detail. For each incident, be sure to include 1) when the incident happened, 2) where it happened, 3) what happened, 4) how it happened, 5) who was involved, and 6) why it happened. Also describe any villager response(s) to the incident, the aftermath and the current living situation of the victims. Please, use the space prepared below and create attach if needed.

The incident happened in June 2013 close to A--- village and this is how the case happened. Because wealthy [business] people came and mined for stone, 0.5 acres of an A--- villager’s farm was destroyed. Before these people came and [started] work, they did not let the villagers know [in advance]; they just let the village head know. Thus, the villagers did not know the result of the consultation [between the stone miners and the village head]. One villager mentioned that, if this project [expands in order to be] fully completed, their village would be destroyed and their plantations would also be destroyed.

The people who came to work on the project are led by Gyi Zin Oo. Gyi Zin Oo is the manager leading the work.

Incident Report written by a KHRG Researcher, A--- village, Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District, (Received in June 2013)

Source Document #11

KHRG Log #:	13-115-S1
Publishing Information:	“Situation Update, Lu Pleh Township, Hpa-an district, 2012-2013,” KHRG, http://www.khr.org/sites/default/files/13-115-s1_pdf.pdf
Project Type:	Infrastructure project, natural resource extraction
Location:	Lu Pleh Township, Hpa-an district
Actors:	Myanmar government, Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	In Klaw K’Tee village, Meh T’Moo village tract, Lu Pleh Township, the [Burma] government has started to build a new town since 2011. In 2013, they will build a Government school and a hospital. In 2014, the Government has a plan to construct the road from Lu Pleh Town to Klaw K’Tee town. The Government’s education department coordinator conducted a meeting in Klaw K’Tee town and stated that he would build a

school that has grade 10 [the final year of high school in Burma]. They already built some of the [public] government buildings. They will pay the villagers who lost their lands because of the construction, but they have not done so yet.

In Lu Pleh Township, Meh T'Moo village tract, there are a lot of valuable white stones, so the company mines it in two places. The first place is at the confluence of Meh T'Moo River and Meh K'Loh River. The second place is at another place where there are a lot of stones, which is close to the confluence of the Paw Baw River and the Meh K'Taw River. They cannot mine during the monsoon season, but they can mine during the summer. It has been two years since they started mining. The Paw Baw stone mine is located inside the mountain, so it does not damage the villagers' flat fields.

In Lu Pleh Township, they are selling drugs [methamphetamines] in the town. The people who sell the drugs belong to the BGF [Border Guard Force]. The reason that the BGF sell the drugs in Hpa-an District is because the Government does not follow [enforce] the [drug] policies completely. There are also many different armed groups, among which there are also people who do things secretly for their own benefits. There are also some people who connect themselves with the armed groups and act as one of them and sell the drugs, but are not members of the armed groups. Because there are many armed groups and many 'fake people' [who pretend to belong to an armed group] in Hpa-an District, there is also a lot of drug dealing. The most important reason [for the drug dealing] is that the country's rules and laws are not effective and not enforced.

Situation update

During 2012 to 2013 in Hpa-an District, Lu Pleh Township, the ceasefire agreement between the Burma government and the KNU [Karen National Union] made [the amount of] forced labour decrease, as it should be. However, the Tatmadaw camps are still remaining and they have not withdrawn yet.

Villagers' situation

During 2013, most of the villagers from Lu Pleh Township are flat field farmers and hill field farmers. There is also no other work for them, so most of the youth go to Bangkok to work. Some villagers send their children to school until they finish high school and some villagers until they graduate and get their university degree. After getting their degree, there are no jobs for them [in their own region], so they have to go to Bangkok to work.

Citizens' education

In some villages in Lu Pleh Township, the Burmese government built a school and hired teachers. Most of them [the schools] are primary school and middle schools. There are also KNU schools. There are also NGOs who support the schools.

Citizens' health care

Regarding health care in Lu Pleh Township, the Back Pack [Back Pack Health Workers' Team] health workers help the villagers. There are also clinics in some of the villages that are built by the Burmese government, but not in every village yet.

Citizen's economic situation

There is no economic planning in the Lu Pleh Township. Most of the villagers are farming flat fields or hill fields for income and they also sell their cows and buffalos. Most of them [the villagers] go to Bangkok to work.

Powerful groups

The powerful, armed groups in Lu Pleh Township are the Tatmadaw, the KNU, the BGF and the DKBA's *Kloh Htoo Lah*. The DKBA's *Kloh Htoo Lah* controls the area in Yaw Poh, Klu Htaw and the riverbank of the Salween River. The BGF controls the area in Hkaw Taw [Myaing Gyi Ngoo].

Conclusion

During 2012 and 2013, in Lu Pleh Township, the [number of] human rights abuses have decreased, as it should be. Therefore, in 2013 and 2014, the leaders in charge have allowed the villagers to cut trees to build their homes. Regarding the lands, the KNU's land department will measure the villagers' lands. They will also provide the land titles to the villagers.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Lu Pleh Township, Hpa-an District, (Received in November 2013)

Source Document #12

KHRG Log #:	13-118-P1
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun Photo Notes: Dwe Lo Township, Received in March 2014,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpapun District in March 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0824 - 0826 These were taken on September 10th 2013. I took the photo of a villager called Saw A--- at B--- village side at someone's hut. [I interview him about] IB #44 [Tatmadaw] Operation Commander Min Tin Hla [who is working on] gold mining in Brigade #1 (Thaton District). They take soil heaps to Waw Lay, Brigade #5 (Hpapun District). [Because of the mining] the water destroyed Saw A---'s farm side by eroding the riverbank.</p> <p>Photo #: 0827 - 0836 These were taken on September 10th 2013, I took the photo of Tatmadaw [Infantry] Battalion #44 Operation Commander Min Tin Hla who came in to Brigade #1 and [started] gold mining [and] moved the soil into the river. The water [from the river]</p>	

eroded the villagers' farms which were on the river. It was in Dwe Lo Township, Waw Muh village tract, B--- village's side and the photos show [Infantry] Battalion #44 Operation Commander Min Tin Hla. He has mined in Brigade #1 region since 2012 and he does it extensively and moves the soil to Boo Law Kloh river in 2013 [in rainy season]. When it rained there was flooding [as the soil blocked the way]. The water travelled to the western part [of the village] and to the villagers' farms and the water eroded B--- villagers' farm and plantations. The water eroded the riverside and the villagers' farms were destroyed.

Photo #: 0837 – 0840

These were taken on September 10th 2013. The photos were taken in Dwe Lo Township, Waw Muh village tract and are of C--- villagers and B--- villagers' farms and [vegetable] plantations. The photos were taken at the western part of Buh Law River because [Infantry] Battalion #44 Operations Commander Min Tin Hla does gold mining in Brigade #1 [Thaton District] moving the soil to the river causing the water to flood into the villagers' farm and plantations and erode the riverside destroying many farms and plantations. As a result, in the coming few years these farms and plantations will be gone [due to erosion].

Photo #: 0876

This was taken on September 12th 2013. It was in Mutraw [Hpapun] District, Dwe Lo Township, Waw Muh village tract, in B--- village. Saw D--- is standing and looking down to Boo Law River because IB #44 Operation Commander Tin Min Hla does mining in Brigade #1 and moves the soil into the western part of Boo Law Kloh river the water eroding Saw D---'s farms and plantations.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District, (Received in March 2014)

Source Document #13

KHRG Log #:	13-118-S1
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun Situation Update: Dwe Lo Township, August to October 2013,” KHRG, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/13-118-s1_0.pdf
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Myanmar private company, Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Negotiation, demonstration
Full Text:	
Introduction	
In Dwe Lo Township, the SPDC [Tatmadaw] has previously been active [in the area], demanding forced labour, such as portering, or demanding wood and bamboo from civilians. Since 2013, SPDC soldiers have stopped demanding forced labour and	

materials from civilians. [Now], sometimes, if they do ask civilians [to go with them to help] with their activities, the SPDC asks permission from the village elder and pays wages to the labourers. If I look at us as still being active in [collecting] human rights information, it is very worthwhile for the civilians, as now there are civilians that face [problems] from mining that cause environmental damage and riverbank erosion, which violates civilians' [land and livelihood] rights. Those [abuses] are still going on.

Prohibition of gold mining

On September 20th 2013, in Meh Way village tract, villagers heard that a company would come and begin gold mining in the Meh Way Kloh [river]. The civilians who live in Meh Way village tract organised themselves [to campaign against the project] and the village tract leaders completely prohibited [the project], stating that they could not allow gold mining in the Meh Way Kloh. They prohibited [it] and posted notices about it along the road and river.

Now, the civilians [in Meh Say village tract] have prohibited gold mining in the coming years because they want the generations of their children and nephews to be able to sustain their livelihoods [without environmental damage]. Someday, if our Karen leaders allow companies to do gold mining, our future generations will face a lot of problems.

Land damage

[Last year] on October 11th 2012, LID #44 Operations Commander Tin Min Hla conducted a gold mining operation on the eastern side of the Boo Law Kloh [river] in Brigade One [Thaton District], Bilin Township, Meh Hpray Hkee village tract. [He ordered] soil and stones to be moved to the western side of Boo Law Kloh [in order to facilitate mining]. Sand, soil and stones accumulated blocking the river and diverted the water into Waw Muh village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. [Consequently], many of the Wa Lay and Waw Muh villagers' farms and plantations were destroyed [by the flooding].

This photo was taken on September 10th 2013 in Dwe Lo Township, Waw Muh village tract on beside Wa Lay village. It shows the flood damage and riverbank erosion that occurred as a result of LID #44 Operation Commander Tin Min Hla's gold mining project in Thaton District. Villagers fear that continued mining will increase erosion and flooding during next year's rainy season.

On September 10th 2013, I interviewed Saw A--- who lives in Wa Lay village, Waw Muh village tract, Dwe Lo Township in Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. He is 54 years old. I recorded the interview and the Thara [teacher, Saw A---] knows all the information [regarding the above incident].

Restrictions on movement

On October 13th 2013, there was an explosion in Yangon and starting from that day the movement of civilians who live in Waw Muh, Kwee Ta Ma, Ma Lay Ler and Hpoh Kheh Hta villages, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District, has been more difficult. As they have always done, villagers go to Bilin Town [to buy food and goods]. [Now if] SPDC soldiers from LID #44, IB #3 and BGF soldiers based at Hsan Taw [village], see civilians traveling, they question them and check [their luggage], which inhibits civilians from travelling freely.

Activity of SPDC soldiers

In Dwe Lo Township, SPDC military bases are the same as before, as I have previously

reported. However, SPDC soldiers' activities, such as demands [for goods and materials] and forced labour have decreased. [Now], sometimes when they [SPDC] travel [through the township], they ask the village head for one villager to serve as a guide; they also ask permission from the village elder. After helping them with guiding, they release the villager and also pay wages [as compensation]. Currently, SPDC soldiers' demands and forced labour have decreased.

Livelihoods

After the ceasefire, for civilians who live in Dwe Lo Township, there have been more opportunities to work. Nowadays, there are farms, plantations and hill farming and the civilians work well and their livelihoods have become much better.

Now, in B--- [village], Meh Way region, in Dwe Lo Township, villagers who do farming there are facing problems with insects consuming and destroying their paddy. [Currently] most paddies are dead [unproductive], so that they are worrying about whether their paddy can be harvested or not.

Conclusion

I have provided an update on the activity of SPDC soldiers, [villagers'] livelihoods, the prohibition of mining, land destruction caused by riverbank erosion and [restrictions on] travelling. I have seen this with my own eyes and these things have really happened. I collected the information and took the photos myself and they are the truth and let me conclude this report here.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Nabu Township, Hpa-an District, (Received in November 2013)

Source Document #14

KHRG Log #:	13-120-S1
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun Situation Update: Bu Tho Township, August to November 2013,” KHRG, August 2014, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/13-120-s1_1.pdf
Project Type:	Militarisation, other
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, wealthy individuals
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, unknown consultation
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs, other
Full Text:	This Situation Update describes events occurring in Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District from August to November 2013, including Tatmadaw, BGF, KNLA, and KNU activities, as well as an update on human rights violations, healthcare and education.
Forced labour	In Bu Tho Township, during the four months from August to November [2013], there

were only a few [incidents of] forced labour. We cannot remember [all of] the dates that forced labour occurred. [However, one of] the most recent [forced labour] incident dates which we can remember was on October 23rd 2013. Four villagers from A--- village, Meh Pree village tract, had to transport rations for the BGF. They portered from their village farms to B--- village which took 25 minutes without being given any money [as compensation]. The BGF military groups which the villagers transported rations for are BGF Battalions #1013 and #1014. The soldiers from these battalions are based in Meh Pree village, Meh Pree village tract, Bu Tho Township. The company commanders who led these activities were Ba Yoh, Hpah Yuh Hkay, Maung Htun Hla and their battalion commanders are Maung Hla Hkyaing from Battalion #1013 and Maung Chit from Battalion #1014. The things that villagers usually have to porter are rice, oil, salt and sometimes they also have to porter sugar and milk. While they porter rations, no soldiers accompany them. There are about 15 to 18 soldiers in Meh Pree BGF camp. Again, on October 28th 2013, a C--- villager named Saw B---had to go and serve as set tha and go and live among the BGF. The Meh Pree BGF camp is commanded by Maung Htun Hla, Ba Yoh and Hpah Yuh Hkay. One of the soldiers under these commanders asked Saw B--- to go and cut gee hkah doo [young rattan] for him. There may have also been [other incidents of] forced labour demanded by armed actors which we have not been able to document.

Killing

In Bu Tho Township there were no killings by armed actors as far as we know.

Landmine problems

In Bu Tho Township there were no landmine cases in the areas KHRG reached during these four months, from August to November [2013].

Arbitrary arrest and explicit threats

In August 2013, there was a conflict between two of the armed actors because a BGF soldier crossed into KNU territory and fighting broke out in D--- village, Htee Th'Daw Hta village tract. A BGF soldier from Battalion #1014, commanded by Hpah Tha Beh, broke the agreement [not to enter each other's territory], which he had ignored many times. After the fighting occurred, the BGF Platoon Commander Hpah Tha Beh demanded that both the E--- regional leader and leader of the lower part of F--- village, named Saw C---, accompany him for one day. Furthermore, he threatened the village leader and the regional leader that he would pour hot water on them, so that they would obey his order. As soon as the village leader from the lower part of F--- village, named Saw C---, was released by Platoon Commander Hpah Tha Beh, he refused to accompany him. [He] told him [Hpah Tha Beh] that the KNLA soldiers had not given him permission to meet with him. Thus, even though Hpah Tha Beh ordered [him to come again], he [Hpah Tha Beh] could not do anything [about it]. I do not know the regional leader's name so I will find out and will report back.

Healthcare

Regarding healthcare in Bu Tho Township, as I have mentioned previously, civilians only received medicine from BPHWT [Back Pack Health Worker Team] and FBR [Free Burma Rangers]. For people who live close to KNU areas, they go to the KNU clinic for treatment. For areas where the KNU and the KNLA cannot reach, people have to go to the government hospital to receive treatment. They must also pay a higher price for treatment for their illness. Nearby, in F--- village, the Burma government entered and set up a clinic so that there was one in the village, but there is no medicine or medics. For people from areas which are not close to the clinic, or where the FBR or the

BPHWT cannot reach, they are still using herbal medicine.

Education

In Bu Tho Township, there are no extracurricular activities for children. There are only schools which the KNU can reach. They get some financial support for teachers' salaries and school supplies from the KED [Karen Education Department]. The KED administers the education sector and the students are learning Karen, Burmese and English. For the schools which the KED cannot reach, the students are only learning Burmese and English; the S'gaw Karen language is not taught. These schools are under the control of the Burma government. In Bu Tho [Township], the Burma government wants to build more government schools with brick, but some villagers do not want to allow it and told them that the KNU does not permit it. In some places, the Burma government comes and builds schools, but they do not build them with bricks as they desire [as they are not permitted by the KNU].

Land confiscation

In Bu Tho Township, there is a case of land confiscation from villager Saw A--- in G--- village, Meh Klaw village tract by MOC [Military Operation Command] #642's Commander Khin Zaw Htun. Without permission, he measured and parcelled out Saw A---'s farm and still has not given any compensation for it yet. The other issue is that villagers have mostly confiscated each other's land, especially rich people confiscating land from ordinary people. They confiscated it in order to plant rubber. Land for ordinary people to farm has decreased. Regarding the Tatmadaw confiscating land, the villagers dare not report it to the Burma government. So instead, they report these cases to the KNU or KNLA. Moreover, they also send information to KHRG and other organisations. Although the land confiscation problem has decreased, they [villagers] still have not gotten their land back yet.

Civilians' situation

In Bu Tho Township, some civilians live in KNU controlled areas, some live in Tatmadaw or BGF controlled areas, and some live in an area which is controlled by both the Tatmadaw and the BGF. Even though there is a ceasefire agreement, the villagers' situation is still the same as it was in the past. The only thing which has changed is that civilians who do not live under the control of the Tatmadaw can currently travel more freely. Now, both civilians who live in KNU controlled areas and Tatmadaw or BGF areas rely on each other and the Tatmadaw also do not check and question villagers as much [as before].

Military situation

In Bu Tho Township, from August to November [2013], during these four months the Tatmadaw mostly just travelled [in their own territory] as the KNU and KNLA have defined their area [where the Tatmadaw are not permitted to go]. Even though they [Tatmadaw] rotate, they only travel according to the [territorial] limitations [agreed to with the KNU/KNLA]. [However] there is no reduction of their army camps and they remain as [they were] before. They repair their army camps which are set up far away from villages and they continuously reinforce their locations. They send their BGF troops to operate in four village tracts including Kyaw Pah village tract, Meh Pree village tract and Htee Th'Daw Hta village tract, but because of the ceasefire between the KNU and the Burma government, the BGF troops are only active in Meh Pree village tract and Htee Th'Daw Hta village tract. The BGF groups which are active are BGF Battalions #1013 and #1014. There are no special military activities, just travelling from one village to another. The KNLA commander and the BGF commander met with each

other and agreed that they could only travel [into each other's territory] after they had informed each other, but because the BGF did not follow [the agreement], fighting happened in August 2013 in D--- village, Htee Th'Daw Hta village tract area. After the fighting, the BGF had to retreat and could not fight against their enemy [KNLA], so they became angry and they frightened the villagers with verbal and physical threats instead. They threatened the villagers so that the leader of E--- village in G--- region was afraid and migrated to Thailand in order to avoid BGF Platoon Commander Hpah Tha Beh. Lower F--- village leader, Saw C--- [who was asked to accompany Commander Hpah Tha Beh], remained in the area, but he still dares not meet with [Commander] Hpah Tha Beh [again]. For the KNLA, whether there is fighting or not, they have a responsibility to protect the civilians. The villagers are afraid of the BGF. They [BGF] have to fight against their enemy [KNU]. The civilians rely on the KNU and the KNU fulfills its responsibility [to civilians] as much as possible.

Civilians' livelihood

In Bu Tho Township, during these four months, there are no business opportunities for the civilians. The civilians only farm, but because of the unstable weather conditions, the civilians are facing food [shortage] problems. Now, even though the villagers' livelihoods were impaired by armed actors [in the past], there are still many other ways that could destroy the civilians' livelihood in the future, such as rats and insects destroying the paddy, high temperatures and unstable weather conditions.

Conclusion

The cases that I have mentioned [contain] information from the places I went, [the things] I saw with my [own] eyes, and what the civilians told me. We do not know what [problems] the civilians might face with food, healthcare and education in the future. In the future, after I find out about the dates of the incident which have happened, I will write up the information and send it again.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in November 2013)

Source Document #15

KHRG Log #:	13-138-A1-I1
Publishing Information:	"Hpa-an Interview: Saw U---, December 2013," KHRG, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/13-138-a1-i1.pdf
Project Type:	Infrastructure, militarisation
Location:	Nabu Township, Hpa-an District
Actors:	Myanmar government
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, consultation
Consequences:	Not applicable
VA Strategies:	Negotiation, lobbying KNU/KNLA
Full Text:	
Ethnicity:	Karen
Religion:	Buddhist

Marital Status: Married

Occupation:

Position: [KNU] official

What is your name?

Saw U---

How old are you?

48.

What is your village name?

A--- village, Waw Lay village tract, T'Nay Hsah [Nabu] Township, Hpa-an District.

Are you married?

I was married in 2004.

How many children do you have?

I have two children.

How old is your eldest?

The eldest is eight years old.

How old is the youngest?

The youngest is six years old.

Could you please tell us about your experience and the difficulties that you face as a [KNU official]?

Because of the emergence of the DKBA in 1994, we could not live in our area anymore and we had to leave T'Nay Hsah [Nabu] Township, and [when we] arrived at the [Thai] border we had to live under the control of the district [level KNU authorities] because the DKBA had come into our area. We re-entered our area again slowly. We had to suffer a lot because of the fighting against each other [between the DKBA and KNLA]. Our civilians were affected as well, but later, we were able to re-enter the whole township. However, another incident happened to us again in November 2007, [when] we had to leave our township again because *Hpuh*⁹ Htain Maung went back and joined with the Burmese government. This is when we left our township for the second time. So we [the KNU] lost the connection with our civilians. According to the order of our superiors we entered into our area again in September 2011. At that time the BGF, who split from the DKBA, attacked us and they were injured and our soldiers were injured as well. No soldiers of Burman [ethnicity] were injured. Furthermore, it affected the livelihood of our civilians. For example, some of the civilians were hit by landmines and

⁹ *Hpuh* is a Karen term of respect for an elderly man that translates to "grandfather," but it does not necessarily signify any actual familial relationship.

some were hit by bullets because of the fighting.

Before the ceasefire, we realised that the civilians really wanted peace. They [the civilians] have seen, known and feel that our armed groups [that split from the KNU] cannot understand each other and dare not see each other, so on behalf of us [the armed groups], our civilians, monks and leaders from [among] Christian [communities] from C---, Noh Kay village tract, Yown Ku village tract and Htee Po Kyaw village tract made a plan because they knew that it was not good for our Karen people to attack each other. They had a very specific plan and they organised a meeting in the grounds of P--- monastery and invited the leaders of the BGF, who had attacked us [in the past], the KNU, the leaders of the DKBA and the KNU/KNLA-PC to attend the ceremony. Commander *Bo Du*, the deputy commander of our [KNLA] Battalion #101 discussed this case with me and decided that we should attend this meeting because our civilians invited us and also we needed to know the result; so we went. Then we understood that our civilians wanted to find a solution. A senior monk opened the ceremony, and after that the leaders from the DKBA, BGF, KNU/KNLA-PC and KNU stood and gave speeches. In their speeches, everyone mentioned that they were working for their people. Then it came to the turn [of the civilians] to speak, and the civilians said that they were very happy to hear that all of our leaders were working for their people in their speeches, but as you [the leaders] said, the civilians are the [source of the] strength of the armed groups and the parents of the armed groups. You said that you are the representatives of the civilians and you are working for the civilians; the civilians do not want to see the armed groups splitting and fighting one another, but we dare not complain to you. Even though you call us [civilians] the “parents”, we dare not call you “our children”.

The speeches of the civilians were important [and made] us think. After that our armed groups did demining together. We also have photos. Not very long after that the ceasefire emerged in 2012 and [since then] we have had a better relationship. Then we met with the people who we had shot at with guns and it became humorous. I cannot express what the people who died in battle would say if there were alive. It is our responsibility not to fight each other again and we have to find the answer as to how to avoid it. I have no doubt that our civilians have an expectation that our armed groups will become one group. The only thing is they cannot tell us as they dare not tell us.

Could you please tell me about the situation in T’Nay Hsah [Nabu] Township since the ceasefire?

Since the ceasefire, we have been able to meet with the armed groups who split from us, we can travel and meet together and discuss things together. Our leaders also have a plan to reunite the armed groups and they founded a committee. Another thing is that since the ceasefire our leaders have met with the government many times and we have got permission for [managing] education [affairs]; we have the chance to study our language at school and the civilians are very happy. The reason why they are happy is because if we look back to the past, during the era of the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP), some of the schools in our area became government schools because our civilians had to rely on themselves to open schools because our KNU could not support them. But some parents tried their best and found ways to send their children to school. At that time the KNU could not [support] the schools because of the offensive attacks of the Burmese soldiers.

The villagers did not dare to live in the villages and fled from their villages. They had to

work as porters for the Burmese [Tatmadaw] soldiers if they were arrested, so some parents sent their children to the city to study, but the [Burma/Myanmar] government did not accept the [validity of] education provided by the KNU. However, the parents tried to find ways and bribed the teachers to get [official government school] transcripts. It was very difficult for us to contact civilians because the government practiced the four cuts¹⁰ policy. The villagers requested the government to recognise their schools and to give them teachers, but the government gave only one teacher for each school and they did not even give any teachers to some schools; they just recognised them. The villagers had to take care of the security, food and accommodation for the teachers. It was the era of the Burma Socialist Programme Party and all of these problems got worse during the era of the dictatorship government. Then the DKBA split from the KNU and it was a big problem for us to do our jobs because they knew how we operated. Some of them understood us [politically] but some of them did not understand us. Therefore, the KNU told villagers to study the Karen language because it was not connected with the armed conflict, and if we did not study our language our new generation would not understand their language. Later the DKBA started to study literature. There are two [Karen] languages [that were adopted by the DKBA]; one is *Le Ta La Nyah* and the other one is *Le Kweh Kaw* and it is compulsory to learn them [in all areas of Kayin state that are now controlled by the BGF, which formed out of the DKBA in 2010]. People in those areas have to go to language training in the summer holiday. Some people even had to attend training to become teachers of the language. The villagers had to support the people who attended the training. Sometimes the training took place in Myaing Gyi Ngu and sometime the training took place in La Nit. After the training they came to the village and organised training for the villagers in the summer holidays because the government did not give them permission to study their language during school time. Sometimes they combined two villages and sometime they combined [several villages] from the village tract and gave training and the villagers had to spend their own money.

Are they still doing it?

As far as I know they are still doing it in Wa Kyah and also in Myaing Gyi Ngu. One thing is the villagers are wondering where they will use these languages after they have learned them. Some people do not want to study them anymore. They said that other people are not interested in it and they weren't interested in it either. Some people learned a lot about those languages but they forgot all about them after they had not studied it for one or two years.

Could you please tell me about the current education situation in T'Nay Hsah [Nabu] Township?

Now there are 43 schools supported by the KNU in T'Nay Hsah [Nabu] Township. We have seen that the government sent teachers to the 43 schools. They sent two teachers to each school. It is compulsory for the civilians to accept it, so the civilians have to accept it, but some villages strongly rejected it and some villages are afraid to reject it. Some villages cannot reject it because the teachers are already there. They

¹⁰ In Burma/Myanmar, the scorched earth policy of '*pya ley pya*', literally 'cut the four cuts', was a counter-insurgency strategy employed by the Tatmadaw as early as the 1950's, and officially adopted in the mid-1960's, aiming to destroy links between insurgents and sources of funding, supplies, intelligence, and recruits from local villages. See Martin Smith. *Burma: Insurgency and the Politics of Ethnicity*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999 pp. 258-262.

are thinking about what consequences there will be if they reject it, what backing they have and what guarantees they have. Some villagers knew that it would be a big burden for them to take care of the teachers, but some of the villagers did not think about it. They were happy that the government sent teachers for them because they had to rely on themselves for a long time, but they did not think about the consequences; when the teachers arrived, they came with their [Burmese] curriculum, and their signboards and their flags, and they were only teaching their own curriculum, so they [the villagers] felt guilty when they saw it. They want the right to study their own language at school, and they want our mother organisation, the KNU, to arrange something for them and to speak on their behalf. The schools that became government schools do not have the chance to teach their language and they [the students] do not even have the chance to speak their own language at school. The reason why they do not have the chance to speak their own language is because the teachers are worried that the students will not be able to speak their language [Burmese] fluently. They fine the students if they do not speak in Burmese. We can say that they are threatening the students and on the other hand they want the students' [education] to be improved. The parents had the chance to study their own language but their children do not have the chance to study their own language, so they realised that it is a big problem for the new generation that they do not have the chance to study their own language.

Did they [villagers in Nabu Township] have the chance to study their own language before that?

Yes. They had the chance to study their own language. Like I said before, there are 43 schools and these schools used the curriculum of the KED [Karen Education Department] [before the ceasefire], and the KNU could support them before the ceasefire. From August 2013, the Burmese government sent teachers and we can say that in the middle of the year, we knew that they had not contacted the KNU headquarters [to tell them] that they had sent new teachers, so we informed the district education department [KED] that the Burmese government had sent the teachers, and we were able to stop it in some places but there were problems; the civilians could not stop [the government from entering into] some places. The KNU made a statement during the ceasefire that all activities of NGOs or the Burmese government in KNU controlled areas must have permission from KNU headquarters, and then the township level [authorities] could accept it. It gave us courage and strength and the villagers as well.

Did the Burmese government inform you that they would send teachers?

No. They did not inform us.

Who supports the teachers?

They called the teachers *Sweh Khant*.

What is the meaning of *Sweh Khant*?

Sweh Khant means they [appoint] people [to jobs in various locations] around Burma. Before this activity is implemented the government requests a list of people who have graduated but do not have jobs, then they will give them jobs. There are many people who have already graduated but have no job and they are happy to hear it, so they submit their names, and people who are willing to be teachers are assigned to be

teachers and those who are willing to be nurses are assigned to be nurses.

So they are not forced to be teachers?

No, they are not. The government already has enough teachers in their schools, so they send them to other places. For example in our KNU schools we assign one teacher to teach 25 students. We are okay with the number of students and the number of teachers, but the government sent more teachers. In my opinion I think that the government should not have done that because the government already gave permission to our leaders [to manage education affairs] when our leaders met with them. Therefore, I think the Burmese government should meet with our leaders and negotiate with them and implement this activity jointly. It makes us think like civilians during the ceasefire process when the government is doing this.

Why didn't the government send teachers before the ceasefire? And why did they send teachers after the ceasefire?

Personally I think that it would be difficult for the government to enter into our area. Also it would be difficult for them to manage the villagers and tension would rise [between them and the KNU]. I think they have been testing their influence in our areas since the ceasefire. We do not know whether their activities will be successful or not. The government relies on NGOs in order to implement its activities. The NGOs come and explain to the civilians. Most of the people from NGOs are our Karen people, so it will be easy for them to build trust and even if there is conflict it will be conflict between Karen people and it will not be connected with the Burmese government. This is one of their plots. The civilians believe that NGOs are not affiliated with the government so they can accept them, and they like it because the NGOs help them and they deserve it. The civilians might have another perspective if the activities came through the Burmese government. The people who came were Karen and they said that they were going to develop their people, so the villagers accepted it, but they found out that it was connected with the government after they had accepted it.

What about the students? Do they receive enough books?

Everything is going well with the schools supported by the KED. We can say that our school is better than the government school. We heard that the students have to buy books in government schools. For example, the school committees of R--- village mentioned that they have books at the school but the villagers do not know whether those books are free or not. The students have to buy books from the teachers if they do not have enough books.

It means there is no transparency between the parents of the students and the teachers?

Yes. There is no transparency among the teachers, students and parents. They have books in their office. But you have to give money if you want books.

Do the students need to pay school fees?

The students do not need to give school fees. But the villagers have to arrange everything for the new teachers.

What do you mean by everything?

It means rice, cooking oil, chili, monosodium glutamate (MSG),¹¹ firewood and everything. The school committee has to send the teacher to attend meetings or to attend refresher training by motorbike and then they collect the cost of the fuel from the villagers.

Who gives the salary for the teachers?

The government gives it. They get 2,700 kyat (US \$2.72) per day. They are not paid for the days they are sick, for the days they do not teach or for the important days [official holidays].

Do the students like the teachers?

As you know, our Karen people are not good at speaking Burmese and the children do not want to go to school where there are Burmese teachers. They do not go to school, but not because we discourage them. They say that they do not want to go to school because the teachers are Burmese.

Did the students enjoy going to school in the past?

Yes. They enjoyed going to school in the past with their old teachers. It is a little bit better if the teacher can speak Karen. The Burmese [government] teachers underestimated the Karen teachers at S--- school. One of them is from Thin Gan Nyi Naung and the other is from Whay Shan. They said that the Karen teachers were not legal teachers but that they were the legal teachers because the government had assigned them, so the Karen teachers should not teach. The children do not understand Burmese, so they do not understand what their teachers explain to them, and the teachers stick pens in the children's ears. Now the school committee and teachers of S--- school mentioned that they do not want to be concerned with that school anymore and they want us to find a resolution for them. They want to build a new school. They will leave the old school and people can go to that school if they want. Let the teachers teach if they have students. They asked if we could arrange it for them. They do not like the teacher.

Did the students get injured seriously?

Not that much. They scold the children [saying] that they are not clean and they are rude. In the past, the teachers taught the children about hygiene but they were afraid that the children would not come to school if they scolded them, so they just let the children come to school like that. The Burmese teachers are not like that. They want the children to come to school with clean clothes, but some parent cannot afford it.

Where do the teachers stay?

Actually they have to find their [own] houses, but it is the rainy season so they are staying in the villager's houses. Some people do not want to accept them but they accept them according to an arrangement made by the chiefs of the village [the village head and others]. They said that they would not accept them in the coming year. They

¹¹ MSG is added to food which enhances the food with an umami taste.

want the village chiefs to build a house for the teachers if they come next year.

What about the activity of the Burmese army since the ceasefire in your area?

There is no change in the activity of the Burmese army; they send food when it is time to send food and they rotate the soldiers when it is time to rotate the soldiers and they strengthen their camps. They made fences with barbed wire and covered the roofs with zinc in some places. They made the fences with bamboo in the past. For example, Light Infantry Battalions #547 and #549 did not have cement walls [in their camps] before the ceasefire. But they built cement walls and also built strong foxholes after the ceasefire. The foxholes are very strong and have stairs going under the ground and above the ground [to the top of the fox hole wall].

Have you seen the Burmese army withdraw their soldiers?

No, we have not seen it. If we look at our township, we did not see army camps in the past up until 2012, [when the Tatmadaw established a camp] at a junction on the road between Thin Gan Nyi Naung and Koe Ko. In April 2013 they based the Light Infantry Division #22 there.

What were the names of the Light Infantry Battalions you mentioned before?

They are #547, #548 and #549.

Are they [under the command of a] Light Infantry Division?

No, they are [under the command of] MOC #12. They confiscated a lot of villager's land to live there. The villagers hope that they will get the chance to work on their fields. The villagers got the chance to work on their fields last year. In the past they leased the fields to the villagers and the villagers had to pay them to work on their own fields because they said that the fields belonged to the camp. The land is not the villagers' land if we look at their laws because the law says that the air, land and water belongs to the government. In the past the highest ranking commander of these three battalions told the villagers that the land did not belong to the villagers because the land was located within range of submachine guns belonging to the camp. Notably, one of the villages there called Y--- village had to relocate to a monastery because the Burmese army confiscated their land. They hope that the Burmese army will withdraw from their village and they will get the chance to go back and live in their village.

What about the health situation in your Township?

In September, the Burmese government sent medicines for elephantiasis disease and asked the doctor to give it to the villagers, but the villagers were not given an explanation about the medicine. The villagers asked us about the medicine; they had to take the medicine before they went to bed and sick people or people with diabetes, heart disease, pregnant women and people suffering from hypertension were not supposed to take it. They also said they had never seen people who suffered from elephantiasis disease in their whole life, and it made them think. They asked us whether they should take the medicine or not, and who would take care of them if something happened to them after they took the medicine, so we asked the headquarters about it and the headquarters told us to stop the villagers from taking the medicine for a while. Then we wrote a letter and informed the villagers. We also held a

meeting with villagers and the Burmese doctors. We agreed with the government that civilians [ought] to take the medicine, but they should test the civilians and explain to the civilians about the medicine before letting them take the medicine. We asked the Burmese doctors why didn't they test the civilians before letting them take the medicine? Then some of the doctors replied that it was very difficult to get this medicine and it had taken many years to organise, and it would take time and cost more money to test the civilians. I asked them: Didn't the government have money to spend to test the villagers? Or did they not want to spend it? And why couldn't the government spend [more] time? They are our civilians even if they are not Burmese civilians, so are the villagers animals for testing or doing research on? This was our opinion. Then our leaders from headquarters informed us that the doctors from the Burmese government met with them and apologized to them for not informing them about doing this.

What about development projects in your Township?

We have not seen any real development projects in T'Nay Hsah [Nabu] Township. In 2007 we heard that the government would build an industrial zone in Myawaddy Township.¹² They [Tatmadaw] also finished [surveying for potential] oil [extraction] in Htee Chah Rah near Kok Ko. The other thing is that there is a river called the Pa Ta River, which is located between Ta Kreh [Paingkyon] Township and T'Nay Hsah [Nabu] Township. They planned to build a dam on that river but people did not allow them.¹³

Who did not give them permission?

The KNU/KNLA-PC and the KNU did not allow them. They came to meet with the KNU/KNLA-PC, the monks and civilians to do research. The company that came to do the research is called the Mitsui Company. They went there many times. They went there on the 26th and 29th of September and on the 4th of October to do research but the civilians did not give them permission. And the civilians said that you should not do research yet because there are still many armed actors, [so you should] make sure with them first and you can come and do research later. On the 4th of October 2013, they came with U Than Shwe,¹⁴ the chairman of Kawkareik Township and met with the villagers at the W--- monastery in Waw Lay village tract and explained to the villagers about the construction of the dam. They had already received the grant to construct the dam. They told the villagers that they [would] get electricity, the area would be developed and the villagers would get the chance to grow rice in the summer. He also said that he wanted to build the dam as the fruit and flowers of the ceasefire and as a memorial for the ceasefire. And the other thing was that he wanted to build the dam to benefit civilians while he was in his position as the township chairman. He introduced himself and said that his mother was Karen from the delta side and his father was Burmese from Pakkoku. So he said that he wanted to make something of benefit to the people on his mother's side, but the villagers answered that there were still many armed actors such as the KNU, DKBA, BGF, KNU/KNLA-PC and the Burmese army. The villagers said that he should try to negotiate with the armed actors first and then they could give him permission. It would be a problem for the villagers if one of the

¹² Myawaddy Township, known as Ra Ma Tee in Karen, is a government demarcated area which overlaps with the locally defined Karen district of Kawkareik.

¹³ For further information on the proposed Pa Ta Dam, see the previous News Bulletin: "Negative impacts of dam building and drug use in Paingkyon and Nabu townships, Hpa-an District, May 2014," KHRG, July 2014.

¹⁴ U Than Shwe is neither the same person as, nor related to Senior General Than Shwe who was Chairman of the SPDC from 1992-2011.

armed actors didn't like the project. Then they said that they would not do it if the civilians did not like it, but we do not know what they will do.

What is your opinion on the ceasefire between the KNU and the Burmese government?

I think that the ceasefire between the KNU and the Burmese government is a good one and they should do it. Our leaders and our people have a simple attitude on the ceasefire; we really want peace and our civilians want peace too and they want the KNU to implement it for them. The only thing is the Burmese government side. We do not know if they are honestly [engaging with] the ceasefire process or not. We have to wait and see the result when our leaders have been and met with them. We cannot give our opinion now, but for our side like I said before we had been fighting each other for a long time and our civilians want peace and I also want peace personally, but we do not know the plan of the Burmese government. It would not be the fault of our Karen leaders if they broke their promise, and it would show that they do not want peace. If we look back, the Burmese civilians also want peace and the other ethnicities want peace too. We must stop fighting each other first to build an everlasting peace. It should not be a nationwide ceasefire signed only by the ethnic groups. I believe that there will be no more sounds of gunfire if the government proclaims a nationwide ceasefire. The second thing is the constitution. I think there will be no problem if the government asks the ethnic groups to participate in the drafting of the constitution so that both sides benefit. We must have the same rights and there should be no discrimination. It will be difficult for this country to build an everlasting peace if the Burmese government just wants to play with the ceasefire.

Saw U---, (male, 48), A--- village,
Nabu Township, Hpa-an District, (Interviewed in December 2013)

Source Document #16

KHRG Log #:	13-19-S1
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun District Situation Update: Dwe Lo Township, January to February 2013,” KHRG, July 2014, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/13-19-s1_pdf.pdf
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction, infrastructure project
Location:	Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	KNLA, wealthy individuals, Myanmar private company, foreign private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, some consultation
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, health issues, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Negotiation, outreach to CBOs/NGOs, other
Full Text:	This Situation Update covers the period from January 23 rd 2013 to February 8 th 2013. Infantry Battalion (IB) #96 was led by Company Commander Sai Ko Ko and was based in a small Tatmadaw camp beside Waw Muh village, Waw Muh village tract. The

soldiers were rotated on February 1st 2013 in Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District, but the villagers do not know the new commander yet. Sometimes the Tatmadaw army requests KNLA permission to use the public road to travel back and forth during the rotation of soldiers, but this time they were not allowed by the KNLA. The KNLA also do not disturb the Tatmadaw when they [the Tatmadaw] travel on the road on the other side of the Bilin River [controlled by the Tatmadaw]. KNLA Battalion #102 and one of the KNLA checkpoints are located just behind Waw Muh village. Most of the KNLA soldiers guard the goldmines. There are no BGF [Border Guard Force] or DKBA battalions in Dwe Lo Township. The IB #96 soldiers sometimes just come into the village to buy some food. A villager said, *"They just ask villagers to carry things for them."* The A--- village head said that there is still forced labour in his village tract that is ordered by the Burma army [Tatmadaw]. They order villagers [who are labouring for them] to change [rotate] every four months, and they [the Tatmadaw] have to use [operate] on the other side of Bu Loh K'lo [River] (Bilin River) [from the KNLA], because the KNLA only allows them to use that vehicle road and they [Tatmadaw soldiers] also cannot travel on the public road (main road). In that area, the Tatmadaw is quiet and unpopular [does not have a big impact on villagers] because the villagers only see the KNLA around, especially because the KNLA's checkpoints are around nearly every goldmine site. Goldmines in Dwe Lo Township areas are controlled by the KNLA; it means they ask for taxes from every goldmine. They [the KNLA] told the villagers that they raised the taxes to be able to buy weapons and ammunition.

Villagers' situation

Most of the villagers said that the situation is a bit better than in the past, because they have not faced many violations of human rights like before. They are free to go and travel around the area and they can even cross the road on which the Tatmadaw usually travels. But some villagers are still afraid to cross the road when they hear the Tatmadaw passing by. One villager said, *"I am not strong enough to trust Burma [army] soldiers."* As he explained, in the past the Tatmadaw had interrogated him.

Nowadays, the villagers can overcome any condition because they have access to many things related to livelihood or occupation. The remaining problem is that they need to get their clean water from a distant place, because the Bilin River is muddy and unclean due to pollution from the goldmines. There is a concern for some villagers who live near the river, since they still use that muddy water and in most of the goldmines, mercury is used [in the extraction of] gold.

Most of the domestic food prices have increased, especially the price of meat. People cannot easily find meat around the area, so they have to order it from Bilin town. On the one hand, they [the villagers] are tolerant of the situation because they have more than enough vegetables since they own large vegetable [farm] lands. One villager from Kwee T'Mah said, *"In the past, when we wanted to eat fish, we could find [them] in the Bilin River, but now we can't find them anymore because the river is very muddy."* Moreover, one of villagers said, *"Now, the wild animals have become scarce."* Most of the villages near the goldmine sites are peaceful and under the control [of the KNLA]. The villagers do not dare to complain too much about goldmine projects, because they could face reprisals from many sides [different armed groups]. One of the villagers in Mah Lay Ler village tract said, *"In the past, we could find gold with a handmade bowl of wood, especially during the years that we didn't have enough rice, but now we can't do that anymore."* This happened because every place where the villagers used to find gold has become a goldmine site. In those areas, most of the villagers travel by car and motorbike because the public road is quite good. The dusty road ends at Nat Kyi in Bilin Township, Thaton District, and most of the shopkeepers in Mah Lay Ler, Kwee T'Mah

and Waw Muh village tracts use this road and go to buy goods in Bilin Township as that only takes one hour of travelling.

Concerning health, most of the houses in the three village tracts mentioned above do not have toilets, so most of the children get diarrhoea and they are sent to Bilin Public Hospital since not every village tract has expert nurses and medics. Also, most of the nurses or medics have private businesses in their village, which means that they own a pharmacy or shop to earn money. They also go around treating patients in their respective village tracts. There are not many clinics in those three village tracts, so villagers cannot get free medication.

As for education, most of the children are sent to school, but there is no high school or a proper middle school. They only have two schools that have grades one to seven. Most of the children are eager to go to school, and some of them are sent to villages near their own town to continue their studies [because some families cannot afford to send their children to school in the town]. Most of the families consider education a first priority, so the children have to give up time for school and their parents have to pay fees. One of the parents said, "*They always have to go to school*", because they worry that their child will fail an exam if they do not go, especially during the higher grades. The schools do not receive enough support and the teachers' salaries are very low.

Villagers' livelihood

Most of the time, the villagers harvest sesame seeds, soybeans and bake sugarcane juice into sugar bars. They grind the sesame seeds to make oil and they cook soybeans to make bean paste. They also sell fresh soybeans for 8,000 kyat (US \$7.31) a tin. After that, they wait for the traders or people who [place] orders and [then] sell goods [to them]. Some villagers make ale and the price for one pack of sugar bars is 1,000 kyat (US \$0.91). One pack of sugar bars can produce three bottles of ale (white Karen whisky). Selling ale in the village is one of the main businesses for the income of a household and the price for one bottle of ale is 1,000 kyat. Most of the villagers in these areas drink ale all the time and most of the men get drunk, especially in the evening. People who live near the river bank make cement blocks, while some Burmese families make wooden boats and some families have vegetable gardens on the fertilised sand of the river bank. Most of the home shops in those village tracts are selling little things such as snacks, juice and other household items. There are a lot of villagers who buy three-digit lottery tickets. Almost all the villagers seem to be addicted to the three-digit lottery. They buy tickets, hope to win the lottery and spend more money on the lottery than on other, more important, things.

Development project in three village tracts (Waw Muh, Kwee T'Mah, Mah Lay Ler)

In these three village tracts, the most popular work is at the goldmines, where this has been happening for six years and is permitted by the Dwe Lo Township leader in cooperation with KNLA Battalion #102.

However, there is a problem of using too many (40-50) backhoes that first started in the Dwe Lo Township goldmine projects this year. It happened because the agents [land-brokers] divided one piece of land into many smaller parts. The township leader allowed them to use three backhoes for each piece of land. Only villagers can [were allowed to] do gold mining in 2012. However, most of the villagers did not mine, because they did not have sufficient money to run a project. Only some people can do [mining], but those people cannot mine alone. There are seven main people, who are called A--- (Mah Lay Ler village), B--- (Poh Gheh Hta village), Naw C--- (Kwee T'Mah village), Naw D---, Saw

E--- (Poh Gheh Htaw), F--- (Meh The) and Naw G--- (Waw Muh). They became agents who are in contact and cooperate with business people who have money and companies who want to do gold mining. They [the business people] paid 7,000,000 [kyat] (US \$6,404.39) for each piece of farmland and they also persuaded the villagers to sell their land.

One FTUK [Federal Trade Union of Kawthoolei] leader called *p'doh* [governor] Win Maw was responsible for the Dwe Lo Township area. He said, "*Now you [villagers who own land] have a chance [to sell land]; you don't know what will happen in the future.*" Then the villagers became worried about the future and they were afraid of the threat, so they sold it [the land]. The FTUK [leader] Win Maw received a commission from doing [business with] an agency and for selling the land. One villager said that he received more than 10,000,000 kyat (US \$9,149.13). One villager from T--- village in Mah Lay Ler village tract said, "*We are not satisfied with the project, because now there is no place [land] for us. In the past, we could do it [use the land] whenever we wanted to, but now there are no benefits for us.*" Most villagers do not complain about the project, but they stay quiet with their heads full of worries and threats. During interviews, they do not dare to speak too much about the project.

When the backhoes were banned, some agents complained that they had debts of more than 10,000,000 kyat. Actually, the agents do not have debts because they run the project. Instead, the business people [both local and from the towns or cities] who do the gold mining in those three village tracts have debts and they cannot mine without backhoes, because some areas have huge rocks. Especially the business people who do not have their own backhoes could no longer afford food, daily wages, and [the cost of] hiring backhoes. Over 20 to 30 labourers are needed for every single goldmine site and their wage is 3,000 kyat (US \$2.74) per day plus food. Some businessmen earn a salary of 100,000 [kyat] (US \$91.49) per month.

Most of the workers from the 3rd Brigade [Nyaunglebin District] are experts and have experience in finding gold. Some goldmines are already closed, but some [goldmine owners] are still waiting in hope while some backhoes are already heading back to the towns. As a result, the agents are worried. The three female agents, Naw C---, Naw B--- and Naw G--- from Waw Muh village tract, went to the township offices and tried to request that the [township] leader allow gold mining using backhoes again. The township leader refused the request and gave the option that they would be allowed to mine with pumping machines only. He asked them to get a request [permission] from the KNU [Karen National Union] headquarters. However, there is no answer yet. One of the agents said that, "*If the headquarters close the projects then they should not only close them in 5th Brigade [Hpapun District], but they should also close them in the other brigades. After that, there will be no more complaints and misunderstandings, and the villagers will also be happy.*"

Most of the villagers seem to dislike the goldmines, because it affects their livelihoods and brings other difficulties, as most of the workers come from other areas and have different languages and customs. The main problem is the pollution that affects the water in the river. The water is all muddy and polluted, so there are no fish. As a result, one villager said, "*We had more food before these goldmine projects. But now the fish are gone.*" This could be true because how can fish survive in muddy water? The villager also said, "*We haven't had stream fish curry for a long time.*" Most of the streams are damaged and the streams have also become smaller as people mine on both sides of the stream.

The main goldmine site is Shwe Nyaung Bin. The land is destroyed and you cannot even see where the stream runs. It looks like a new community because there is a school for the children and a big market full of goods, shops, bars, restaurants and a billiard hall. There are many motorbikes and trucks. It seems like a new town. The most dangerous development is that goldmines are using mercury, which can badly affect the human body. The workers do not have much knowledge about mercury and do not use gloves but their bare hands when they are using mercury. Maybe the gloves are too expensive or they do not know how to do it (find gold) with just bamboo or wood. The agents, businessmen and companies do not provide any education and they never talk about the disadvantages or effects of the project, such as polluted water and the dangers of using mercury.

Moreover, the agents only cooperate with local leaders and powerful people in the area where they are planning to mine. They do not care about the villagers. In this case, the villagers do not have knowledge about FPIC [free, prior and informed consent] and developers also do not follow this norm. One of the developers, Saw Kyaw Kyaw, who is currently cooperating with Japanese people [a company], seemed to not know much about FPIC during a land rights workshop [conducted by a KHRG community member] and he asked for a VCD to watch it [a video with information about FPIC] again. The Japanese [company] came to request permission to do gold mining in Dwe Lo Township, but the leaders [from Dwe Lo Township] did not give permission yet.

The Burma movie star Way Lu Kyaw (known to be in military intelligence), who most of the time cooperates with *Bo* [Officer] Play ([KNLA] Commander of the 1st Brigade), came to a Dwe Lo Township meeting at an unknown place on January 24th 2013 [to discuss] the goldmine development. One village tract secretary said that Way Lu Kyaw wants to develop the road from the 1st Brigade/Thaton District to Hpapun town (Hpapun District). He is not allowed to do that project yet. A knowledgeable [person] said, "*The Burmese co-operators [Tatmadaw representatives] want to say that they cooperate [with the KNLA] and that they are able to talk with the other [KNLA] brigade military commanders, but the 5th Brigade is difficult to cooperate with.*" He said this because most of the soldiers and commanders from Hpapun District [5th Brigade] do not want to cooperate with Burmese people when they are invited for a meeting with Burma governors [government representatives] or Tatmadaw commanders. However, there is no tension between those two groups [KNLA and Tatmadaw soldiers in Hpapun District].

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District, (Received in February 2013)

Source Document #17

KHRG Log #:	13-31-D1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Short Update, Bu Tho Township, February 2013," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	BGF and unidentified private company

Compensation or Consultation Hpapun:	Some compensation, unknown consultation
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Lobbying KNU/KNLA
Full Text:	
<p>On the 11th of February 2013, in Ka Ter Ti (Ka Dai Ti), Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District, a car bomb blasted and smashed a BGF construction company (Greenhill Construction Company) car which carried sand at 7:10/15 am, and killed four civilian workers [who] were in that car on that morning named Kayin Lay (from Ka Ma Maung), Nga Tu (from Hpapun), car driver Yan Naing Oo and Shine Htait Aung. These four victims were hired by Ko Myo (former Ka Ter Ti village head) and the BGF to construct a BGF camp in Ka Ter Ti. Shine Htaik Aung was sent to Pa'an, Taung K' Lay Hospital but he died with severe injuries to his head, legs, hands, and eyes. The location of the car mine explosion is on the bank of Yozalin River south-east Taw Thoo Kla and northern east Khaw Wah Hta villages [between these two villages].</p> <p>The funerals of these four civilians were supported with only 500,000 kyat (US \$457.45) each - a total of 2,000,000 kyat (US \$1,829.82) by Ko Myo and the BGF construction company [Green Hill Company]. Green Hill Company is doing construction for the BGF at a place between Noh Paw Htee and Ka Ter Ti village. The Green Hill Company supported [the four civilians involved in the accident with] 300,000 kyat (US \$274.47) each and former Ka Ta Ti village head supported 200,000 kyat (US \$182.98) each.</p> <p>It happened because Ko Myo and BGF forced the land owner named Htain Yee also called [Pu Seh Bay] to sign the agreement to sell the sand in his farm. But in that area, there were three villagers' whose lands were located close to each other. They are Ah Tu (from Taw Thoo Klar [Taung Thu Ywar]) and Maung Aung (from Ghaw Wah Tah). According to our field researcher, because there is no land grant, it is not clear what land belongs to whom.</p> <p>According to community members (who were trained in TOT training [teacher training]) who collected this information said the other two land owners, whose land was damaged by sand extraction requested the cessation of sand extraction from the area as their fences and land were damaged by the process, three to four times. [This damage occurred] even after asking village tract leader Mg Kyaw and KNLA local officer Daw Kheh to help them [to] request them to stop. According to a community member who was trained in TOT who collected this information the land owners did not get any payment [compensation] for the sand that was taken from their land but according to our field researcher, the company and BGF paid 600,000 kyat (US \$548.94) and three of the land owners shared 200,000 kyat each.</p> <p>The community members who were trained in TOT training collected this information and told KHRG that those two asked for help from the KNLA to take action. It happened around two furlongs from the main road and estimated 1.5 or 2 miles from the BGF camp, so according to the frontier rule, the BGF or Tatmadaw could not go 1,000 feet far from their camp. After that incident, there was a curfew ordered for the villagers not to go outside the village by BGF and Tatmadaw. Two villagers were beaten after [being] questioned as they went out far from the village according to the order and the villagers do not dare to go out now as [the] BGF and Tatmadaw always checking the areas.</p>	

[KHRG] field researchers cannot confirm who is planting the landmines and have even asked villagers; none of the villagers could confirm. But in this area there are KNLA, DKBA, BGF and Burmese Tatmadaw operating.

Short Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in March 2013)

Source Document #18

KHRG Log #:	13-44-S1
Publishing Information:	“Hpa-an Situation Update: T’Nay Hsah Township, April 2013,” KHRG, October 2013, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/13-44-s1_pdf.pdf
Project Type:	Agriculture
Location:	Nabu Township, Hpa-an District
Actors:	Wealthy individuals
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Formal registration, negotiation
Full Text:	
<p>This situation update is based on information that was collected during the period of April 2nd 2013 to April 11th 2013 in Htee Hpoh Kyaw village tract and Noh Kyaw village tract, in T’Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District. KNLA Battalion #101 of the 7th Brigade is operating between Th’Waw Thaw and Meh Pah Leh near the main road of Myawaddy. The BGF, KNU/KNLA-PC and the DKBA also operate around those areas. There have been several visible and common human rights abuses such as drug trafficking, land confiscation and logging in T’Nay Hsah Township, as there are so many armed groups in that area. The KNLA Battalion #101 also just entered into the Government controlled areas. According to the villagers, while the KNLA has entered these areas, they do not intend to bother other armed groups, as they do not want any problems during the ceasefire. To sum up, the villagers said, “The armed groups are not negotiating [with] each other so it is a big problem for the villagers to face. [Also] there are no Burmese military [Tatmadaw] camps or troops operating around those areas.” As the villagers said at the time, “The areas are black areas [non-Government controlled areas] so they didn’t cross here”.</p> <p>Saw P---, the village head of M---, said that he asked [for] official land registration from Kawkareik Township to survey the size of his villagers’ lands. Saw P--- said that, in case there is an attempt at confiscating his land, he can prove with official evidence that he owns the land. He said that there are gardens, farms and community lands but there are no vacant lands. However, the official [from the Burma Government] refused to come to measure and said, “We can’t as those areas are black areas”. The official also said that it is dangerous for them to enter those areas.</p> <p>All of the various forces are quiet as their families live around there [Htee Hpoh Kyaw village tract]. However, some of the BGF families sell drugs [methamphetamines].</p>	

These drugs are very popular in these areas and you can find them in most of the villages around there such as, Meh Pah Leh, and Htee Hpoh Kyaw. Methamphetamines are quite expensive: one pill can be sold for 3,000 kyat (US \$2.74). One of the female villagers said, "You can have half profit by selling amphetamines". Some women worry about their children as people can find drugs easily around the villages and they worry for the young people who are using those drugs. One woman said that after people take drugs, they [are] restless and sometimes they do not come back home as they go around even at night. However, it seems like they cannot do anything to protect themselves and their family. One villager said, "Even the village head and village tract leader can't behave as the people do who sell the drug. They have Oh Daw Aner [translated directly is, "have their horns," which means that they have weapons]." One of the KNLA [Battalion] #101 military intelligence [officers] said that, if they take action to stop this, they worry there will be a conflict between armed groups, so they just stay quiet and do nothing. Most of the villagers want to stop drugs from being sold in their village but they are helpless. Also there are so many people in Htee Hpoh San [Htee Hpoh Kyaw] who use drugs and the village tract head also wants to stop this drug issue, but he has no idea about how to approach the armed groups.

Now, most of the private people who are business people from outside of the village come and set up rubber plantations and log aloe wood or eagle wood. Among these, the logging issue is the one which the villagers have wanted to stop, but the villagers cannot do anything as the forest administrator will not take action. Armed groups seem like they do not care about each other, for example, they do not tell [communicate with other armed groups], they do not negotiate, and they do not stop, but they just care about their own business. One of the private businessmen came to Meh Pah Leh with the intention of setting up a plantation project [planting aloe trees], which is a very popular business now. If you are successful, you can get a lot of profit, as a 5-year-old aloe tree will be offered for 1,500,000 kyat (US \$1,372.36). On the other hand, you have to hire an expert from the city to make your aloe seeds grow, and the villagers said that, the expert costs up to 1,000,000 kyat (US \$914.91) and each tree also has to be vaccinated which costs 100,000 kyat (US \$91.49) according to what the villagers said. Only outsiders come to set up plantations in those areas.

Landmines are also common risks in those areas, especially since there are plenty of landmines near P---, L----, and T---villages according to research and interviews by KHRG staff. They [the landmines] are still a threat for the villagers. This issue started two years ago in 2010 when the DKBA split away from Tatmadaw by refusing to become a part of the BGF. At [the end of] those two years, the armed groups planned to protect themselves or to trap their opposition by planting landmines around their operating areas. But, sometimes they even planted [the mines] in the villagers' plantation gardens or farms which they thought their enemy might operate from. As a result, the villagers from P---, L--- and T--- villages said that they do not even dare to think about going into the forest or into the gardens as some of the villagers have stepped on the landmines before, and also their domestic animals were hit by landmines. Because of those experiences, the villagers are very aware of the landmines and, also, the armed groups have not informed the villagers where they planted the landmines. The villagers said that they could not remember the places, some even step on their own landmines, and some may have already died. One of the KNLA Battalion #101 soldiers said that they inform the villagers where the landmines are planted because they knew where most of their landmines are. As a warning, the villagers tell their children to be aware of landmines during the daytime, and also to be aware of viper snakes at night time.

Villager situation

The following is an update on the situation in the village tract. This report was written around the time of the Water Festival, when the villagers were busy with the preparation for the coming Water Festival. Some families had their children return home, as well as their relatives who were finding money for their families [working] in Bangkok. Some have already come back from Bangkok to celebrate the Water Festival with their family. Some young people and men became monks and novices, as during this month most of the people want to be monks or novices. Some families were in a rush to try to finish their work before Water Festival, as most of the villagers want to stop all of their work during Water Festival. The schools are closed and there is a closing ceremony also held before the Festival because children and kids usually join the Water Festival.

Noh Kay and Noh Gyaw village tracts do not have high schools, only middle schools, so the children who graduate from middle school have to continue their further studies in larger towns, such as Kawkareik or Hpa-an. As a result, the school fees cost a lot for the parents. Tenth standard [the final year of high school in Burma], especially, costs a lot of school fees for the villagers. Some years the cost is over 1,000,000 kyat (US \$914.91) per year and the villagers cannot see their children until the summer holidays, as they are studying in another place.

People are rebuilding their houses for the new-year and coming rainy season. Some villagers only collect logs and bamboo to rebuild their houses. During summer, villagers have a hard time finding jobs to earn money for their family. The villagers there only use wells that they dig by themselves, as there is no stream or river near those areas. There is a brook nearby Th'Waw Thaw, but it seems dirty and people only use it for washing their clothes. There is only one clinic in Noh Yaw Thaw which is supported by an unknown group from the border. This group is new to them and they just came into the area around this month [April]. There are over 20 health workers who held the meeting on April 7th 2013 in Noh Yaw Thaw Clinic. But some villagers go to Kawkareik public hospital when they have a serious disease. According to what the villagers said, there are no serious diseases and they rarely see sick people.

Most of the people go to the monastery as there are always religious events celebrated in the monastery which are led by the monks. Most of the villagers are religious but hardly participate in the random village meeting and do not respect the village heads. There was previously a problem that most of the villagers do not want to be village heads and the village head positions changed each month. But now, because of the ceasefire, most of the village heads last for years. Most of the participants in the VA workshop said that some villagers are breaking village rules. However after being questioned about the rules of the village, it is obvious that most of the villages there do not have village rules for the villagers. Moreover, the villagers said that they are not united, as they do not see each other much in work or in any social events or village work.

Livelihood

Most of the women in the village tract do not have special jobs, as most of the housewives only make or cook alcohol and this work becomes their career. They earn money very quickly, as the cost of a bottle of alcohol is 1,000 kyat (US \$0.91) and most of the villagers there drink a lot of alcohol. There is also a sawpit which is owned by a private businessman in the village. Now, some villagers have already prepared for

growing paddy in the coming rainy season. Most of the villagers make charcoal for household use and for selling it in the town. In the summer, this business is also popular for the villagers as a seasonal occupation. Some families go around with a Hand Tractor 590 and sell raw goods such as fresh honey, boiled betel vine, betel nuts, and fish paste or prawn paste. There are some people who have enough money to start selling things in their house such as selling snacks like dried food and raw goods.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Nabu Township, Hpa-an District, (Received in April 2013)

Source Document #19

KHRG Log #:	13-46-S1
Publishing Information:	“Nyaunglebin Situation Update: Kyaukkyi Township, February to April 2013,” KHRG, December 2013, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/13-46-s1.pdf
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction, other
Location:	Kyaukkyi Township, Nyaunglebin District
Actors:	Wealthy individuals, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, health issues, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Lobbying KNU/KNLA, lobbying government officials, official petitions/complaint mechanisms
Full Text:	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>In our region, human rights abuses are always occurring. They are (1) forced labour; (2) demanding money; (3) causing troubles [to villagers] by [arbitrarily] detaining them; (4) water [lake] problems where the rich people confiscate the residents’ properties; and (5) finally, the ongoing activities of the Burma military [Tatmadaw].</p> <p>There are many kinds of human rights abuses but the villagers’ faces are turned [tricked] and the abuses are committed in a sneaky way. Moreover, the Government speaks out to do development projects and much of the land they have invaded is being used for [development projects] and is being destroyed. The villagers from the region are only labourers. The country’s leaders substitute politics with economics.</p> <p>Forced labour in Moo Township region</p> <p>On February 11th 2013, LIB [Light Infantry Battalion] #590 and IB [Infantry Battalion] #30, which are based in Htee Ler Baw Hta camp, demanded 18 carts from D--- village and 40 carts from F--- village, so that there were 58 carts in total. They [F--- and D--- villagers] have to go and transport things from Theh Hpyu Chaung. They asked the villagers to go and take the rations with the carts because their rations were only sent to Theh Hpyu Chaung. The villagers were not given any wages for transporting [rations].</p> <p>On the same day, Battalion Deputy Commander Aung Naing Htway from LIB #590 demanded 23 carts from K--- village to send rations to Ma La Daw military camp.</p>	

Demanding money

The LIB #264 demanded money from the gold miners in Ler Doh [Kyauk Kyi] Township region and Hsaw Htee [Shwegyin] Township. They [LIB# 264] demanded 350,000 kyat (US \$320.00) from [the owner of] each gold mining machine every month. Battalion Commander Kyaw Myo Oo from LIB #264 asked his people to collect money for two months from the gold mining machines. On February 5th 2013, the LIB #349 replaced LIB #264. There are 50 gold mining machines, and because a new battalion arrived and demanded money from them again, it causes difficulty for them [the villagers]. Demanding money from the gold mining machines is not the taxation policy that the Government has set up, but is only an illegal way of collecting tax.

Battalion Commander Kyaw Min Oo from LIB #264, which is based in Baw K'Hta, military camp demanded logs from the logging machine [owners] and said that he would pay for the logs, but after his battalion was rotated he did not provide the payment.

LIB #264 Battalion Commander Kyaw Min Oo took logs from people's logging machines and [the cost of the logs are]: (1) 2,000,000 kyat (US \$1,829.82) from Saw E---'s logging machine; (2) 1,500,000 kyat (US \$1,540.00) from L---; and (3) 1,000,000 kyat (US \$1,027.00) from M---. When the Battalion Commander took the logs, he told the owners that he would give them money for the cost, but still has yet to give any. The LIB #264 took the logs starting in November 2012.

Detention and giving trouble

On March 25th 2013, SOC [Strategic Operations Command] #8 Commander Aung Kyaw Kay detained and gave trouble to [questioned] a villager in Hsaw Mee Loo military camp when the B--- villager who went and lived in Taw Oo [Toungoo] Town was coming back to visit his siblings and his villagers. When he came back, the Government military [Tatmadaw] arrested him and gave him trouble before releasing him on March 26th 2013. If we look at this situation, even though there is a ceasefire agreement, the villagers cannot travel freely.

Information on the lake

In the village tracts [of Nyaunglebin District], there are many lakes. Regarding the lakes, in the past, villagers from the village tracts could access the lake by paying a tax for a fishing license for each year. Then, they could get fish paste or frog paste that villagers were not only able to eat but also sell to other places. However, in the era of the party council [Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)], the villagers could no longer work on the lakes that they previously could access because the licenses for the lake were bought by the rich people from the party council. The Government only taxed the rich people 500,000 kyat (US \$513.00) for a license to access the lake; however, if the villagers want to access the lakes, they have to pay the rich people 3,000,000 kyat (US \$3,080.00) for a license to fish.

Therefore, it causes difficulties for the villagers. The villagers who had access to the lake no longer have the chance to eat the frogs or fish and cannot work on the lakes anymore. Therefore, in 2012, the KNU [Karen National Union leaders] from Ler Doh Township forbade the lakes from being fenced [by the rich people] and they allowed every villager to earn their living [by fishing in the lakes with a common use system]. The region of that place is in A Nyin Pwa region that is controlled by both the KNU and the Burma government.

Two systems for accessing the lake are being followed by the rich people and the villagers; one set up by the KNU and the other by the Burma government. The KNU said villagers can access lakes on a common use system while Burma government issued licenses to rich people who then sold the licenses at exploitative prices to the villagers.

When the villagers followed the common use system created by the KNU, the villagers were sent to court [by Burma government officials]. Therefore, it causes difficulties for the villagers. KNU gives permission to fish in the lakes, so the villagers fish there. Villagers from Ler Doh Township region can fish but the Fishery Department and fishery lessees [agents] have created problems, requiring eight H--- villagers from Ler Doh Township to go to court; [these villagers are]: (1) Ko P---, (2) Ko S---, (3) T---, (4) Ko V---, (5) Ko Ht---, (6) Ko Au---, (7) Ko Sh---, and (8) Ko St---. These people have to go to an appointment at court because they fished.

The case went all the way to the presidential level and the president gave villagers permission to access the lake by paying the taxes to the local government rather than the rich people at the higher price. However, the villagers from Shwegyin Township still cannot access the lake for a fair fee.

If we look at [the case], it is not concerned with the villagers. It is concerned with the government and the two groups [the government and the KNU] that have taken control. They need to be clear with each other. As the two groups are not clear with each other, it causes difficulties for the villagers. The lake case was a problem for the whole Kler Lwee Htoo [Nyaunglebin] District. The villagers who had access to the lakes could not fish from the lakes anymore because the lakes were only in the wealthy people's hands. Everything [fishing] is done by the Fishery Department [staff] and the brokers.

If we look at when the Fishery Department leased the lakes to contractors for fishing, they not only leased the lakes, which have licenses issued by the government, but they also leased the Bote Pyin Lake and the streams. The streams are where the villagers fished together in the past. Now, the villagers cannot fish anymore because the wealthy people bought them and work on them. Therefore, it causes difficulties for the villagers. The lake issues occur in all of Nyaunglebin District.

Government military's situation

The groups of government military [Tatmadaw] based in our region are active and replace themselves in Bgay Hkoh in Moo Township region and in Ler Doh Township region. The Southern Military Headquarters is the active military group and controls two Operations Commands; the Ler Doh Operations Command and Shwegyin Operations Command. The military groups that operate in Ler Doh and Moo [townships] are LIBs #351, #599, and #590; IBs #60 and #5; LIB #307; and IBs #30 and #20. In Shwegyin, LIBs #264, #349 and #589 and IB #57 are active, and for MOC [Military Operations Command] #4, there are 10 battalions: LIBs #701, #702, #703, #704, #705, #706, #707, #708, #709 and #710. They set up their Operations Command in Muh Theh.

On February 18th 2013, the MOC #8 replaced the MOC #4.

Landmine case

On January 2nd 2013, Saw Eh---, a 22-year-old, whose father's name is U Gr---, and lives in X--- village, Moo Township went to the forest in order to find firewood. On the way to the forest nothing happened, but on the way back [home], at 9:00 am, he was hit

by a landmine at Y--- village. The sole of his foot was split open from being hit by the landmine and he was sent to the Ler Doh Hospital. His leg did not need to be amputated.

On April 20th 2013, a villager from Moo Township, Uh---, also referred to as Ko Hs---, who is a 23-year-old whose father's name is U Th---, was hit by a landmine at 7:00 am while he went and looked for firewood. He was sent to Moo Hospital and his left leg was amputated. He was hit by landmine at [a place] one mile from Kyuang Su, which is in Kyi La Myaung region. Both the KNLA and the Burma militaries are active in that place.

On February 13th 2013 at 7:00 am, Dt---, an 18-year-old boy whose father's name is U Na---, from Lh--- village, Moo Township went to log. He went with a cart and, on the way there, a landmine hit the cart and Dt---'s back. The place where [he was hit by the landmine] was in Kr---. He was sent to the Moo Township Hospital after he was hit by the landmine.

On March 2nd 2013, a villager called Kyaw J---, 25-years-old, whose father's name is U M---, from Meh Meh Su village, Moo Township was hit by a landmine while he went and looked for vegetables. He was hit by a landmine at K--- village and he was hit by the landmine at 5:45 am while he went and looked for vegetables. His right leg was cut off [by the landmine].

Villagers are always hit by landmines in Moo Township, and the Burma military is still active until now. Even though there is a ceasefire agreement, the Burma military has not ceased its activities yet but is still active there. Even the KNLA is active there. Therefore, as the two military groups are active, I do not know whether the landmines are old landmines or new ones. We cannot say whether the landmines are from the Burma military or the KNLA for sure. If we look at [the situation], because of the armed groups' fighting, the villagers have to suffer in the middle. The places where the landmines exploded are in the Moo Township region.

Gold mining in the region

In our region, there are a lot of people who mine gold. The gold miners dig the land and pan with a machine. They use chemicals to mine gold and, in the future, it will cause drinking water problems for the region.

If the [water which includes the] chemicals is drunk, four lives will be killed. Regarding the gold miners from the region, because the wealthy people cannot mine directly, they use the resident miners from that area; the resident miners do as much work as they can handle. The gold miners [businessmen] are from Yangon. There are only a few residents [local villagers]. The gold mining destroys the land a lot and harms the environment. Moreover, because they use the chemicals, it causes problems for the residents. The water is not pure and there is only poisonous water left.

The gold mining takes place in Ler Doh and Hsaw Htee townships regions. Nowadays, the government does not solve the ethnic conflicts and political problems; instead of doing this they are focusing on business. There are over 100 businessmen and they request permission to mine gold.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kyaukkyi Township, Nyaunglebin District, (Received in May 2013)

Source Document #20

KHRG Log #:	13-49-I1			
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun Incident Report: Destruction of paddy nursery field in Dwe Lo Township, November 2012,” KHRG, July 2014, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/13-49-i1_pdf.pdf			
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction, infrastructure			
Location:	Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District			
Actors:	Myanmar government officials, wealthy individuals			
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown			
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, health issues, livelihood issues			
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs			
Full Text:				
<u>Part 1 – Incident Details</u>				
Type of Incident	Paddy nursery field destroyed			
Date of Incident(s)	November 10 th 2012			
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	K--- village, Meh Hkyoh village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District			
Victim Information				
Name	Saw A---			
Age	62			
Sex	Male			
Nationality	Karen			
Family	Married			
Occupation	Farmer			
Religion	Buddhist			
Position	Villager			
Village	K--- village			
Perpetrator Information				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Dah Muh	Leader of women's organisation		Kwee T'Ma village	Wealthy individuals from the town
Hpaw Nay Thah Moh	SPDC [Burma government] Chairman		Waw Muh village	
<u>Part 2 - Information Quality</u>				

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

On November 10th 2012, a gold mining project was implemented and the people who work as brokers [between businessmen and the villagers] are Dah Muh and Hpaw Nay Thah Moh. They requested that the [local] Karen leaders give them permission to conduct a gold mining [project] and they constructed a vehicle road through my [paddy] nursery field. Therefore, in the rainy season [when I work on my fields], I cannot work on the same nursery field. As I am too old, I cannot prepare a new nursery field. This causes difficulties [for me].

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

Regarding this case, the nursery field is my own nursery field which was destroyed because of the construction of a new road and this is a true case.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail. For each incident, be sure to include 1) when the incident happened, 2) where it happened, 3) what happened, 4) how it happened, 5) who was involved, and 6) why it happened. Also describe any villager response(s) to the incident, the aftermath and the current living situation of the victims. Please use the space prepared below, and create an attachment if needed.

[The following is an account of the incident in the words of Saw A---]:

"I live in K--- village and my name is Saw A---. I have been living in K--- since I was a child. I am a farmer and I have worked on this paddy nursery field every year. This year, there is a gold mining [project in the area] and they constructed a road [to facilitate access to it]. My nursery field was destroyed so I cannot scatter seeds and have to face very big difficulties. On November 10th 2012, Naw Dah Muh and Hpaw Nay Thah Moh requested permission from the [local] Karen leaders to mine for gold. On the [same] day they received permission and they constructed a vehicle road in order to transport materials [to the mining project]. They constructed a road in Meh Hkyoh village tract, K--- village that ran through my paddy nursery field, which destroyed my field. Now, because the nursery field was destroyed, I do not have a nursery field [anymore]. In order to create this paddy nursery field, I had to dig out the trees [as the land was overgrown]. I had to work very hard for three or four years and it [eventually] became a paddy nursery field. Now, it has just been destroyed and I am very upset. In the coming year, in order to sow paddy [seeds], I have to find a new place for a paddy nursery field and it will be very difficult for me. If I look at [think about] the gold mining [project], I am not the only person who has had to suffer. The people from my surrounding area also might have suffered a lot. For some people, their sluices are being destroyed. Some of the people's lands are being destroyed, and for some people, their crops are being destroyed. Moreover, the natural environment, trees, bamboo and the rivers and streams are also being destroyed. The animals, [such as buffalos, cows and fish], have to drink murky water and it causes them illness and death. If we look at the gold mining [project], the rich people and the brokers work on it and there is no benefit for the local people. It only benefits those individual people. I think the Karen leaders might have thought that this gold mining would benefit the civilians and opened [gave permission for] gold mining, but

because there is no benefit for the civilians, I think they should stop it. Finally, I will just say this: if the Karen leaders forbid gold mining, I will be very happy and also the civilians will be very happy."

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

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

If you use the information and the issue is resolved such that there is no gold mining, I will be satisfied.

Incident Report written by a KHRG Researcher, K--- village, Meh Hkyoh village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District, (Received in May 2013)

Source Document #21

KHRG Log #:	13-49-P1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Photo Notes: Dwe Lo Township, Received in May 2013," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun Township
Actors:	Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues, forced labour
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpapun District in May 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0637 - 0640 [These photos] were taken on January 28th 2013. I took these photos of the workers in their work area at the gold mine in Kaw Paw Klow [village], Waw Muh [village] tract. The work was stopped from 2011 to 2012 because of a lack of machines and workers. [However], in 2013 gold mining is increasing. They dig for gold in the mountains, crush [the stone] with machines and take the gold from the stone powder. These are photos of the stone crushing machines and the workers.</p> <p>Photo #: 0641 - 0644 [These photos] were taken on January 29th 2013. I took these photos in the house of Saw A--- in B--- village, Waw Muh village tract. She [the woman in the photo] is a teacher at B--- primary school. Her name is C--- and I interviewed her about the abuse of human rights. She said that gold mining brings no benefit to the villagers. The drainage [system] has been damaged and the Tatmadaw order the villagers to work.</p> <p>Photo #: 0651 - 0653</p>	

[These photos] were taken on February 4th 2013. I interviewed Saw D--- and he said that his farm's drainage [system] was destroyed because of the gold digging process and the road extension. [Now] he does not have water for farming. I took the photos in his house after the interview.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District, (Received in May 2013)

Source Document #22

KHRG Log #:	13-49-S1
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun Situation Update: Dwe Lo Township, March 2012 to March 2013,” KHRG, July 2013, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/khrg13b45.pdf
Project Type:	Militarisation, natural resource extraction, agriculture
Location:	Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, BGF, DKBA, KNU, wealthy individuals, foreign private companies, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Some compensation
Consequences:	Health issues, livelihood issues, environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Lobbying government officials, other, lobbying KNU/KNLA
Full Text:	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>In the previous years 2009 to 2010, the civilians in Dwe Lo Township had to suffer from the DKBA's [Democratic Karen Benevolent Army] and SPDC's [Tatmadaw's] forced labour and portering. Also when the DKBA came and mined gold in Baw Paw [Lo], Meh Kleh, and Meh Toh rivers, they confiscated the civilians' lands in order to mine gold. The civilians' vegetation, dog fruit plantations, farms and the environment were damaged a lot. Since 2011, the civilians have not suffered forced labour, looting or gold mining from the SPDC and DKBA anymore. Even though the things like forced labour, demanding and looting of peoples' chickens and goats from the SPDC army that's active in our area have decreased, some remains.</p> <p>Since 2011 until now, the greatest difficulty that the civilians had to suffer was when the company came and mined gold in Meh Kleh, Meh Toh and Baw Paw [Lo] rivers. The civilians' properties, vegetation, lands, trees and bamboos were damaged a lot. If the civilians, whose properties were damaged, asked for compensation, [the company] did not provide [it as] completely as the civilians had asked. Currently, since the gold mining has been carried out, the civilians have suffered from [a lack of access to] fresh water because the water is polluted all the time. Moreover, because the flowing of polluted water contains chemicals, when cattle, buffalos and fish drink the water, it causes disease and, as a result, some have died.</p> <p>Forced labour, demands</p> <p>The SPDC army based at Waw Muh army camp is IB [Infantry Battalion] #96. On December 12th 2012, the Battalion Commander Yaing Ko Ko ordered Naw P--- to send one packet of letters for MOC [Military Operations Command] #44's camp commander.</p>	

Naw P--- lives in Dr--- village, and the distance between Dr--- village and Meh Pree Hkee [village] is approximately five miles. Yaing Ko Ko ordered Naw P---, and Naw P--- went [as she was ordered] with fear.

On the same day, IB #96 Waw Muh Camp Commander Yaing Ko Ko demanded and ordered Dr--- villagers who have boats to transport their [army] rations to Meh Pree Hkee army camp. Again they ordered 10 of Dr---'s villagers per day in order to carry the sacks of rice, oil, peas and other supplies from the army camp to the boat. It [the order] started on January 24th 2013 [and was enforced] to January 28th 2013 until their [Tatmadaw] rations were all delivered.

On August 28th 2012, the SPDC army based in Kay Kaw army camp, IB #96 Company and Camp Commander Lin Htet ordered his followers [soldiers] to cut bamboo and [collect] thatch shingles in A--- villager Saw T---'s [garden]. [They took] five giant bamboo canes and 20 thatch shingles without asking permission from the owner of the bamboo and thatch shingles. They [Tatmadaw soldiers] just went and cut [the bamboo canes] forcibly. Saw T--- planted and kept those bamboo canes and thatch shingles to use for building a house.

On August 25th 2012, IB #96's Camp Commander Lin Htet ordered his followers again to go and take Maung E---'s thatch shingles in order to repair their location [army camp]. They [Tatmadaw soldiers] also forcibly took it and stole it, but Maung E--- dared not go to talk to Lin Htet, so he had to suffer like that.

On August 29th 2012, officer Lin Htet ordered an A--- villagers to cut 50 wa thoh in order to repair their army camp.

On September 1st 2012, Zaw Lin Htet ordered and demanded A--- villagers to make 100 thatch shingles in order to repair the roofs in their army camp.

On October 26th 2012, IB #96 army's Zaw Lin Htet ordered A--- villager Saw H--- to go to get alcohol, oil and beer in Hkoo Thoo Hta [village]. The distance between A--- and Hkoo Thoo Hta [village] is four miles.

Stealing and dog attacks

IB #96 Camp Commander Zaw Lin Htet raises one dog and, on August 24th 2012, his dog bit and killed one goat belonging to A--- villager Saw B---.

On August 27th 2012, Zaw Lin Htet's soldiers stole one rooster belonging to an A--- villager Naw M---.

On September 4th 2012, Zaw Lin Htet ordered his soldiers to go to steal 30 thatch shingles and cut 20 wa thoh belonging to A--- villagers.

On September 16th 2012, Zaw Lin Htet's soldiers stole one goat belonging to an A--- villager Saw G---.

On September 26th 2012, IB #96's Camp Commander Zaw Lin Htet's (who is based in A--- [village]) soldiers stole one pig belonging to Saw U--- on this day.

On November 26th 2012, Kay Kaw's Camp Commander Zaw Lin Htet's dog bit and killed one goat belonging to SPDC's village head.

On November 27th 2012, Zaw Lin Htet's soldiers stole one rooster belonging to an A--- villager Naw S---.

On November 28th 2012, Zaw Lin Htet's soldiers stole three families of fowl, including a hen and chicken belonging to A--- villager Naw W---.

On November 29th 2012, Zaw Lin Htet's soldiers stole one family of fowls belonging to an A--- villager Naw K---.

As of 2013, the armed group that was based in Kay Kaw army camp, IB #96 Company Commander Zaw Lin Htet, is not based in Kay Kaw [army camp] anymore, and there is a new battalion that has come and is now based there.

Logging

Logging is still ongoing in Dwe Lo Township. Forest administrator Kyaw Hpoh said that headquarter [KNU] and district [leaders] forbid the logging decisively. When I compare what he said and what he did, it does not match. He said logging is forbidden, but when rich men, Maw Ra and Kay Mee Kaw, requested to do logging, he gave them permission to do logging since November 10th 2012. Until now, they continue to log [trees], which are ironwood and teak [trees] in Meh Way village tract, and they said [they are allowed to log the trees because they] are [unclaimed]. They send the logs that they [cut] to Ma Lay Ler and Kwee T'Ma [villages], then they transport [them] with a truck and go to sell [the logs] in the town. This still happens continuously. Some civilians said that the leaders said to develop the forest, but what the leaders said and did do not match. As the proverb says, the villagers say that the leaders are now just "writing by hand and erasing by leg." One villager said, "Is it good to develop the forest or not good? I hope many leaders decide it collectively. If they would develop the forest, they have to forbid it decisively. The logging and sending the logs to the town should not occur anymore."

Confiscation

In Dwe Lo Township, there are two places where the BGF [Tatmadaw Border Guard Force] confiscated civilians' lands, farms, rubber plantations, thatch plantations and bamboo plantations in order to set up their residence [army camp].

The first place is in between Kh--- and Bc--- [villages]. Since March 2012, the BGF built up a barrack and finished some [buildings], and until now they continue build up more [buildings]. The group of BGF that came to set up the residence is Battalion #1013's Battalion Commander Htoh Loh. It is led and constructed by Battalion Deputy Commander Hla Kyaing. The BGF set up a barracks and confiscated villagers' lands, rubber plantations, farms and many other lands as reported in this update.

Victim Name Village Name Acre of lands

1. Christian cemetery Kh--- village
2. U D--- Kh--- village Two acres of farms and four acres of rubber plantation
3. Saw C--- Kh--- village One acre rubber plantation and 10 acres of farms
4. U J--- Kh--- village One acre of farm
5. U Ky--- Bc--- village One acre of rubber plantation
6. Daw N--- Bc--- village Five acres of rubber plantation
7. U Th--- Bc--- village Two acres of farm

The BGF set up this residence and they plan to have a 360-acre-wide residence. They confiscated these civilians' lands, and they did not consult with the civilians [to see if] civilians agreed or did not agree. They came directly and cleared the land then set up the residence. They confiscated it [the lands] and provided compensation as they desired to the civilians. Even though the civilians did not agree, they [civilians] had to take it [compensation] quietly because they were afraid.

Because the civilians' lands and plantations were destroyed [confiscated] the problems that it will cause in the following year are that there are no more farms to plant paddy. There are no more rubber trees to drain.

The second place is BGF Battalion #1014's Battalion Commander Bo [Officer] Maung Chit with 30 soldiers. They set up barracks in Kha Hpa Doh Koh place in eastern Tha Aw Klay village on February 10th 2011. The structure of their residence that they finished constructing is 10 households for the officers, 20 buildings with four living spaces in each and 40 buildings with six living spaces in each. They planted a lot of rubber [trees] in the vicinity. The BGF set up this residence and confiscated civilians' properties, thatch plantations, bamboo plantations and the other wide places. In Pc--- [village], two acres of Saw R---'s k'haw la plantation [were confiscated]. [In] Z--- [village] [there were] two acres of Saw Y---'s k'haw la [that were confiscated]. [In] Z--- [village], [there were] 20 acres of bamboo plantation that villagers protected to use for building houses [that were confiscated]. 50 acres of bamboo plantation that villagers protected to use for house building [were also confiscated]. One hundred acres of t'la aw hill in the three villages, which are Z---, Pc--- and Ng--- [villages], [that were being] protected to use for roofing [were confiscated]. Now, they cleared that t'la aw hill and planted rubber [trees] so in the coming year, the civilians from the three villages will have to deal with the problem that they will not have any place for roofing their house's roofs. Another thing is [civilians] do not have any bamboo to cut in order to build a house and make a fence.

Gold mining

The gold mining in Dwe Lo Township has been carried out since 2006 and, until now, it has damaged a lot of lands, trees, bamboo, natural resources, the source of the river and civilians' lands. Because the gold mining was carried out, the civilians have had to deal with [problems] such as damaged properties and, moreover, the polluted water that contains chemicals coming from the gold mining flowing in the river, so [that] when the civilians drink [water] it causes sickness. Moreover, there were many cattle, buffalos and fish that got sick after they drank water and [as a result] they are dead. The gold mining started in Baw Paw [Lo] River. The civilians from the town came and asked permission from headquarter [KNU] department Baw Lah, and Baw Lah gave them permission and they could do it. At that time, there was no truck [bulldozer] that was used in the gold mining.

While the gold mining continued to 2009 and 2010, DKBA [Democratic Karen Buddhist Army] Lieutenant Chit Thu came and carried out gold mining with many of his soldiers. They mined gold in Meh Kleh, Meh Toh and Baw Paw [Lo] rivers. At that time, the civilians had to suffer and carry things [for the DKBA]. They [civilians] had to work for the DKBA without resting. Moreover, when they [DKBA] mined gold, civilians' lands and vegetation were damaged but they [DKBA] did not pay compensation.

The civilians were very happy after the DKBA came and mined gold and left. Again, starting in 2011 and until now, many companies have come, including a Chinese

[company]. They came and asked permission from the headquarters of the metal [mining] department Governor Baw Lah, [KNLA] Battalion #102 Battalion Commander Kyaw Thein and Military Intelligence Commander Toh Nyoh. They gave them permission and the companies entered and [mined gold] in Meh Kleh, Baw Paw [Lo] and Meh Toh rivers until now, and have damaged a huge [part] of the natural environment of these three rivers, civilians' lands and vegetation.

Moreover, if we look at the current leaders, they have to improve in everything, right? When I look at Dwe Lo farm department in charge Win Maung and his follower Nyut Win, [they] supported the traders [businessmen] and arranged the gold mining places for them. He [Win Maung] forced the civilians who did not want to sell [their lands] to sell. If they could arrange one piece of land for the people who came to mine gold, people gave them three million, four million [kyat] (US \$3,0657.50, \$4,090.00). When gold mining happened they got a lot of money and they became rich. In my opinion, since the gold mining happened there is no benefit for the civilians. It will be for the best if it is decisively forbidden.

This year, civilians who [mine] gold requested to headquarters, brigade, battalion, district and township [KNU/KNLA leaders that] they work for themselves this year. But, when they requested to mine gold and people [including those from headquarters, brigade, battalion, district and the township's leaders were going to allot them land on which to mine gold], they were [instead] looking [out for the interests of] the rich people in the town and sold [the land to them instead]. They got a lot of money. Moreover, some people in charge suggested to them that [since] they did not get a truck [for mining] this year, they write up a letter [using the civilians' names in order to secure a truck for their own mining purposes, which the civilians would not be able to use]. They wrote up a fake letter and betrayed the civilians.

Is the gold mining forbidden? No way. On March 7th 2013, the leaders from the [KNU] metal [mining] department gave [permission] to mine gold with a truck [bulldozer]. There are approximately 90 percent of the civilians who do not want gold mining [occurring in their area] and whose lands are damaged. There are 10 percent of the civilians who are good at speaking and lie to the leaders, and leaders trust them. In our grandparents' era, if the civilians did not have food to eat, then they could go to pan for gold as they wished. Now, if civilians go to pan for gold they have to go get a permission letter from the people in charge of the gold mine. For one permission letter for one month they have to pay 15,000 kyat (US \$15.33).

Currently, [regarding] the gold mining which has happened, the consequences and problems that will occur in the following year to the civilians are [that] lands will be damaged, vegetation will be damaged and [villagers] cannot pan gold anymore. These consequences and problems will still occur in the new generation.

Conclusion

The human rights abuses that I have reported are included in the pages in this update. The human right abuse in this update is about the events happening in my area and the civilians having to suffer from it enormously. The information that I collected and sent truly occurred and is reliable. The things like ordering, demanding and stealing are still happening at the current time. I think that the things the civilians have to deal with [like] problems and their rights that are abused will decrease and lessen in the coming year.

Currently, the recent abuse of civilians' rights that they have to suffer is that BGF

Battalion #1013's officer Htoh Loh set up a residence in between K'Ter Tee and Noh Hpaw Htee [villages]. [Regarding] the civilians who live near to the residence of the BGF construction, the problems that they have to suffer are land confiscation, [the confiscation of] rubber plantations and [the confiscation of] farms. In the coming year, the problems that the civilians will have to suffer are that they do not have farm to plant paddy and they do not have rubber plantations to drain. The new generation will deal with many difficulties.

Another thing is the BGF Battalion #1014's Battalion Commander Maung Chit set up their residence in Kha Hpa Doh Hkoh beside Tha Aw Klay village, and the civilians have to deal with the problems such as the confiscation of bamboo plantations and t'la aw plantations from the three villages, which are Z---, Ng--- and Pc---. They go to get thatches for roofing their house roof in that place. Now, there are no t'la aw trees. The civilians have to deal with the problems [including that] they cannot find thatches to roof their houses. They cannot find bamboo to cut. The new generation will have to deal with many problems in the coming year.

Since the gold mining in Meh Kleh, Meh Toh and Baw Paw [Lo] rivers has existed the difficulties that the civilians had to deal with are lands that are damaged, vegetation that is damaged and water that is polluted. When cattle, buffalo, fish and humans drank the polluted water some got sick and [some cattle] died. Since the gold mining was implemented there has been no benefit for the civilians' buildings. In my parents' era, the civilians who lived near to the rivers where gold exists, the gold mining was not mined with machine or truck [bulldozer]. The indigenous people there worked in the swidden [agriculture] and, sometimes, if the paddies were dead or the mice ate all the paddies, they made their livelihood from these three rivers. They went to pan gold, and after they sold it they bought rice. But now, the gold mining is done with machine and truck, therefore the places and rivers are all damaged. In coming years, if the civilians' paddies are dead, they will not have place to pan gold in order to buy rice, and there will be many consequential problems.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District, (Received in May 2013)

Source Document #23

KHRG Log #:	13-52-P1
Publishing Information:	"Mergui-Tavoy Photo Notes: Ta Naw Th'Ree Township, Received in May 2013," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Agriculture
Location:	Ta Naw Th'Ree Township, Mergui-Tavoy District
Actors:	Wealthy individuals
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	

[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Mergui-Tavoy in March 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]

Photo #: 622

[This] photo was taken on March 12th 2013. This rich man (U Than Mya) lives in Bilin city [Bilin Township, Thaton District] and [is] 58 years old. He came and planted rubber trees in Hseh Koo village.

Photo #: 623

[This] photo was taken on March 12th 2013. This [was taken] during a meeting with U Than Mya and U Than Htay, who [both] came and planted rubber trees in B--- village and confiscated civilians' lands.

Photo #: 624

[This] photo was taken on March 23rd 2013. This is U Than Htay, who lives in Bilin City and is 52 years old. [He] came and planted rubber trees in B--- [village] and confiscated the civilians' land.

Photo #: 625

[This] photo was taken on March 12th 2013. This is Saw A---, who lives in B--- village. [His] land was confiscated and his crops destroyed.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Ta Naw Th'ree Township, Mergui-Tavoy District, (Received in May 2013)

Source Document #24

KHRG Log #:	13-52-P2
Publishing Information:	"Mergui-Tavoy Photo Notes: Ta Naw Th'ree Township, Received in May 2013," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Ta Naw Th'ree Township, Mergui-Tavoy District
Actors:	Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Mergui-Tavoy District in May 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i>	
Photo #: 036 - 038	
These photos are of Kay River in Kay region, Ta Naw Th'ree Township. The water has	

become a brown color because of lead [mining].

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Ta Naw Th'ree Township, Mergui-Tavoy District, (Received in May 2013)

Source Document #25

KHRG Log #:	13-59-I1
Publishing Information:	“Hpa-an Incident Report: Stone mining damages villagers’ fields in Paingkyon Township, March 2013,” KHRG, August 2014, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/13-59-i1_0.pdf
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Paingkyon Township, Hpa-an District
Actors:	BGF
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Negotiation, lobbying government officials, lobbying religious officials

Full Text:

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	BGF mining stone and damaging farms
Date of Incident(s)	March 1 st 2013
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	M--- village, Paw village tract, Paingkyon Township, Hpa-an District

Victim Information

Name	Naw T---			
Age	60			
Sex	Female			
Nationality	Pwo Karen			
Family	Married			
Occupation	Farming			
Religion	Buddhist			
Position	Villager			
Village	M---			

Perpetrator Information

Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Officer Lah Thay	Battalion Commander	BGF [Border Guard Force] Battalion #1017	Ko Ko	Maung Chit Thu

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

On April 6th 2013, I went to M--- village and met with some of M---'s villagers, including a farm owner who has suffered because of this incident. I asked her about the stone mining occurring beside her farm. She told me that Officer [Battalion Commander] Lah Thay came and mined for stone beside her farm and he did not inform her. She told me that she dares not tell anyone because she worries that people will harm her.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

Regarding this incident, the female farm owner worries that if BGF Officer [Battalion Commander] Lah Thay continues mining [in the same area] the cliff will completely erode and destroy her farm. Therefore, she told me what she saw and the information is true.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail. For each incident, be sure to include 1) when the incident happened, 2) where it happened, 3) what happened, 4) how it happened, 5) who was involved, and 6) why it happened. Also describe any villager response(s) to the incident, the aftermath and the current living situation of the victims. Please use the space prepared below, and create an attachment if needed.

The incident happened on March 1st 2013, beside M--- village, usually called S--- [by local people]. BGF Officer [Battalion Commander] Lah Thay went to mine stone and rock to sell to road construction [companies]. He hired Burmese people to come and split the stone. He hires them for daily [labour] and pays them per basket. The place which is shown in the photos [below] is located above Naw T---'s farm and is where they started working. If they continue to mine there, the entire cliff will erode and damage [Naw T---'s] farm. Lay Hkaw Htees are farms that are located along the bottom of a cliff. Those farms are not owned by one person, instead there are many owners. They [farmers] work on them one [villager] per plot. The other land owners [next to Naw T---'s plot] are also worried, [as their plots were damaged too]. This land owner [Naw T---] tried to report it to the village leaders and the [local] BGF leader whom she knows. She asked people [village elders] to assist her to tell the BGF Officer [Battalion Commander] Lah Thay to consider [the damage done] and provide fair compensation for her farm. However, I have not heard any answer [about whether they will receive compensation] yet. They [villagers] all said that they would find a way to get compensation for their farms [which were damaged]. Moreover, all of the farm owners would gather together and go to the BGF's top leaders. For their security, they will rely on some BGF leaders whom they are friendly with and also the village leaders. They will also inform the [local] monk about the incident. This is one of their strategies when they are suffering from difficult [issues].

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

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

<p>The farm owners allowed us to use this information. The reason is because currently they are not afraid of the armed actors like they were in the past. So they asked us to help them stop this incident [from happening again] or help them receive compensation. Some farm owners have already attended a village agency workshop conducted by KHRG. They will consider it [the incident] and write up a report and share it in future workshops.</p>	
<p>[See hyperlink above for photos]</p>	<p>[See hyperlink above for photos]</p>
<p>These photos were taken by a KHRG Researcher on April 6th 2013 in M--- village, Paw village tract, Paingkyon Township, Hpa-an District. They depict the cliff erosion next to Naw T---'s farm plot due to stone mining conducted by <i>BGF Officer Lah Thay</i>. [Photos: KHRG]</p>	
<p>Incident Report written by a KHRG Researcher, M--- village, Paw village tract, Paingkyon Township, Hpa-an District, (Received in June 2013)</p>	

Source Document #26

KHRG Log #:	13-59-I2
Publishing Information:	“Hpa-an Incident Report: Land confiscation in Paingkyon Township,” February 2013, KHRG 2014, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/13-59-i2_0.pdf
Project Type:	Agriculture
Location:	Paingkyon Township, Hpa-an District
Actors:	BGF
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, no consultation
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs, formal registration
Full Text:	
<u>Part 1 – Incident Details</u>	
Type of Incident	BGF [Border Guard Force] confiscated and cleared a villager’s land in order to grow rubber trees.

Date of Incident(s)	February 1 st 2013.
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	A--- village, Taw Soe village tract, Ta Kreh [Paingkyon] Township, Hpa-an District.

Victim Information				
Name	H---			
Age	50			
Sex	Female			
Nationality	Karen			
Family	Married			
Occupation	Trader [shop owner]			
Religion	Christian			
Position	Villager			
Village	A---			

Perpetrator Information				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Maw Kya Aye	Cantonment Area Commander	BGF Battalion #1015 & Battalion #1016	Hlaingbwe	

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

I met with H--- on February 28th 2013 and she told me about the incident. Commander Kya Aye arrived at H---'s land on February 1st 2013 and ordered the villagers to clear it; he then claimed it was his own land, so he could grow rubber trees.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

H--- inherited this land from her parents, and she also has the land title, which is checked once per year by the responsible people [from the Burma/Myanmar government land registration department]. She is attempting to get her land back now. She wants to report this incident to the BGF and to the Burma government. She has not been able to report it yet, but she is still trying.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail. For each incident, be sure to include 1) when the incident happened, 2) where it happened, 3) what happened, 4) how it happened, 5) who was involved, and 6) why it happened. Also describe any villager response(s) to the incident, the aftermath and the current living situation of the victims. Please use the space prepared below, and create an attachment if needed.

BGF Commander Kya Aye confiscated the land of H---, which is located beside A--- village (which we usually call O--- village) on February 1, 2013, in order to grow rubber. H--- obtained the land title for this land a long time ago. No one initially informed her that her land had been confiscated and cleared [her home is located elsewhere]. There are many places [land] around this land [H---'s land] which was confiscated but we have not heard anything about the other land [being confiscated].¹⁵ This BGF Commander is the one who causes the most problems in this area. He has confiscated people's land, conducted logging on people's land and in the forest, conducted mining, built pagodas, and constructed roads. He is doing these things for his own benefit. Battalion #1015 and Battalion #1016 [BGF] are under his control because he is the Commander of Cantonment Area #2. Some of his soldiers do not accept [agree with] the things that he does.

There are many human rights abuses that he committed. No one reported him to his superiors because people are afraid of him. He is a Buddhist. [In 2012] he also confiscated the land of the senior monk of D--- village, Noh Kwee village tract, Ta Kreh [Paingkyon] Township, which is located beside the monastery. The monk assumed that he would not need to report him [Commander Kya Aye] because he is a leader. Later, the monk asked his disciples to report him [Commander Kya Aye]. I do not know if this case is stalled or ongoing. I will follow up on it and report next time.¹⁶

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

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

H--- requested that I report the perpetrator to the Burmese [government]. She [H---] did not want me to take a photo of her. I could not take a photo of her confiscated land because I met her far from it.

Incident Report written by a KHRG Researcher, A--- village, Paingkyon Township, Hpa-an District, (Received in January 2013)

Source Document #27

KHRG Log #:	13-65-A1-I1
Publishing Information:	"Doplaya Interview: A---, July 2013," KHRG, 2014, http://www.khrg.org/2014/10/13-65-a1-i1/doplaya-interview-july-2013
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Doplaya District
Actors:	Myanmar government officials
Compensation or	No compensation, no consultation

¹⁵ The researcher followed up on this case in October 2014, and discovered that Mu Ghah Si's land had been returned to her, but she had been forced to cover the cost of clearing the land when it was first confiscated by Maw Kya Aye.

¹⁶ After following up on this case in October 2014, the researcher found that the land confiscated from the monk had yet to be returned.

Consultation:	
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, displacement
VA Strategies:	Lobbying government officials
Full Text:	
<p>Do you know what my name is?</p> <p>I do not know.</p> <p>My name is C---. I am working with KHRG. Do you know the meaning of KHRG?</p> <p>I do not know. I do not know anything.</p> <p>KHRG helps the Karen people related to their rights. So now I want to ask are there any difficulties that you have to face in your village here?</p> <p>Yesterday, when I went and talked to my friend, she told me to report the information if I have any difficulties. When I came back [to my village from D--- village], my plot of land [where I had intended to build a house] had already been destroyed. I was told that a plot for a new house would be found for me. Now, it is already the time [of year] for house building¹⁷ and I do not have any place to build my house yet. As I still do not have a place [to build my house] yet, it would be better if I could get some support. I will also [try to] find some support by myself. Some of my siblings and [other] relatives have sympathy for me.</p> <p>How big was your plot that they [the government] destroyed?</p> <p>When the school was built, it took over my whole plot. All of the plants that I had planted were destroyed.</p> <p>How many kinds of plants were destroyed?</p> <p>I had planted many plants like palm trees, mango trees, jack fruit trees and coconut trees in my plot and we decided that we were going to live on our plot but they destroyed all of it.</p> <p>So what about the place that you are going to live in right now?</p> <p>I do not have any place [to live right now]. My mother-in-law also does not have any children or a husband beside her and I have already asked her to come and live with me. However, as my plot has been destroyed, we have to live in other people's houses. If I have more children and if they [the owner of the house where she is temporarily living] do not provide me with any place to live, I will have no place to live and I might have to go and live in the forest. And if we do not dare to live in the forest, there is only one other option; I need to go to live in a refugee camp.</p> <p>Who are the people that destroyed your plot?</p>	

¹⁷ Karen villagers typically construct new houses in the early summer before the start of the rainy season.

At first, people said that the government would support me. However, no one came and told me anything even though it is already the time [of year in which I need] to build my house.

How long has it been since they destroyed your plot?

They [the government] started to plough [my plot] last year. We started to move last year [from our village] and went to live in D--- village. People told me to come back [to the village]. By the time I arrived, my plot had been completely destroyed. People said they [the government] are going to find a plot for me.

When they [the government] destroyed your plot, did they ask permission to destroy it from anyone?

I do not know whether they asked for permission from anyone or not. I myself was not here.

So, they did not ask permission from the land owner [you]?

No, they did not. I was living in D--- [at that time].

Did you tell them [the government] that you wanted support [compensation] from them since they destroyed your plot?

I did not tell them. In the meeting yesterday, people [the village head] said that they [the government] are going support the villagers. I asked my friend; What kind of support are people going to give? She said that if I have any serious problem, I could report it. I went to ask my friend and my friend went to ask the village head.

What did the village head say?

I do not know. My friend was asking about this. [At this point, a friend of the main interviewee who was also present during the interview interjected: The village head was trying to request [compensation from] him [the government] but they had not given [compensation] to the village head. – interjection ends] I do not see this as the fault of the village head.

But the village head was trying his best to get compensation?

Yes, he tried to do his best. He has to [work] very hard to plan and manage [affairs] for the villagers. We do not see this as the fault of the village head.

When people came to have the meeting and explain to you about the difficulty [that you can report], were they the government? Or were they Karen [Karen National Union (KNU)]?

They were the government. I did not go when people went to the meeting yesterday. My mother-in-law went and told me about it.

Did they say that they would help you if you had any difficulty?

[At this point, a friend of the main interviewee who was also present during the interview interjected: They are going help regarding livestock. They are going to give injections of medicine for the cattle, buffalos, chickens and pigs. They noted down how many cattle, buffalos, chickens and pigs the villagers own and they said when all of the villagers are together, they are going to inject the medicine for their animals. – interjection ends] I did not go yesterday and people came back and told me back about this information.

Did they tell you that they would help you with things as they had destroyed your plot?

No, they did not tell me anything.

So they are only going to help with the animals like cattle and buffalos?

[At this point, a friend of the main interviewee who was also present during the interview interjected: No, they are not going to help [by giving new livestock]; they are going to help the villagers who [already] have cattle or buffalos. They are going to give injections of medicine to them. They are not going to help [give] new animals, but they will give medicine injections to the villagers' buffalos and cattle. – interjection ends]

So it is medicine that prevents decease in animals?

[At this point, a friend of the main interviewee who was also present during the interview interjected: Yes, the village head told us that when we had the meeting. There is nothing else. The village head tried to request [compensation] for the plot when it was destroyed. The village head requested [compensation] from the battalion commander as well as the [government] leader who came to work here [build the school]. However, he was unable to secure [compensation] and he told me that he could not do anything else. He said that if there is any support [available from any organization which will help you] that you can find, just report it [to that organization]. – interjection ends]

How many family members do you have?

There are five members.

So you have three children?

I have two children and my father [also lives with us].

Are both of them males or females?

I have one son, and one daughter.

So you have to face a difficult problem, as you do not have a place to live?

Yes, I do not have a place to live. Now, I am going to build my house but I do not have a place to build it. I am waiting for the people [the village head]. People [the village

head] said that they will find a small plot for us. [At this point, a friend of the main interviewee who was also present during the interview interjected: All of the government [workers] who came and built the school here have gone back. They will not help you. – interjection ends] Regarding this case, I do not see that it is the fault of the village head. It does not matter whether I get [a new plot] or not. I am just telling you about it.

Are there any other villagers who have also faced difficulties in the village?

I do not know. E---'s land is also close to my plot and the government has also destroyed her land. She only has a little bit [of space] left.

Her land was also destroyed?

Yes, she also built her house on her plot. People [the government] also destroyed her plot and she only has a little bit of space left. As for me, I do not have any space left.

When you reported to the village head to [seek] help regarding your plot, did [the government] not say anything to the village head as to how they are going to do [arrange a new plot for you]?

As for me, I did not report it to the village head. I also do not know whether my husband talked to the village head about our plot or not as I have not asked him. He is also not at home now.

So for example, you have a hope that they [the government] are going to help you to get a plot to build your house on?

Yes.

You want a plot to build your house on?

Yes, I want a plot to build my house on. Now I am living on another person's plot. As my children are growing up, I also want my own plot. I am living in another person's plot and if the owner did not let me live here, I would not have a place to live.

You also have five members in your family like you said?

Yes.

Do you have to face any other oppression [by the government] regarding your occupation?

Regarding my occupation, I do not have [any problem].

Do you have any trouble with your livelihood?

Yes, I have to face trouble in [managing] my livelihood, which is not going well. I had to face the destruction [of my paddy] in my work.

I forgot to ask your name, what is your name?

A---

How old are you?

Twenty seven years old.

Were you born in B--- village and have you always lived in B--- village?

Yes, I was born in B--- village. My parents are also from B--- village.

So you had a plot in B--- and you do not have any plots anywhere else?

Yes.

So, do you agree [give consent for me to] ask you many questions and send the information about you to the authorized persons [other KHRG staff, for processing]; may I take a photo of you?

Yes.

Is there anything else you would like to tell me about the issue that you have had to suffer with?

No, I do not have [anything else to tell you].

That is all?

Yes, I think it will be good if I get a new plot, but it does not matter if I do not get [one]. I do not think that it is the fault of the village head. At first, the government said they are going to find a plot for me. Now they have already gone back to their homes and they are not going to find a plot for me.

Do they not have any arrangement to hand over responsibility [for finding a place for you to build a house] to anyone?

No, they do not.

I want to know about what you have suffered because I believe there are also other villagers who are suffering from the [same] things as you but they cannot explain it to me. Now that I know about it, I will let the authorized persons [other KHRG staff] know.

Thank you. Do you [want to talk about] anything else?

No.

Thanks.

Naw A---, (female, 27), B--- village,

Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya Township, (Received July 2013)

Source Document #28

KHRG Log #:	13-65-A2-I1
Publishing Information:	“Dooplaya Interview: Ma A---, May 2013,” KHRG, January 2015, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/13-65-a2-i1.pdf
Project Type:	Militarisation, infrastructure
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Some compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues, access to education
VA Strategies:	Negotiation, lobbying government officials, outreach to CBOs/NGOs
Full Text:	
<p>What is your name?</p> <p>My name is Ma A---.</p> <p>How old are you?</p> <p>I am 44 years old.</p> <p>How many family members do you have?</p> <p>I have four family members.</p> <p>Do you live in B--- village?</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Is it in Kawkareik Township?</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Are there any challenges that you have to face in your occupation or your life in this village? Can you tell me about that?</p> <p>I have only one thing: that people [Burma/Myanmar government] have taken my land and I do not feel good [about this]. At first [in 2011], they [Burma/Myanmar government] told me for sure that they were going to do [measure] my land [in order for me to obtain a land title]. I bought some food and we [Ma A--- and government workers] went up to the hill [to measure my land]. People [Burma/Myanmar government] had noted how many palm trees and plants there were on my land. [At that time in 2011, fighting happened and] we fled from the village for two years. I came back this year [2013] and I see that they have destroyed all of my land. I paid them [Burma/Myanmar government] money to measure my land and they said that they were going to do it for me. However, we do not see anything [to do with our land being measured]. The village head should have reported [to the government] about it [the Burma/Myanmar government building</p>	

on her land] and arranged [compensation] for me, but he has not done it. I have only one part of my land left and I do not let them [Burma/Myanmar government] work on my land. The village head told me that they [Burma/Myanmar government] were not going to conduct [a well building project] on that part. After a while, they came and conducted [the well building project] on my land and I went to ask a female government worker to ask [the village head] for me [whether he allowed the government workers to use my land]. She said that the village head promised her [that the government would not dig a well on my land]. I told her, "*The village head has promised not to conduct [the well] on my land and if you conduct [the project] on it, you have to pay me money [for my destroyed land]*". She said, "*I cannot pay you money [for your land]*." She said to me, "*If you do not give me permission [to dig the well], I am going to conduct [the project] up on the hill [away from your land]*." And I said "Yes, just go and conduct it [in another area]". She said, "*I am digging the well for the villagers to drink*." I tell her, "*I do not drink the water from your well. I have my own well. I drink from my well*." Then she moved to another place to dig the well which is on my friend's land. That place was also our land in the past, but my father gave it to my friend to build her house [on]. We mark the boundary [of my land and my friend's land] with the [single] jack fruit tree between our lands. My land is wider and the place where they [Burma/Myanmar government] built the school is on our land. Another side is Naw C---'s land [which is next to my land]. This side¹⁸ is my land and we have marked the boundary [between our lands]. The land is wide enough for three houses and they destroyed all of our land. If they did not destroy my land, I could plant a lot of vegetables on it. However, they are taking all of our land and we cannot do [plant] anything. I feel sad because they said that they have given me money for taking my land, but I did not get anything. They [Burma/Myanmar government] give money to those [villagers] whose lands have been taken by them which are smaller than mine. They even gave 5,000 kyat (US \$4.84) to one of my nephews as they have taken his land which is very small land and they also gave Saw D--- 4,000 kyat (US \$3.88) [for his land] which is the other land [close to my plot]. This is a very small [amount] of land and they even gave [him] 4,000 kyat [as compensation for it]. They should have also paid me [money] but they have not. If we compare my land with the market price of the land in Thailand, my land [in Burma/Myanmar] is worth around 100,000 [kyat] (US \$3,045.49). With 100,000 kyat in Thailand, we would get a smaller size of land [than in Burma/Myanmar for the same price]. So, it does not make me feel good [that they take my land without at least compensating me for 100,000 kyat]. Later, I was waiting for the village head [to arrange compensation for me] and the village head came to meet with me and he said he was going to mark [the boundary of] my land for me and I also agreed with him. He came and put the stones [at the boundary of my land] but I did not go and look at him [while he did it]. I have only a small part of my land left and I am worried that it will also be confiscated. My children are going to school and I think I am going to build a hut on my land. We also think that we are going to build our house [on our land]. The house that we are living in right now is another person's house. It is not our house and people let us live here. Our land is in that place and if possible we think that we are going to build our own house.

What kind of plants did they [Burma/Myanmar government] destroy on your land?

It included coconut trees, palm trees, banana trees, jack fruit trees, mango trees and marian trees. They [trees] were going to fruit soon, [maybe] in one or two years, but they [the Burma/Myanmar government] destroyed all of them. We also planted orange

¹⁸ This interview was conducted in sight of the interviewee's fields. Here she is pointing towards her land.

trees and they were going to grow. At first, we grew everything on our land as we planned to work on our land [for the rest of our lives]. My husband planted a lot of palm trees, but they destroyed all of them.

How large is your land if you plant paddy?

If we plant paddy on our land, we can approximately plant [and produce] three (31.35 kg. or 69.12 lb.) or four (41.80 kg. or 92.16 lb.) big tins of paddy.

Was your land filled with plants?

Yes, it was filled with our plants and they destroyed all of them. The fruit of banana [trees] grows very plentiful. Our land was full of plants that we planted. They were growing very big and we almost got their fruits. There were also some jack fruit trees and mango trees which we could get their fruits from. As well, the fruit of marian trees were almost maturing. They destroyed all of them and there were no more trees left. We planted everything on our land.

Did they not tell [consult] you [about] anything before they were going to destroy all of your trees?

They did not tell us anything before they destroyed the trees.

Did they also say to you that they are going to give you some compensation?

No, they did not tell us anything. At first, the village head said that they were going to help us, but we have not seen anything [compensation] yet. I have heard from people that they [the Burma/Myanmar government] said that they bought the land for 100,000 kyat (US \$96.93). I said "*They said that they bought the land for 100,000 kyat? But I did not get any money. When did they give it to me? I did not know.*" This point makes me very unhappy. I am also not satisfied with my palm trees. If they had not destroyed my palm trees, they would have been very big by now. I had planted 50 palm trees and 40 of them grew, but the Burmese [government] have ploughed and destroyed all of them. If they had not destroyed them, they would be very big at this time, like the ones which are in front of my house [where I am staying] that you can see right now. I could have also gotten enough leaves [from them] to roof my house, but the Burmese [government] have ploughed and destroyed all of them. I heard that the village head said that he will help me with 100,000 kyat. It does not matter if I do not get 100,000 kyat and it is fine even if I get 20,000 kyat (US \$19.38) or 30,000 kyat (US \$29.08) or 40,000 kyat (US \$38.77), I will be satisfied.

They took your land and it is very wide?

Yes, they took my land which is very wide and they are building buildings [on it].

What kind of buildings did they build [on your land]?

I do not know exactly. I think they built the hospital or the school. They said that they built a school and it is very big. They also built the house for the teachers, a hospital and their [hospital] office, and the police station. They built a lot of buildings; I cannot name them all.

Are all of these buildings that they built on your land?

Yes. They all are on my land.

So there is no more land left for you to live [on]?

Yes, [there no land left to live on, except] there is only one small plot of the land left where I can build only a house.

Is there anyone [in the Burma/Myanmar government] who will come and say “Oh! Yes, we have destroyed your land and we will give you some compensation?”

No, there is no one.

Who is working on your land?

The Burmese [government].

How long has it been [since they built on your land]?

It was two years ago that they built their buildings.

Have you ever said to a [Burma/Myanmar government] leader: You are doing [building] or ploughing on my land and you need to give me some compensation?

We have not met with any of them [Burma/Myanmar government leaders yet]. We do not know the name of the [Burma/Myanmar government] leader who is working on our land. The village head instructed them [to build on] the land and they were working on our land. We did meet with the village head in person [when they constructed buildings on our land]. When we came back to the village [in 2013], we asked the Burmese [government builders] “*Why are you ploughing on my land?*” They said “*The village head instructed us to plough on this land.*” As the village head instructed [them to build on] the land, the Burmese ploughed. Nevertheless, we did not get any compensation.

So the village head is very much trying to solve the problem for you [to get compensation] but the Burmese do not listen to him?

I do not know about the village head [trying to arrange compensation for us].

Did the village head arrange for you to meet with the people [Burma/Myanmar government leaders] who were ploughing on your land at any time?

No, we did not meet with them at any time. The village head asked the vice village head to meet with me; I cannot recall his name. He is the one who worked together with the government and he gives speeches in the [village] meeting [sometimes]. He can speak Karen a little bit.

I am going to give all of the information that you are telling me now to the responsible persons [KHRG and Non-governmental organisations] step by step. That is OK right? Can I take a picture of you?

Yes.

Do you want to say anything else?

I do not have any special thing to talk about. I want some support if I can get.

[You want that] the people [KHRG staff or any organisation] will help you in talking about the issue for you?

Yes.

Your hope is that the people [KHRG staff or any organisation] will help you and arrange for you to get the support that you need?

Yes, I need to get some support. In the past, people said in the [village] meetings that if someone destroyed anything about the land, they are responsible to give compensation and we can report about the issue. However, people [Burmese/Myanmar government] are taking our land and we cannot get any compensation. Therefore, I do not feel good about that.

So, thank you very much for your answers.

Thanks.

Ma A---, (female, 44), B--- village,
Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District, (Interviewed in May 2013)

Source Document #29

KHRG Log #:	13-66-P1
Publishing Information:	"Hpa-an Photo Notes: Paingkyon Township, Received in July 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Agriculture, natural resource extraction
Location:	Paingkyon Township, Hpa-an District
Actors:	BGF
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Violent threats/abuse, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Lobbying KNU, negotiation
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpa-an District in June 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 2568 - 2572 I took these photos on June 6th 2013 in Hteh Boo village, Noh Kwee village tract, Ta Kreh [Paingkyon] Township, in Hpa-an District. These photos show villagers' land [that was] confiscated by BGF soldiers [for] planting rubber trees. The name of the BGF commander is Poh Kya Aay. His camp is based in Paw Yay Poo village, Paw Yay Poo village tract, Ta Kreh [Paingkyon] Township. This BGF commander has taken many villagers' land from different places.</p> <p>Photo #: 2555 - 2559</p>	

I took these photos on June 4th 2013. In the photos, you can see a woman and [her] land that has been confiscated. I took [pictures of] the view in A--- village, Taw Soh village tract, Ta Kreh [Paingkyon] Township, Hpa-an District. The name of this female villager is Naw B---. She is 51 years old. She lives in A--- village and six acres of her land has been confiscated by BGF Commander Poh Kay Aay. Naw B--- really wants her land back. She tried to go to Commander Poh Kya Aay and he said, *"If you want your lands back, come and give me 600,000 kyat (US \$548.94) and I will return the land to you."* Naw B--- went back, sold her gold and five cows and gave the money [to Poh Kya Aay]. After he [Poh Kya Aay] received the money, he returned the land to the woman without giving her any [land] document. [The commander] then said, *"We will no longer bother your land."*

Photo note written by a KHRG Researcher,
Nabu Township, Hpa-an District, (Received in July 2013)

Source Document #30

KHRG Log #:	13-66-S1
Publishing Information:	"Hpa-an Situation Update: T'Nay Hsah Township, March to May 2013," KHRG, August 2013, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/khrq13b48.pdf
Project Type:	Militarisation, agriculture
Location:	Nabu Township, Hpa-an District
Actors:	BGF, Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Displacement, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Formal registration, negotiation, lobbying KNU/KNLA
Full Text:	
Land confiscation by Tatmadaw	
I want to report the consequences of the military government confiscating lands in K--- village, T'Nay Hsah Township from 20 years ago. ¹⁹	
Regarding the land issue in T'Nay Hsah [Township], the villagers struggled to get their farms and plantations back. In May 2013, they [villagers] went to get [land] documents at the Kawkareik [Burma government] office. And then, they brought the land grants back in order to be able to work on their farms again. When they brought them [land documents] and went and showed them to [Tatmadaw Light Infantry] Battalion #548's Battalion commander, the army [commander] told them that, <i>"Your documents are illegal so you cannot work on your farms. They [the farms] are military lands."</i> Therefore, villagers are disappointed with this issue. In K--- village, there are 30 households and 150 people whose lands were confiscated by the army, and then they came back and stayed in the [K---] monastery garden. These villagers are [there]	

¹⁹ Although the community member writes that the land confiscation occurred 20 years ago, unpublished interviews received by KHRG suggest the events likely occurred in 1995. About 30 households have resided on the monastery grounds since their lands were confiscated.

because people confiscated their lands. There are many villagers who left their village and were displaced to other villages because some villagers do not have land anymore. There are over 1,000 acres of lands that were confiscated by the military. The military [units] that confiscated these lands are army Battalions #547, 548 and 549.

Drugs

I would like to report the situation in the area about the drug *k'thee k'thay* [*yaba*] issue from what I saw, knew and heard in T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District.

On March 11th 2013, one 16-year-old student who used the drug spent all his money on the drug and then went to pawn his motorbike for 30 *k'thee k'thay* [tablets]. When this kid used all the drugs and came back to his parents, people [started] asking him, "*Where do you keep your motorbike?*" His father asked him nonstop, therefore he answered his father. His father told him, "*My son, I bought this motorbike for you with 38,000 baht and you traded it for 30 k'thee k'thay. So, here is the money, go and redeem your motorbike. How much does it cost for one tablet of the drug, it costs only 3,000 kyat (US \$3.08)?*" Then, the kid picked up the money, 90,000 kyat (US \$92.31), and went to the place where he pawned his motorbike. He met with the owner who sells the drug and asked for his motorbike. The owners who sell the drug were worried that the information would appear [publicly] when he gave the money to them. Therefore, they arrested the kid, and then they hit and killed the kid with a piece of brick. The kid lived in Y--- village and the people who murdered him were BGF [Border Guard Force] soldiers. This event is accurate, although I heard it when villagers told me.

The *k'thee k'thay* issue that I heard

On May 13th 2013, I started meeting with villagers in Yaw Kuh village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District. Villagers reported that the most important problem is the *k'thee k'thay* issue. [Villagers reported that], "*The k'thee k'thay destroys our children, husbands and destroys many of our children and grandchildren. There are some people who became crazy because of k'thee k'thay; some lost their farms and some lost their motorbike. We dare not submit this issue to any armed group because the armed groups do it [manufacture and sell the drug]. There are also some villagers who have good relationships with the armed groups, and the armed groups provide them [permission] documents that allow them to sell k'thee k'thay. The armed group that established the [permission] document for selling k'thee k'thay is the BGF. If we speak openly, there are five groups that use the drug and sell the drug in our area. They are the Tatmadaw, KNLA [Karen National Liberation Army], DKBA [Democratic Karen Benevolent Army], KNU-KNLA Peace Council and BGF. None of them do not do it. So, we dare not speak carelessly. If we were to say so, we are afraid that people would come and kill us. We do not want it [the drug], but we cannot do [anything].*" This is what the villagers who came to the meeting said.

[See hyperlink above for photos]

[See hyperlink above for photos]

The above two photos were taken on May 12th 2013 by a community member trained by KHRG in C-- village, Noh Hta Baw village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an Township. The photos show two hillocks (karst formations). The BGF Battalion #1016's Battalion Commander Mya Khaing

manufactures *yaba* on these hillocks and celebrates *ar wer day*²⁰ in the bottom of the hillocks. The bottom two photos were taken on April 28th 2013 in the C--- village entrance, C--- village, Noh Hta Baw village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District. The bottom two photos show the village entrance. Many households in the village sell *yaba*, including some BGF and Karen Peace Council soldiers' family members. The community member reported that the villager who told him this was very nervous, and said that, "*If people know that I told you this, people will kill me.*" [Photos: KHRG]

The second drug issue

On March 27th 2013, there was also [an incident] that happened related to the drug [concerning] a grandma; the villager [I spoke to] did not know her name; she was 62 years old and lived in Htoh Kaw Koh village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District. This grandma was well known, as she spoke openly and publicly. The cause of the event happened because of the money issue. This grandma told BGF's people that, "*You all are Burma's [Tatmadaw] people. You became rich because you sell k'thee k'thay. I don't respect you.*" She argued with BGF Battalion #1016 [soldiers], and then four of Battalion Commander Mya Khaing's soldiers murdered grandma in G--- village at the riverside. The process by which they murdered grandma was that they tied grandma's neck with rope and hit grandma's head with stone. A villager who told me this saw it by himself. He was worried that people would know what he reported and he was scared. He did not allow me to record his voice or take a picture. [The BGF soldiers] said that they murdered grandma because they were worried that grandma would say that they are selling *k'thee k'thay*. This event is true and I got it from one villager who told me.

Land confiscation by BGF

I would like to write up a situation update in Ta Kreh Township about BGF members who are fearless [approach with impunity] regarding the land issue.

In H--- village, Taw Soh village tract, Ta Kreh Township, Hpa-an District, [an incident] occurred involving two of BGF's veteran [officers], whose names are Poh Kyaw Hay, also known as Dee Hter Ler, and Poh Kya Aye, also known as Hpah T'Kaw, who live in R--- village, Poh Yay Hpoo village tract, Ta Kreh Township, Hpa-an District. These two men confiscated villagers' lands, and the villagers whose lands were confiscated are Naw M---, who lives in H--- village, and Naw E---, [who also] lives in H--- village. The places where they [two BGF veterans] confiscated the lands were in Lay Nah Htoh and K'Mler Wah. The lands that were confiscated are about 20 acres. These villagers' lands have official land grants that they got from the military government. BGF officers Poh Kyaw Hay and Poh Kya Aye told them [two female villagers] that, "*Your land grant is illegal, so we will take your lands.*" Because these villagers want their lands back, they therefore went to the KNU's governor in charge from Ta Kreh Township, but [KNLA] people could not do it for them. The BGF soldiers told them that, "*If you want your lands back for Naw M---'s land, you have to pay us 600,000 kyat (US \$615.40), and for Naw E---'s land, you have to come and pay us 500,000 kyat (US \$513.83). And then you will get your land back.*" The villagers told them that, "*We don't have money.*" Then, they made trouble for the villagers [by making] many threats against the villagers. Therefore, the villager named Naw M--- had to sell her gold and went to pay them money, and Naw E--- had to sell one of her motorbikes and went to pay them. They told the land

²⁰ *Ar wer day* is the name of an event that was founded by Commander Mya Hkaing, formerly of the DKBA and currently Border Guard Battalion #1016 Commander. *Ar wer day* events typically consist of a group of people gambling and using *yaba*.

owners that, *"It will be done early if you do like this."*

[See hyperlink above for photos]

[See hyperlink above for photos]

These two photos were taken by a community member train by KHRG on June 4th 2013 in H--- village, Taw Soh village tract, Ta Kreh Township, Hpa-an District. The photo on left shows 51-year-old Naw M---, who lives in H--- village. The photo on right shows her land that was confiscated by BGF's Battalion Commander Boh Kya Aye. The photo on the left shows 51-year-old Naw M---, who lives in H--- village. The photo on the right shows part of the six acres of Naw M---'s land that was confiscated by a veteran BGF Battalion Commander, Boh Kya Aye. According to the KHRG community member who spoke with Naw M---, Boh Kya Aye demanded Naw M--- pay 600,000 kyat to continue using her own land. In order to pay the bribe, Naw M--- sold her gold and five cattle and, after paying the money, the former commander informed her that, *"We won't disturb your land anymore,"* however, she was not provided with any documentation to confirm this. [Photos: KHRG]

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Nabu Township, Hpa-an District, (Received in July 2013)

Source Document #31

Log #:	13-69-A1-I1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Interview: U A---, Received July 2013," KHRG, August 2014, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/13-69-a1-i1_0.pdf
Project Type:	Militarisation, other
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs
Full Text:	
What is your name?	
I am U A---.	
How old are you?	
I am 46 years old.	

What do you do?

I do farming.

Are you in any position [of responsibility] in this village? For example village head, etc.

I used to serve, since 1991, but I quit from [*position censored for security*] last December [2012].

So, you served since 1991 and you just quit last month?

Yes, it was 20 years.

I think you have been living in this village since you were young.

Yes.

Have you ever lived in any other village?

I have never lived in any other village.

What do you do?

I do farming and cultivation.

What is the name of the village tract [where you live]?

Meh Klaw Auk Kiang.

In which township is Meh Klaw Auk Kiang village tract located?

In Hpapun Township.

In which area of the village tract is B--- village located?

Meh Klaw Hta [the eastern part of the village tract].

In which township?

In Bu Tho Township.

In what religion do you believe?

Islam. I am Kayah [Karenni]. My father is a Muslim and my mom is a Kayah.

So you are Muslim?

Yes.

Ok, you are Muslim.

Yes.

How many houses are there in this village?

There are about 70 houses.

What I would like to know is in the past ten years...*[interviewer changes question]*...are you staying on your land currently?

Yes, I bought land from others and I am staying on it.

When did you buy the land?

In 1994.

In 1994?

Yes.

Ok. So, before 1994, did you ever have your own land?

Yes, I had my own land.

Why did you buy this land [that you occupy now]?

After they [Tatmadaw] confiscated my land, I did not have any land to stay on. I bought the land [that I currently own] and I settled on it.

How much did you pay for that [land that was confiscated]?

At that time, I paid 3,000.

In Burmese currency?

Yes, 3,000 kyat (US \$3.08).

Among the words that you said, it included the word 'confiscate'. So, who confiscated the land [that you used to own]?

The military.

Which military?

[Tatmadaw] #340's Battalion Commander Maung Maung Soe.

#340 is LIB [Light Infantry Battalion] or IB [Infantry Battalion]?

It is LIB.

Commander name?

Battalion Commander Maung Maung Soe.

Lieutenant Colonel Maung Maung Soe?

Yes.

Why did they confiscate [your land]?

Win Taung village, [where LIB #340 was based], was destroyed and they did not have a place to build a monastery and so they confiscated my land.

So, they confiscated the land for the military?

Yes, they confiscated it as land for the military.

Brother U A---, do you remember the date that they confiscated the land?

Yes, I do.

Can you tell me [the date]?

They confiscated it in October 1992.

They confiscated it as military land and what did they use the land for?

They confiscated it as military land and they built a monastery on it.

Now, is the monastery there?

Yes.

What did they name the monastery?

The [LIB] #340 monastery.

In the beginning of the year [2013], President Thein Sein announced that he would return land that had been confiscated by the military. [However, he will not return] land that is suitable for use by the military, but he will compensate [the former land owners for] the same amount as the current value [of the land]. Have they returned your land to you since they have announced this?

They have not returned anything yet.

Nothing?

They said they will provide [compensation for the land] instead, but they have not paid yet.

Did you hear that?

Yes, they said they will give [compensation for the land] instead and that they will not give [the land back], but they have not given any money as compensation [yet].

As for the value of your land that was confiscated, how many hundreds of thousands [of kyat] should it be with the current [land] price?

All together it was 30 acres of land.

So, now, how much is it for one acre of land with the current market price?

The current land price is about 400,000 for one acre.

400,000 means [kyat or baht]?

[Actually], one acre is worth 1,200,000 kyat (US \$1,233.30).

1,200,000 [kyat] for one acre?

Yes.

In Burmese currency?

Yes.

How many acres [of your land were confiscated]?

30 acres.

Is that only your land?

It is me and my brothers' land. It is the heritage [land] from our parents.

Ok.

It was inherited from my parents.

Don't you want to try to get this land back?

Of course I want to.

In what ways do you want to try [to get your land back]?

It would be good if they [military] compensated us [for the land]. Otherwise, I'll suffer.

What I would like to know is that...[interviewer changes question]... U Thein Sein announced [they would return or compensate people for confiscated land], [but] now [he] has not implemented anything. You heard U Thein Sein's announcement right?

Yes, I heard it.

Have you got your [land back] as U Thein Sein announced?

No, not yet.

So, you have been questioned a lot by me and could you tell me about your suffering as a result of your land and farms being confiscated by the military?

To be honest, [I] feel hurt.

Yes, feel hurt only? How about other [feelings]?

The people, [my] brothers and siblings, do not have [land] to work on.

Has it caused problems?

Yes, it has become difficult [to earn a livelihood].

As for us, what should we do for you? What do you want us to do for you?

How?

How should we help you?

Report it to the superiors [Burma government].

Ok, I see. So, I was asking you questions and you answered my questions. So, if I use this [information] and send it to other information departments [media, NGOs, etc.], will you allow me to use [the information]?

Yes, I will allow.

Thanks.

U A---, (male, 46), B--- village,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in July 2013)

Source Document #32

KHRG Log #:	13-70-S1
Publishing	Situation Update: Lu Thaw, Dwe Lo and Bu Tho townships,

Information:	Hpapun District, May to April 2013,” KHRG, 2013, (first publication)
Project Type:	Agriculture, infrastructure, natural resource extraction, militarisation
Location:	Lu Thaw, Dwe Lo and Bu Tho townships, Hpapun District
Actors:	Myanmar government, Myanmar private company, Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p>On May 9th 2013, I was going to the upper part of Saw Muh Plaw [village tract], Ler Muh Plaw village tract, Say Poo village tract, Naw Yoh Htah village tract and Kaw Luh Der village tract. [In these places] the ways in which they [Tatmadaw] have violated villagers’ rights include scattering the salt, occupying the villagers’ farms and repairing their [army] camps and old roads.</p> <p>Scattering salt started on Aril 5th 2013. Myanmar government soldiers live with the hill tribe [on] the mountain [in a military camp] called Taw Muh Plo Meh camp. In order to repair the camp, [they needed to] cut down trees [and bamboo]. [However], they did not want to go [collect these materials] because [there are] planted landmines in the area. So, [instead], they scatter salt under the bamboo trees. The buffalos [smell the salt, come to the salt scattered area] and explode the landmines. Twenty or thirty of the civilians’ buffalos died due to stepping on landmines. The villages that [had] buffalos that stepped on landmines were A--- village, B--- village, C--- village and D--- village due to [their proximity to the camp]. One of the villagers who lives near B--- village mentioned this to me. Many buffalos died due to [stepping on] planted landmines. People whose buffalos died have no [other] buffalos for farm [work] and this causes problems for them. They have to hire other people’s buffalos to cultivate [their land]. The work has not gone smoothly [because there are no buffalo left to work]. Moreover, they have to pay to hire buffalos. A villager stated this to me. He said that his buffalos also died and he [therefore] lost profit due to [having to] pay money to hire buffalos from others. This is the problem that he has faced.</p> <p>The Myanmar government’s soldiers came and lived on [a] farmer’s farm. They have not left yet. Moreover, they have built a better building in their camp. The villagers who live there [close to the camp] cannot return and live on their land because Myanmar soldiers came and attacked them. Today, they [still] face human rights violations. This [abuse] is not over yet, [they are still attacking the village]. The camps that are based there are Taw Muh Pleh camp and Pla Hkoh camp. In Burmese, it [Pla Hkoh camp] is also called Pyeh Leh Ko camp.</p> <p>The information that I have mention above was received when I was doing a survey inside Myanmar about displaced people. [While there], villagers told me about the problems that they faced and I reported that information in this report. If these problems do not stop there will be more conflict in the future.</p>	
Situation update in Mutraw [Hpapun] District, Dwe Lo Township	

Introduction

In this section, I report about human rights violations from the year 2003 to 2013. This report includes [information] about rubber plantations, road construction and mining.

Rubber plantations

In Htee Tha Bluh Hta and K'Ter Tee village tracts, Dwe Lo Township, there has been no room for farmers to cultivate [their own land] due to [continued] planting of rubber plantations from the year 2003 until now. They [farmers] have to go far away and clear the forest in inappropriate places [to make room] for [their own cultivation]. [In addition], they do not make much profit from [hill] farming so they [farmers] have complained about this. In 2013, because of the [Myanmar] government ceasefire, villages in Htee Law Thee Hta, Htee Saw Meh, Htee Theh Lay, Pwe Taw Roh and [all the way] down to Boo Ma Hae, Baw Kyoh, and K'Ter Tee village track, are full of rubber plantations. Farms that have been worked by farmers for years are now becoming places for rubber plantations. The villagers said that those places [new rubber plantations] were good for farming in previous times. [Moreover], as more rubber [plantations] were planted, farm [produce] and paddy did not grow much. There is also deforestation [caused] by the rubber plantations. The stream, as well as the river that [is fed by that] stream in the summer, were stopped [and are dry] now. The wild animals have also disappeared now because of rubber plantations. [This is] because the entire place that they [previously] occupied has become rubber plantations.

Road construction

The old road that runs between Ka Ma Moh [Town] and Hpapun Town [is being repaired and expanded]. Because of construction and mining between K'Ter Tee village tract and Htee Tha Bluh Hta [village tract], [villages such as] E---, F--- and G--- have suffered damage to farms that belong to villagers in those areas. [The damage has been caused by] cars crossing the farms and stones falling off of trucks [carrying the mined stones]. [These rocks make] the farms [unsuitable] for cultivation. This has caused problems for the villagers to cultivate their farms. The villagers dare not tell the car drivers [not to let stones fall in their farms], [which is] also a violation of their [the villagers'] rights. Moreover, the mountain on which they have been mining is recognised as a [spiritual] place where spirits have lived. In the past, they [villagers] heard the sound of gongs, xylophones and traditional songs from that mountain every month. People who came to mine were Myanmar government partners [Myanmar private companies]. They have been mining since 2009 and they continue every summer of every year. This mining has [violated the rights] of people in Htee Tha Bluh Hta village tract and K'Ter Tee village tract. The information that I am reporting, both the events and the causes, I saw with my [own eyes] while I surveyed the internally displaced people in the country.

I do know that the civilians will face problems in the future. If everything is not stopped, there will be conflict. Regarding mining and road construction, until the road is constructed completely, mining, transporting stones, [and other] such work will not be stopped. But if they [just] chose other ways of transporting the rock there would be less trouble for the villagers.

Mutraw [Hpapun] District, Bu Tho Township situation update

In this section, I report about the violation of human rights such as the [denial of] education and health, [as well as information about the] clinic.

When I was researching about the displacement of people in the country [Hpapun

District, Kayin State], villagers told me that for people living in Htee Ber Hka village, Ma Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, the problem that needs addressing since the ceasefire is education. The Myanmar government came and built a school for the purpose of benefitting the villagers. However, there is no benefit for the villagers and, moreover, every [child] is forced to go to school [even if their family cannot afford it]. When school registration starts, the [Myanmar] government school teachers give the students 1,000 kyat (US \$0.91) each [to encourage them to come]. Because of doing things this way, problems have been caused in the area: the students are giving money but the KNU does not want the students to pay [for this education]. The Myanmar government's teachers also said to the students, "If you are absent you have to pay 5,000 kyat (US \$4.57)." By doing things this way, the students' parents have to pay fines, which causes problems for them. [In addition, the government teachers] do not teach Karen literature. By changing [the education system] in this way, the parents' and children's rights have been violated.

Regarding healthcare, the Myanmar government talked about the ceasefire and caused problems by saying [that they would] come and build a free clinic [in the village]. [The problem is that] they say one thing but do another. They do not give medicine for free but [instead] ask for money for medicine. They cause conflict because they do not do what they said [they would].

Regarding [army] camps, in Bu Tho Township they repaired the camps. [In addition], in Khoh Lo Klo valley and Pwe Law Klo valley, they also repaired the [camps]. The villagers still have to fear [the Tatmadaw] because the Myanmar government soldiers [military] still continues to militarise [the area] even though [they] have a ceasefire with the [KNU]. The soldiers [in the camp] have not been removed. The villagers still have to fear [the Tatmadaw] and the conditions remain the same as before.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher, Lu Thaw, Dwe Lo and Bu Tho townships, Hpapun District, (Received in July 2013)

Source Document #33

KHRG Log #:	13-72-P1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Photo Notes: Lu Thaw Township, Received in July 2013," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Lu Thaw Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, health issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	<i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpapun District in July 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i>

Photo #: 308 - 316

[These photos] show the Poh Loh River's murky [water] that is caused by mining, [which] has also caused problems for villagers, [affecting] their bathing and drinking water. These photos were taken on April 4th 2013.

Photo #: 511 - 641

These [photos] show places where the company came to mine in Meh Kleh River [village], a huge area that the company mines in. [They were taken] on April 7th 2013.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Lu Thaw Township, Hpapun District, (Received in July 2013)

Source Document #34

KHRG Log #:	13-73-P1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Photo Notes: Dwe Lo Township, Received in July 2013," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Wealthy individuals, Myanmar government
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, some consultation
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpapun District in July 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i>	
Photo #: 0709 - 0712	
[These photos] were taken by me on April 5 th 2013 in Dwe Lo Township, Ma Lay Ler village tract, near the Baw Paw Lo River. Wealthy people come and mine for gold and [have created an] empty space [around the gold mining area]. This photos show that wealthy people had the opportunity [to mine] and that they were given permission by the Karen leaders to do gold mining. They started in 2007 [and have continued] until 2013. Along the Baw Paw [Lo] River is a mining area so the environment, such as the trees, river and bamboo, were logged. Now, because of deforestation, the forest [area] has become an empty space. Moreover, the Meh Kleh River and Meh Toe River are polluted in the same way as the Baw Paw Lo River. In the past, many years ago, Baw Paw Lo River was alive with a natural environment including trees and bamboo but now all are gone and [the land] is empty.	
Photo #: 0720 - 0724	
[These photos] were taken by me on April 15 th 2013 in Dwe Lo Township, Meh Choh village tract, Kwee T'Ma village. The villagers take baths in the Meh Koo Loh River. In the past there was no gold mining project so villagers could bathe in the Buh Law River	

safely but this year there was a serious drought, water from the pipe²¹ did not come and natural water sources from rivers ran dry as well. Moreover, they [villagers] cannot use water and take baths in the Buh Law River either because wealthy people mined for gold [there], polluting the river. The water is dirty and machine engine oil is also leaking into the river and polluting the river so they do not use it. Now Kwee Ta Ma villagers have to go and use water for bathing and drinking in Meh Koo Loh River, about 20 minutes from their village.

Photo #: 0725 - 0727

[These photos] were taken by me on April 16th 2013 in Dwe Lo Township, Meh Choh village tract. They are of a Kwee T'Ma villager who crosses over the Buh Law River after bathing in the Meh Koo Loh River. In the past, the villagers used this river [the Buh Law River for bathing]. [However], because of the gold mining project the water has become dirty and engine oil has polluted the water so they [villagers] cannot use this river anymore. Now they have to go clean themselves in the Meh Koo Loh River. This photo shows villagers returning after bathing in the Meh Koo Loh River and crossing over the Buh Law River.

Photo #: 0739 - 0742

[These photos] were taken of a gold mine by me on April 23rd 2013 in Brigade #1 [Thaton District], Bilin Township, Maw Pray Kee village tract. [Tatmadaw] Infantry Division #44 Battalion Deputy Commander *Ah Ba Lay*²² Tay Min Hlah joined and cooperated with [KNU] Brigade #1's leader who allowed him [Tay Min Hlah] to work on the gold mining project [on the] boundary between Brigade #1 and Brigade #5 [Hpapun District] in the Koe Law River gold mining area.

Photo #: 0743 - 0746

[These photos] were taken by me on April 25th 2013 in Dwe Lo Township, Waw Muh village tract, Waw Lay village of a Waw Muh villager's farmland beside Buh Law River. Infantry Division #44 Battalion Deputy Commander *Ah Ba Lay* Tay Min Hlah are doing a gold [mining] project in Brigade #1, Bilin Township, Meh Pree Kee village tract, Htoh Kyee Hta [village]. They dig out the ground, sand and stone and then transport it to Waw Muh village tract [on the] western [side of] Buh Law River. It is becoming a huge mound. If it rains and the water level rises the ground will collapse and destroy the surrounding Waw Muh and Waw Lay villagers' farmlands.

Photo #: 0755 - 0758

[These photos] were taken by me on May 8th 2013 in Waw Muh village tract, Dwe Lo Township of a Waw Muh villager carrying water with a cart along the Maw Kleh Law River. [In the past] there was no gold mining project so villagers always used the water from the Buh Law River for drinking and bathing. After the gold mining project started in 2010 the water in Buh Law River has become dirty and villagers do not use and drink it. [Instead], villagers went and dug a well near Meh Kleh Law River. Because of the distance they do not want to carry [water] on foot so they [now] go and bring [water] with the cart. [The well is] 30 minutes [from the village].

Photo #: 0759 - 0760

²¹ Some communities divert stream water to their village using simple pipes in order to decrease the amount of time it takes to collect water.

²² *Ah Ba Lay* is a Burmese term of respect or deference to more senior, in either age or rank/social status, members of the community.

[These photos] were taken by me on May 8th 2013 in Waw Muh village tract and are of Waw Muh villagers digging a well. Because of a gold mining project on the Buh Law River the river water has become dirty and they [villagers no longer] drink or take showers [in the river water]. For this reason, they came and are digging a well near Meh Kleh Law River.

Photo #: 0761 - 0762

[These photos] were taken by me on May 15th 2013 in Waw Muh village tract. This photo is of Waw Muh villagers' trench which they rely on to get water from the Meh Kleh Law River to their farmland.

Photos #: 0763 - 0766

[These photos] were taken by me on May 15th 2013 in Waw Muh village tract. This photo is of Waw Muh villagers building a trench to protect against strong river water during heavy rains [in the] rainy season. Because of a gold mining project in Meh Kleh Law River, sand will leak into their [the villagers'] farms during [heavy] raining and strong water flow. So Waw Muh and Poe Kheh Hta villagers [are] building the trench to protect [against] sand leaking into their farm.

Photo #: 0767 - 0772

[These photos] were taken by me on May 17th 2013 in Dwe Lo Township, Meh Choh village tract of a Kwee T'Ma villager's house. A company and wealthy people came and met with the township leader, asking for permission to mine for gold in Buh Law River. The township leader did not give permission, so they went back [left the village].

Photo #:0773 - 0781

[These photos] were taken by me on May 19th 2013 in Meh Choh village tract, Kwee T'Ma nursery school which was constructed by the district, township, village tract and KWO. In this year the school building's toilet was broken and has not been fixed for students yet.

Photo #: 0786 - 0788

[These photos] were taken by me on May 21st 2013 in Waw Muh village tract, near Waw Muh village of an excavator which is located beside the road way. Because of rains and deteriorating road conditions, the wealthy people who do gold mining in Meh Toe River have repaired the road to make it easier to transport materials.

Photo #: 0789 - 0791

[These photos] were taken by me on May 25th 2013 in Waw Muh village. It is of one woman in Waw Muh village who repaired her trench in order to work on her paddy field. Because of rich people who have a gold [mining] project in Meh Kleh Law River, sand is flowing into Waw Muh villagers' farms. Therefore, she dug out the sand that leaked into her canal.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District, (Received in July 2013)

Source Document #35

KHRG Log #:	13-73-S1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Situation Update, Dwe Lo Township, June 2013," KHRG, 2013, (first publication)

Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Myanmar government, wealthy individuals
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Health Issues, environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Other
Full Text:	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>The villagers and civilians of Dwe Lo [Township] have suffered the abuse of their human rights from 2006 until now. Due to gold mining by companies, the civilians have encountered hardships, such as the destruction of their farmland and the pollution of their drinking water, which has caused diseases. They [now] have to go very far to get drinking water, [while] some of the civilians dug wells on the riverside of Buh Law River which [still] do not produce enough water for them. Some villagers who have carts take water by cart so that they can survive.</p> <p>In the past there was gold mining by companies. Villagers [had to] use water from Buh Law River in the summer when the stream would go dry. Since the start of the gold mining, the villagers do not dare to use water from Buh Law River in the summer because the water is polluted by mud and engine oil from the gold mining [process].</p> <p>Moreover, there were a lot of fish in streams such as the Mae Toe stream, Meh Kleh [Law] stream, Baw Paw [Lo] stream and Htee See Mae Wah stream before gold mining [began]. However, now you cannot see even one fish in these streams.</p> <p>More importantly, there were a lot of trees and bamboo on the banks of the streams and the places were very beautiful. We could rest in the shade of trees and bamboo when we were traveling before gold mining [began]. [Now], there are no more trees or bamboo and a lot of areas are empty.</p> <p>The operations of the Tatmadaw</p> <p>There is no activity of the Tatmadaw in Dwe Lo Township like there was before. They rotate their troops once every four months. There are two Myanmar military [units] operating in our area. They are [Tatmadaw] LID #44 and LIB #96. They have not reduced the number of their troops yet.</p> <p>Gold mining</p> <p>The gold mining does not benefit the civilians. Civilians cannot build any school or hospital because of gold mining. Since gold mining began, civilians [have been] divided into two groups. One group works with the rich people and gets a lot of money but this benefits only themselves and [not] their neighbors. The other group does not dare to drink water from Buh Law River because the water is polluted by mud and engine oil due to gold mining. They have to go very [far] to get fresh water while they also dig wells in the river bank of Buh Law stream, but this is [still] not enough.</p> <p>Deputy Battalion Commander of LID #44 Tin Min Hla asked permission from Brigade #1 [Thaton District] leaders to gold mine from January 1st 2013 until now on the river bank</p>	

of Buh Law River in Mae Pree Hkee village tract, Bilin Township. Now they are gold mining and are dumping a lot of soil on the other side of Waw Lay monastery in Waw Lay village, Waw Muh village tract, Dwe Lo Township. In rainy season, the monastery and Waw Lay village will be flooded due to the amount of soil and sand [that has been piled up].

Environmental destruction

The lakes, trees, bamboo and the river banks of the Meh Kleh [Law] River, Baw Paw [Lo] River and Meh Toh River were [all] destroyed because of gold mining. Even fish, crabs and frogs from the rivers in which people are mining for gold have died. In the past, there were a lot of frogs, crabs, fish, lakes, trees and bamboo in this area. But we cannot see those anymore today. The gold mining destroyed the environment and, in addition, it caused trouble for future generations livelihoods. Civilians are very happy that our leaders are [planning to] ban gold mining. However, [at the moment] there are more rich people coming and the work is continuing.

Livelihoods of civilians

Since the emergence of gold mining, some of the villagers no longer farm because they open shops and work as porters. There are few people farming [now]. Yet all the villagers were working on farming before the gold mining.

Conclusion

Civilians have encountered a lot of hardship because of this gold mining. The villagers do not dare to use water from Buh Law River and they do not have drinking water. They say that they will gather together and dig wells in the middle of villages and use these together if the gold mining is still taking place next year. The information in this report is compiled by me. I saw it with my eyes and it is true.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District, (Received in July 2013)

Source Document #36

KHRG Log #:	13-74-A1-I1
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun Interview: Daw S---, July 2013,” KHRG, http://khrq.org/2015/05/13-74-a1-i1/hpapun-interview-daw-july-2013
Project Type:	Infrastructure, militarisation, agriculture
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Myanmar private company, BGF
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, forced labour, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Other
Full Text:	
Ethnicity:	Karen
Religion:	Buddhist
Marital Status:	Married

Occupation: Farming, logging and sugarcane plantation

Position:

What's your name?

I am Daw A---

How old are you?

I am 47 years old.

What ethnicity are you?

I am Karen.

How about religion?

I am a Buddhist.

How about your village?

I live in B--- village.

What do you do for your livelihood?

I do logging, work on a sugarcane plantation and farming.

How many children do you have?

I have five children.

How old is the eldest?

The oldest is 22 years old.

How about the youngest one?

Four years old.

Could you tell me how many houses are in your village?

Currently, there are *[censored for security]*. People just move from place to place [are now internally displaced]. There are no people [not as many people live here, compared to a big village].

Why do they have to move from place to place?

Because they hear the sounds of scattered gunfire from different places and it is uncomfortable for them [villagers].

Is there BGF [Border Guard Force] in your village?

Yes, there is.

Including Burmese soldiers?

They [the BGF] said there are Burmese deserters²³ that joined them.

²³ At the time of publication KHRG was unable to determine when or where from they had deserted from.

Did they [the BGF] say it like that?

Yes, they did.

Do they [the Burmese deserters] speak Karen?

One or two [Burmese deserters] cannot speak Karen.

The BGF said the Burmese are deserters and that they joined the BGF?

Some [Burmese deserters] understand [Karen] but cannot speak it.

In B--- village, you said there are BGF. Do you feel that you are free in terms of working?

No, not free. If it was free, we would be able to do sugarcane grinding. It is not free [in regards to working] and I had to abandon my sugarcane plantation. If we could do sugarcane grinding we could make 500 viss packs of brown slab-sugar. [However] there are landmines and other explosives in the plantation.

They have planted landmines in your sugarcane plantation?

Yes, recently a buffalo was wounded [by a landmine] in the sugarcane plantation.

Was it your buffalo that was wounded?

Yes, my buffalo.

Did they [the BGF] eat it [the buffalo]?

Yes, they did. After the buffalo was hit by the landmine I thought that I would sell some buffalo meat, but they [BGF] ate it and I could not sell the meat.

After the buffalo was wounded by the landmine, did the buffalo die immediately or did they shoot and kill it?

[The buffalo] did not die immediately; they shot and killed it.

Did you let them shoot and kill the buffalo, or did they decide to kill [the buffalo]?

They were about to kill the buffalo when I saw them, and after they saw me, they asked me, "*What should we do?*" I replied "[The buffalo] *is dying, do what you want.*"

Male buffalo or female buffalo?

Female buffalo.

How much money were you going to make if you sold that female buffalo?

[I could get] 500,000 [kyat] (US \$507.10), for the buffalo and two other calves. You know the current market price [for buffalos]. It was a fat female buffalo.

Did they pay you any money?

No, they didn't. I could sell only 12 viss (19.2 kg. / 42.24 lb.) [of meat]. I made 24,000 [kyat] (US \$24.34).

Twelve viss of meat is the amount [of meat] that you could sell?

Yes. I got 24,000 kyat [from selling the meat]; 2,000 kyat (US \$2.03) for one viss.

Did they [BGF soldiers] pay for the meat they ate?

No, they didn't.

Is the distance between the place they planted the landmines in your sugarcane plantation and your house far?

It is about a two or three minute walk from my home.

The eastern or western part of you sugarcane plantation?

The eastern part at Hkoh Law River side. I talked [reported] about [the landmines] to the 2nd lieutenant [from the KNU] because they [BGF] told us [about the location of the landmines] that they planted. But I did not know if they were telling the truth or not.

While they were in your village, who lead them [BGF]?

Now, the leader is called Ta Thoo.

Is he there now?

He just got back yesterday, when it was getting dark.

What is the real name of Ta Thoo?

They call him Tha Beh.

Is Tha Beh nice to you and other civilians?

In the past he was not nice [to me]. [He was nicer to me] when my kid was hit by the gun and I went to court.

He was nicer after that?

Yes, he was nicer after that.

So, you said your kid was hit by a gun; were you also hit?

No, I was not hit. It hit my daughter and one of my grandchildren. I was at the sugarcane furnace.

How did they get hit by the gun?

When my husband was moving our boat from the eastern side of the river, he was unfolding waterproof canvases from the boat to set it up. After that, he also went to the sugarcane stove. He [the BGF soldier who was also at the river] said, "*Ta, I will go too.*" [My husband responded], "*If you go, then go ahead.*" I was at the sugarcane furnace and I was walking. After the meal he [the BGF soldier] followed your brother²⁴ [to come back to my home] and when they had arrived home, he [the BGF soldier] asked "*Ta,*

²⁴ Here and throughout the interview, the interviewee refers to her husband as 'your brother'; this does not mean biological brother but rather is a term of endearment used in S'gaw Karen.

can you give me one gallon of petrol?" and [her husband replied] "I have only three or four bottles of petrol." He said "Ah, I want one gallon."²⁵ He [her husband] replied "I don't have a full gallon." My daughter then said "My father has told you it is not a full gallon; there are only three or four bottles of petrol." He [the BGF soldier] then picked up the M79²⁶ and he opened and loaded it, and said "Should I shoot you in the head with this M79?" My daughter replied "You really want to shoot us and you don't understand that gunshots kill people? [sarcastically challenging the BGF soldier]." He opened and loaded the M79 and placed it on the ground pointing toward my daughter. When my daughter was standing, about to leave with one of her babies, while nursing him, the bullet²⁷ came out.

What is the name of the sergeant major that placed the gun facing [your daughter]?

He is called Sergeant Major Hpah Day Day.

Is Hpah Day Day still there [in that battalion]?

No, he is not [there].

Did your grandchild get hit? Did he die?

No, he did not [die].

Did they take good care of you after you went to court?

They said they would pay me 250,000 [kyat] (US \$253.55) for the medical treatment and I have received 100,000 [kyat] (US \$101.42) from them. They will pay another 100,000 [kyat] this month. It is now the beginning days in February.

When did they get hit?

They were hit on January 15th.

In 2013?

Yes.

After they were injured did you go to the court immediately?

I went [took them] to the hospital first.

You sent your daughter to the hospital first, and you went to the court after that?

Yes.

What [BGF] battalion is that?

²⁵ When recounting the words spoken by the BGF soldier, the interviewee appears to imply that the soldier was inebriated, by changing her intonation and slurring her words. The interviewee did not state this explicitly.

²⁶ The M79 grenade launcher is a single shot, shoulder fired, break-action grenade launcher, and can fire various types of grenade rounds, it is commonly used by infantry throughout the world.

²⁷ While the interviewee uses the S'gaw Karen term for 'bullet' an M79 is a grenade launcher, and can fire various types of grenade round such as explosives, illumination, smoke etc. It is unclear what type of round was fired from the weapon in this incident.

It is Officer Maung Chit's battalion, #1014.

How did you report the case [to them]?

The baby was hit by a Klo²⁸ [M79] and people who come stay here [other villagers from the area] spread rumours, saying: "*The B--- village head has a walkie-talkie and a gun.*"

They accused your husband [of having a walkie-talkie and a gun]?

Yes. People who live on the other side of the river said that first. There are also some soldiers who love your brother [my husband].

Regarding whether the people's accusations were true or not, he [my husband] said: "*I am doing my work honestly and I have my dignity regarding that. You can search and explore, and if you find there is a [military use] walkie-talkie and a gun with me, I will cut my own throat. You don't need to do that. If you do you will be tired [by cutting my throat].*"

And not very long after, [the BGF] from B--- invited your brother and they asked him questions [about it]. They asked your brother: "*Hta Wah said you own a walkie-talkie and a gun*". He [my husband] said "*I don't own those.*"

He [her husband] continued: "*In the past, during peaceful times, one of my friends [who was in the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) who lives in Ta Hkaw Poe [village] was very friendly with me and I used to go hunting a lot [with that friend]. He trusted me and he let me use his gun [a G3 rifle]. When the BGF was split [from the DKBA], he [the soldier] was sent word to return them [the gun and walkie-talkie], and he returned them. He returned them a long time ago.*" In that complicated situation we worry [for our security].

I told you brother that I was worried for my daughter [and her baby] was injured, and I also have to worry about the accusations [against my husband]. Your brother said "*Do not go otherwise they [people] will say we make trouble by reporting [to the authorities] and you [his wife] also need to have sympathy for the front line people [the BGF leaders].*"

I replied to him "*No, I do not need to have sympathy, because for me there is nothing that can replace your life.*" Then I myself went to the military office to report it to them and they said to wait a couple days until the commander is back. After the commander got back he sent word for me to go and see him. I went there to see him and the officer told me "*Friend, do not report about this to other organisations, like the KNU, etc. We apologise to you for this and if you report it, the news will come out on the BBC and be published in the newspaper and that is not good.*" [After I returned from the office] I told this to your brother and your brother said "*We will not report it, investigate it yourself [meaning the BGF] and report it yourself [to other organisations].*"²⁹ I cannot remember all the words he [the officer] said.

²⁸ 'Klo' is the Karen term for 'gun.'

²⁹ The BGF commander told him not to report the incident. He then goes on to explain that he believes the BGF should investigate the incident and report it themselves to other organisations – they should take responsibility for what they did.

Do you know the name of the officer?

No, I don't.

Where is he from?

He is from Pweh Kay village.

Where does he live?

He lives at the BGF *gon*.³⁰

What do people call it?

I don't know. You should ask Saw W--- he knows. For me I cannot remember all.

You just returned after you reported to him? Or did he give you money at the same time?

He did not pay at the same time [as when I met him]. He said he will pay me but I haven't received [all of] it yet. I met him recently and he said he will pay me when he comes back again.

So now he is living in B--- village and after the accident is he [BGF Battalion #1014 2nd Lieutenant Tha Beh] nicer to the villagers?

Yes.

Did his leaders punish him?

No, he was not punished.

Is he still there now?

Now he is staying at the lower part [down river]. I requested that he [the soldier whose M79 discharged] come and see me but he didn't come and see me.

He did not come?

No, he did not come and see me. I just want to tell [discuss] the truth. I don't know if he is scared to see me or ashamed to see me.

When they [BGF] live there [in the camp] do they demand things [from the camp] to eat?

No, they do not demand things to eat. We also help them with boats and bamboo rafts [for transportation]. We thought [assumed] that it is ok for us if we can work freely even though we have to help [providing] them with boats or bamboo rafts [for transportation] and we do not complain even though they take it away for one or two days.

Do they pay for using them?

No, they don't.

³⁰ A 'gon' refers to camp which is situated on a gradient (hill) – in this instance the camp belongs to the BGF however the term 'gon' does not refer solely to BGF camps, it can refer to any type of camp⁰ located on a hill.

They do not pay for petrol either?

Yes, they do sometimes. If we go with them they pay for petrol. If they go by themselves they just fill it themselves.

They use it as their own boat?

Yes, they use [the boat] and the boat engine, and sometimes they return it and it is not functioning, but we do not complain about that. We expect only for them to be peaceful and their [the BGF] work to go smoothly.

Are there only [censored for security] houses in your village?

Yes, there are only [censored for security] houses and they [the people who live in them] are my siblings.

How about in the past? How many houses were in the village?

There were 34 houses before the conflict.

Now, where have the [people in those] houses gone?

They moved to Hkaw Taw Poo Town.

How long ago did they move to Hkaw Taw Poo?

Some people moved one year ago and some people moved two years ago, at the time when the BGF was founded. The BGF have been founded for two years already now.

They moved to Hkaw Taw Poo after the BGF was founded?

Yes.

So, you dare not go around your village as you want?

No, I dare not.

Why?

When they [BGF] first came [in the village area], they announced that they have planted some landmines [in village area] and [since then] I dare not go around freely. People said "*You can avoid the wild elephant but you cannot avoid landmines,*" because you don't know where they are [planted].

So let's go back to the case of your daughter and her baby. Did the [grenade launched from the] M79 explode?

It did not explode.

Did it [the grenade] hit her hand or leg?

It hit her leg and she has not recovered [from her wound] yet.

Left leg or right leg?

Right leg.

How about your grandchild?

My grandchild got hit in his back. It occurred when he turned one year old. He was injured at his waist.

Was he seriously injured?

No, his wound was between his skin and muscle. He had to get two stitches in his muscle and four stitches on his skin.

Which hospital did you take him to?

[The hospital] in Hkaw Taw Poo. It is about politics [due to BGF involvement] and many people came and asked me [about how it happened] as they were interested to know.

It was against the citizens and it was not the right [thing to do].

Yes, it was not the right thing to do. I've been sick and I've went to the hospital but people [the media] did not come and interview me like that. Now, many [media members] come [for interviews] I don't know where they are from, or from which organisation.

Do they speak Karen?

Yes, they do.

Did people who cannot speak Karen come as well?

Mostly, they speak Karen.

Are they Karen or other ethnicities?

They took photos as well when I was holding my grandson and my daughter's leg also.³¹

When was your buffalo hit by the landmine? On what day? How many days ago?

It has not been a long time. Just four days ago.

When?

What day is today?

Today is [February] 8th [2013]. It must be on the 4th [of February]. Five days ago? [Including the day he conducted interview].

On the fourth, in the evening, sometime after eight o'clock.

So they [BGF] came and killed the buffalo the next day, on the 5th?

Yes.

This year, do you think you are free to conduct your livelihood activities?

No, it is not free. There is hill side land which is free for farming but people [villagers]

³¹ The interviewee is answering the previous set of questions, pertaining to the individuals she perceived as being 'the media.' She did not answer this question regarding the other ethnicities.

dare not do cultivation [as there are landmines planted] and they run away [move] one after another.

Were they [the BGF] staying in the village, or outside the village when they were there?

They built up their camp outside the village, on the highland, and there are also [BGF soldiers] in the village and in the monastery.

Did they build their camp on villagers' plantations or land that belongs to others?

On my older sister's land. My oldest brother's wife.

What did they plant on their land?

They planted betel nut trees and dog fruit trees.

Did they [BGF] buy that land?

No, they didn't.

They didn't buy [the land]? They just confiscated the land and built their camp on the land? Did they force villagers to go and build the camp for them?

No they didn't. They brought people from the lower part³² in order to build their camp.

Are there any [BGF] groups that demanded forced labour?

No. They demanded people from the lower part [from town] only.

Are they still demanding forced labour now?

In the past two or three days they cleared plantation land and they were carrying bamboo [to build their camp]. They bring people from the lower part [from town] for forced labour. They [BGF] said they hired them for labour.

Have they finished building it?

I do not live in the village, I moved to the other side of the river.

Eastern part?

Yes, it is in the eastern part. After my children and grandchildren got injured by the gun, they [her daughter] no longer wanted to live in the village, and I was also not happy to stay alone [at home in the village].

So you also moved to the other side of the river as well?

Yes, and now [on the other side of the river] there is a monk, a monastery and my oldest brother's house.

³² In this area of Bu Tho Township, when villagers use the term 'lower part,' they are referring to southern portion of the township, at the confluence of the Salween and Yuzalin rivers, which is more developed, and has a higher concentration of towns and villages. Conversely, the 'upper part' refers to more remote areas father up the river, which are sparsely populated.

How about the monk? Where does the monk get food?

My brother takes care [of him] and we send [donate] him rice, oil and food.

How does it feel because of that [incident]? What kind of thoughts do you have and how do you feel about it?

It think it could be better if there is peace. Currently, sometimes I feel confused and living is not free. I don't like to live [in my area]. There are many villages in the lower and upper parts of my area but they are ok, it is only my village [where an incident occurred recently].

How about the surrounding villages? Did they also move?

There are no houses left in M--- [village].

No houses left?

No, not in the upper part of B--- [village tract], it is called M---.

What is their [BGF] purpose for living there?

I don't know what their plan is because I did not find out about that.

How about the [Hatgyi] dam? Do you know anything about the dam?

In the past they said they will do it but now I don't know because I have not researched that and I don't know about it. I don't know if they will implement it or not, I am not sure.

If the dam project is started, do you think you still can stay here?

If the dam project is started, I don't think I can stay [in the village].

Have you ever been in a dam discussion meeting?

Yes, I have been there once.

What did they say [in the meeting]?

They said don't worry, it is going to be in the lower part [of the area]. For the upper part it will cause damage to how many villages [interviewee asking herself]? They mentioned it but I can't remember.

You can't remember?

No, I can't remember. They also showed a movie on the screen.

What did the screen show?

The dam and the Salween River's geographic location from the source. They showed a picture of the villages that will be flooded [if implemented]. They showed the area that is going to be flooded. They said it is ok for the lower part. They said it is ok but if they [start to build] it will become uncomfortable due to the soldiers.

Have they built any shelters or buildings [for the workers]?

No, not yet. Last year they brought the materials [for building the dam] and people

destroyed them [the materials].

What is the name of the person that organised the meeting?

He is called U Myint Shwe.

Is he Burmese, Chinese, Thai or Shan?

He is Burmese.

Did they provide anything during the meeting?

They provided a torch light for each house.

For use at home or generally?

Home use.

Do you think there are benefits for you if the dam project is implemented?

I don't think so. We [I] do not have an education and [we] don't know. That is what I think.

Do you think they will sell it [the electricity] to foreign countries only?

Yes, I think so.

Do you think that if you have to pay monthly [for electricity], you can afford it?

Maybe if my work is going well. Currently, in this situation I don't think I can afford it.

This year how much brown slab-sugar did you produce from your sugarcane plantation?

Last year I produced 8,000 (12,800 kg. / 28,160 lb.) [viss of brown slab-sugar, in *t'la aw* leaf packages]. This year I could produce only 900 (1,440 kg. / 3,168 lb.) A lot of them [sugarcane trees] were damaged. I thought I would be able to produce about 3,000 (4,800 kg. / 10,560 lb.) but I could make only 900.

How about the [sugarcane trees] that you abandoned; if you could produce brown slab-sugar from those, how much do you think you could produce?

I guess 700 (1,820 kg. / 2464 lb.) or 800 (1,280 kg. / 2.816 lb.) [viss].

So they [BGF] did not remove their [landmines] for you?

No, they didn't. I asked them to remove them they did not. They said the grass has grown tall and hidden the landmines, so they dare not [try] to remove them.

Can you let your cows and buffalos go freely?

No, I can't, so I tie them up there.

So you are grazing your buffalo now?

Yes.

How about your other property, like your chickens, etc?

The buffalo baby [calf] was left behind [after the mother died].

Is that small buffalo still nursing?

Yes. It is just over two months old.

So you still have to take care of that [calf]?

Yes.

So now what do you feed that [calf]?

I haven't found it [the calf] yet.

[The calf] has been missing for two or three days, maybe it is dead already? And it is still nursing.

I think if I take care of it [the calf] carefully, it could live on.

You feed it [the calf] milk?

Yes.

Is there a school in B--- village?

No. It has been two years now [without a school]. Usually, [in the past] there is a school.

So, there was no school after the BGF was founded?

No.

So your children are not able to go to school?

No.

Do you have children who are of school age?

Yes, I send them to study in Hkaw Taw Poo [Town]. I can afford to send just some of my children to school.

Do you have to pay expenses to study in Hkaw Taw Poo?

Yes, there are costs because they have to stay in somebody's house. If they could stay in their own house there would be fewer costs.

So do you have anything else to say about your work or livelihood?

I think in my mind I am not happy [here in the village], I want to move. It is not free and I am not happy.

If you could move, where would you want to move?

I think I will move to D---.

Is it in the eastern part or western part [her village]?

Eastern part.

Do you wish for the dam project to be implemented or not?

This should not be happening. We could not stay [in our area] if it is implemented. I just wish for it not to be implemented. Recently, I wished to send [my children] one buffalo thigh. It was not free [to move in the area] and I could not send it.

How much do you have to spend for your children's schooling per year?

The cost is higher as their grade is higher. I let them stay in their uncle's house and there is not too much cost. [I have to provide] just for food. I have only one child that goes to school [now].

How much do you have to spend per year?

It is about 700,000 [kyat] (US \$709.94) per year.

What standard is he in?

Eighth standard.³³

If your child is not staying in their uncle's house then there would be more expenses than that?

Yes, right. You have to pay for book fees, clothes, etc.

You are living just right above the river side?

Yes, I am.

So, if the dam is implemented, you probably can [remain] here?

No, I can't. It is not only me among the people who live around here [that] hope the project is not implemented.

What villages are situated in the upper part of the river?

There are Taung Kyah [village], Hpa Yah Kyaw, Pa Deh Hta and in the lower part, they depend on the Salween River.

Where do they plan to build [the dam]?

They said at Taung Kyah.

Are there still plans for this project? Or they have cancelled it?

I have not heard [for a while] already.

Now, you live close to the BGF and sometimes you have to meet with the KNU [if they request a meeting]. What do you think of them? Which group is heavier [worse]?

I cannot say which group [is better] we are Karen and we love Karen people.

³³ Those in eighth standard are aged 13-14 years old. This is the equivalent of US grade 8/9.

Do they [the BGF] get a salary?

Yes, they do. They get a salary from the Burmese [Tatmadaw].

From the government?

Yes, from the government.

Do you think it is ok that they get a salary from the government and from that side [KNU] there is no salary?

For this group [the KNU] they do not receive the salary from the government and they are ok. We can tell openly [if there is problem with them].³⁴

How about the other groups? How about the BGF? Is it ok to admonish them?

No, they won't listen if you say so [admonish them]. Before the day my child [and grandchild] was hit by the gun, a [BGF soldier] broke my boat lock and was rowing the boat for fun. He came back above the riverside and said "*Aunty I will eat one of your betel-nuts.*" I replied "*Eat,*" and I placed the box before him. I called him sergeant major. I told him "*Master sergeant major, you are old enough and you should know what is good and what is bad. The lock can be broken [if you try to break it]. We do not want to interact [with soldiers], we want to live separately [from soldiers].*" He replied "*We are not married men, we are single.*" [After that] I stopped talking [to him]. The more that is spoken, the greater the chance there will be misunderstanding. I do not want to talk and there are worries for us too.

How about other things?

No, I do not have other things [to express].

If so we will talk later if we have [things to express]. Thank you.

Daw S---, (female, 47), L--- village,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Interviewed in February 2013)

Source Document #37

KHRG Log #:	13-74-I2
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Incident Report, Bu Tho Township, July 2013," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type	Infrastructure
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, some compensation

³⁴ The researcher is asking if the interviewee thinks it is fair that the BGF receive a salary from the government and the KNU do not. The interviewee replied that the KNU do not need or expect a salary from the government. If there is a problem with KNU soldiers, the leader of the KNU can be approached easily.

Consequences:	Displacement, environmental destruction, livelihood issues			
VA Strategies:	Unknown			
Full Text:				
<u>Part 1 – Incident Details</u>				
Type of Incident	<u>Condition of the village and dam issues</u>			
Date of incident(s)				
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	P--- Village, Htee Tha Daw Hta village tract, Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District			
Victim Information				
Name	Saw M---			
Age	53			
Sex	Male			
Nationality	Karen			
Family	Yes			
Occupation	Hill Farming			
Religion	Buddhist			
Position	Village Head			
Village	P--- Village			
Perpetrator Information				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Myo Myint Shwe			Yangon	Unknown
Hpah Tha Beh		Battalion #1014	[Close to] Tha A'Aw P'lee Village	Maung Chit
<u>Part 2 - Information quality</u>				
1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.				
Regarding this accident I took the [information] from P--- village head last December 2012. [The information is about] when he went to the meeting in Hkaw Taw regarding issues with the dam. The director was Myo Myint Shwe. Another things is in April [someone] went and built [a] BGF camp in at Meh Say [village] ten people at one time went and they had to bring 200 [pieces of] bamboos with them. It was in 2012.				
2. Explain how the source verified this information				

The person who provided this information knew about it because he himself went and planned. And regarding to the dam issue, he himself went to the dam meeting.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail. For each incident, be sure to include 1) when the incident happened, 2) where it happened, 3) what happened, 4) how it happened, 5) who was involved, and 6) why it happened. Also describe any villager response(s) to the incident, the aftermath and the current living situation of the victims. Please use the space prepared below, and create an attachment if needed.

Regarding the accident date, [we] can't state exactly because the village head could not recall the accident date. But it's happened in July 2012. Ten villagers from P--- village had to go and help [with repairing or building] BGF battalion #1014 and #1013 camps in L--- village and they had to bring 200 [pieces of] bamboo with them. A [villager] also mentioned that there is a BGF gate [check point] that asked for 1000 kyat (US \$) from each boat that travels along the river. Sometimes, if they [boat drivers] load many things, they ask for different amounts of money. BGF camp commander at L--- is not stable [the commander changes frequently]. Sometimes, the camp commander is Hpah Yuh Khay, sometimes the camp commander is Ba Yoh and sometime the camp commander is Hpah Tha Beh [in rotation], And sometimes, the position is changed. The accident happened in P--- village, L--- village in Htee Tha Daw Hta village tract, Bu Tho Township. The victims were L--- and P--- villagers and the actors were BGF soldiers. The things that happen mostly are forced labour, demands and threatening [of the villagers].

Another things is in December 2012, regarding the dam issue in Taw Kyah, because it's close to Meh Lah and Meh Say, they demanded the close villages to go and attend the meeting in Hkaw Taw Poo. The person who conducted the plan was called Myo Myint Shwe. He lives in Yangon and he said that the dam is related to the head quarter [of the Burma government] and we met with brigade seven [Hpa-an leaders and they have agreed. Only brigade five is left [to get the permission from]. If the dam is constructed, we will provide electricity and moreover you will gain improvement [development] and the areas that have been flooded by the water, they [the owners] will be compensated. Moreover, they said that the people who lost their houses will [be] relocated to Pago. It is a big problem for the villagers to be relocated. For the reasons mentioned above, it is not actually happening yet so, the civilians are still living as they used to in the past.

Part 4 – Permission for Using the Details

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

Regarding to this issue, the victims who are suffering gave us the permission willingly to be used to stop the forced labor and the things that [go] against human rights.

Incident Report written by a community member, P--- Village, Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in July 2013)

Source Document #38

KHRG Log #:	13-74-D5
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun Situation Update: Bu Tho Township, February 2013,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Myanmar private company; Myanmar government
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, some consultation
Consequences	Displacement
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs
Full Text:	
<p>If building the Hatgyi Dam project is implemented, over 300-400 villagers in Ma A’Eh village will be affected. The people who are going to build the dam are the Burma government. They have asked a private company to build the dam and put someone in charge. This person in charge is Myo Myint Shwe. The people who will suffer are Ma A’Eh villagers and neighbouring villages. Now, the villagers are living like before, but if the dam is constructed they will be displaced to the lower part of the dam in Brigade #7 [Hpa-an District].</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher, Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in July 2013)</p>	

Source Document #39

KHRG Log #:	13-74-P1
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun Photo Notes: Bu Tho Township, Received in July 2013,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Agriculture, infrastructure
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Religious leader, BGF, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpapun District in July 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0317, 0318</p>	

On April 22nd 2013, I went around Ler Kewh village and I took photos of rubber plantations and these photos show what civilians do for their livelihoods but also the harm [inflicted on] people who don't have money and who have no land for farming [or hill farming]. These [rubber plantations] cause problems for people who don't have land. These are not the problems that caused by companies and rich people, but between the civilians.

Photo #: 0435, 0437, 0440

On April 29th 2013, I was in Meh Lah village, Htee Tha Daw Hta village track and I took the photos of civilians who came to the KNU and KNLA meeting. They [the civilians] gave an awareness [a speech] in Htee Tha Daw Hta village track and talked about the condition of the Burma government and the dam plan as they are the villagers of Meh Lah, Meh Say, Pa Ya Kyaung, Pa Teh Hta, Kyaw Teh Hta, which are in the region of the dam. They came and listened together.

Photo #: 896 - 0453

On March 29th 2013, I went to Taw Kyah [village] lower part in Meh Lah Hta region and I took photos of what people do for their livelihoods at the side of his [or their] farm and hut. That was in [one of the places in] Meh Lah field, Htee Tha Daw Hta village track, in Bu Tho Township, in Taw Kyah at the lower part of the dam, everything will be destroyed.

Photo #: 0455 - 0457

On April 29th 2013, I was at the lower part of Taw Kyah, Meh Lah, Htee Tha Daw Hta village track, in Bu Tho Township and this is the photo of Taw Kyah Mountain's bridge at the place of dam construction. This photo show Taw Kyah Mountain in Htee Tha Daw Hta village track. If the Htee Tha Daw Hta Dam is constructed, villages and work places will be destroyed [by flooding].

Photo #: 0460

On April 29th 2013, I arrived in Meh Lah Hta, Khoh Loh Klo Hta river side, in the down part of Taw Kyah, in Htee Tha Daw Hta village track and this photo shows civilians conducting tobacco farming or plantations and selling it for their livelihood in that region. They [villagers] make shingle thatches and sell them for profit which covers the daily expenses of their family. These places will disappear if the dam is constructed.

Photo #: 0465

On April 29th 2013, I was in Taw Kyah [village] and I took the photo of these letters that the civilians wrote that forbade the dam [construction] and these letters [note] is at the boat yard where the boats gather. This place is located in Taw Kyah [village], in Htee Tha Daw Hta village track.

Photo #: 0469, 0471

On April 29th 2013, I arrived at Taw Kyah boat yard where the boats gather, where civilian passengers can travel by boat for their livelihood. This region will sink under the water if the dam is constructed.

Photo #: 0758 - 0761

On May 6th 2013, I was in Paw Htee Hkuh village where BGF Battalion #1013 is based and this is a BGF rubber plantation and this also shows the military camp's area. I took this picture on a motorbike.

Photo #: 0764, 0765

On May 6th 2013, I arrived in Htee Lah Beh Hta [village], the place where people built the bridge in Lwa Say village region, in Htee Tha Daw Hta village track, Bu Tho Township and this photo shows the bridge that will be constructed in three years' time. They said "*Monk of Hkaw Taw road*³⁵ and now people who take care and manage the bridge are BGF [Commander] Maung Chit and monk Sa Hsa. Those are their plans." Regarding working on the construction, the villagers will have to work on it since it is led by the armed group [BGF]. The armed group will order them to help giving them no choice. Some villagers reported that Sa Hsa is the monk but his guards are the BGF. We think our mother organisation [KNU] also thinks the same as the villagers do. The picture shown was taken at the east side of the bridge. If the bridge is constructed, they also will do road construction and we can say that many of the villagers' lands will be destroyed by road construction.

Photo #: 0780, 0781

On May 6th 2013, I arrived in Noh Hta village in Htee Tha Daw Hta village track and this photo shows the view and construction of the bridge in Htee Lah Beh Hta.

Photo #: 0912, 0915 - 0917

On May 10th 2013, I arrived in Nan Kyaw village, Day Wah village track, in Bu Tho Township and this photo shows the rubber plantation that was in Nan Kyaw village side which belongs to BGF adviser Saw Htoo Loo and now that causes problems for the villagers because if their animals went into his rubber plantation area, the animals could return with a broken [back] leg or front leg or blind, but they [villagers] dare not go and report it, because the people who take care of the farms are BGF soldiers. So that the civilians dare not to go and tell them their problems. The villagers are still under the control of those people [the military].

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in July 2013)

Source Document #40

Log #:	13-74-S1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Situation Update, Bu Tho Township, March to May 2013," KHRG, December 2013, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/13-74-s1_pdf.pdf
Project Type:	Infrastructure, agriculture
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Religious leaders, Tatmadaw, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, forced labour
VA Strategies:	Unknown

³⁵ Hkaw Taw is actually Myaignyngu in Burmese which is the name of a town. The monk who leads Hkaw Taw is called 'Monk of Hkaw Taw.' He does have his own name but is generally referred to as 'Monk of Hkaw Taw.' This sentence is therefore saying that the construction of the road was led by the monk.

Full Text:

Introduction

In Bu Tho Township, from the beginning of March to May 2013, during that three-month period, I documented the Tatmadaw's activities and situations, as well as the civilians' situations, including demands, forced labour, forced recruitment and the abuse of human rights in many ways, as well as the condition of villagers' livelihood, health and education.

Forced labour

In Bu Tho Township, Htee Th'Daw Hta village tract, P--- in Lwa Hsay area, there is construction of a bridge that crosses Pgheh Loh *Kloh* [River] from east to west, and they project that it will take three years to complete. In order to construct the bridge freely [without being bothered by non-BGF related armed groups, they named the bridge 'monk U Thuzana Bridge'. They asked the civilians to go and help [work for] them and said that it is a donation or volunteer work [making merit] for religion. So, the villagers in the village have to go and help in shifts. In actuality, this plan is not related to the monk, but to the company. All the plans are processed according to the armed group's [BGF] orders, as the order letters for work are from the armed group.

Killing

In Bu Tho Township, during three months, from the beginning of March to May in 2013, when we arrived at the township, we did not know of any killing that occurred and it has likely decreased.

Health problems

Regarding the health care problem, there are differences between each place. In the area that is out the Tatmadaw's control, whenever they are sick, they would depend on the KNU [Karen National Union], the mother organization's plan [treatment], and do not need to pay money [for medical treatment]. For the people who live far away from the clinic, most of them use *thay day wah day*.³⁶ Some patients recovered from their sickness, and some people died anyway. But if we compare among those people who died and survived, the percentage of people who recovered and survived is more than those who did not recover and died. People who got treatment from the mother organization, KNU, likely means that [this treatment originally came] from FBR [Free Burma Rangers] or Back Pack [Health Worker Team], and was distributed by KNU members].

For the people who live under the control of the Tatmadaw, whenever they are sick, they would go to the Government clinic and they would have to pay their expenses. They have to pay money that is worth the amount of medicine that they get. If you get lots of medicine, you will have to pay lots of money. It also depends on the sickness or disease that they have. There are some villages that have a Burma government clinic. They [the government] claimed that the clinic is for the civilians, but there is not enough medicine, and the medics do not work on their duty regularly. The medics are not at the clinic when the villagers urgently need them. According to what the villager said, they will have to pay half of the expenses [of building the clinic] if the clinic is completely built. But they have not paid anything yet as the construction [of the clinic] is not finished. This location is Kyoh K'Loh village, which is in Htee Th'Daw Hta village tract region.

³⁶ *Thay day wah day* is a Karen term referring to traditional or herbal medicine.

Land confiscation

In our township, land confiscation mostly occurs in the places close to the vehicle road. The Burma government mostly confiscated the lands such as flat field farms. From the beginning of May, the villagers were told [by the government] to plant [round] bean. Currently, the villagers are ploughing their farm land to plant beans. Those who own the farm close to the vehicle [road], they couldn't plough to plant the paddy because they have to wait for the government's plan. No one knows how their plan will turn out. This is what the Burma agriculture department's officers will show their leader [government] when they come. They [villagers] do not know if they [Tatmadaw officers] will do that until it succeeds or not. If they do that until they succeed, the villagers do not know how many acres of their land will be destroyed, and this will create problems for the villagers. This mostly happened in Hpapun area where IB [Infantry Battalions] #434, 341, 340 and LIB [Light Infantry Battalion] #19 and IB #642's army camps are located. Most of the farms belong to the villagers. They also haven't yet returned the lands that had been confiscated in the past to the villagers.

Another thing is the disagreement regarding the land among the civilians who work on the rubber plantations. People who have more money build large rubber plantations and people who have less money [have] very little land for cultivation, and they don't have land for grazing cows or buffalos. Moreover, bamboo and other trees have been cut down [causing deforestation in that area]. The villagers do not know the advantages and disadvantages of rubber plantations. Because the price of rubber is high, many people plant rubber trees [and make huge rubber plantations]. So those who are weak [because they lacked money] faced problems.

Condition of the civilians

Now, there are two kinds of civilians, [those] who are out of the area controlled by the government and people who are under government control. If we have to compare these two groups of people, people who are under control have more freedom to travel around, but for people who are out of the control area, they have more problems going around on the vehicle road or in the city. After the KNU met with Burma [for the ceasefire agreement], travelling around became easier for people who are out of the control area. Otherwise, the people who are out of the control area won't be able to travel or go around on the road or city.

Most of the civilians here are flat field farmers or hill field farmers, and [work on] plantations. There are a few people doing business. Nowadays, the civilians lack opportunities and they hope for the country's freedom. There is no economic ability for them [to do businesses]. Their plants from hill fields and flat fields were destroyed by the insects, and the plants turned yellow and died. They couldn't figure out a way to make it better. [They want to] try other ways, [and since] there is no freedom [to do pursue their livelihoods] they hope [leaders] plan for a better future.

Military Activity

Tatmadaw Activity

In this area, the Burma government and the KNU leaders had the ceasefire talk so there is no special activity of the Tatmadaw. If we have to compare the forced labour demands and movement restrictions that happened in this year and in the past, this year it has decreased a little. To compare previous years and now, there are differences. However, the Tatmadaw [continued to] transport its rations during the

ceasefire period. In Bu Tho Township region, the Government and the KNU leaders had signed the ceasefire but their soldiers' activities have not changed. Moreover, they sent more weapons and repaired their military camps based on the borderline and repaired their fences everywhere.

Now, Burma government soldiers are waiting and watching the situation, and they just let the BGF [Border Guard Force] stay active. The two BGF battalions that are currently active are Battalions #1013 and #1014. They are active in Htee Th'Daw Hta village tract, Kyaw Pha village tract and Day Wah village tract. The two active battalions are BGF #1013 [with] Battalion Commander Hla Kyaing, Battalion Deputy Commander Kyaw Win [and] Battalion #1014 [with] Battalion Commander Maung Hsee [Maung Chit] and Battalion Deputy Commander Tin Maung Soe. Battalion #1013 is based in Paw Htee Hkuh and Battalion #1014 is based in a new place close to Tha Aw Plee. The two battalions combined and built an army camp in Meh Seik, and they also use landmines for their security. On February 5th 2013, one of their landmines exploded and hit a Meh Hsee villager's buffalo. Although the buffalo did not die, they shot the buffalo and ate it without paying the villager anything. The landmine that hit the villager's buffalo was planted beside the fence of a sugar cane plantation, and they did not inform the sugar cane owner about it. At that time, the camp leader was Pah Tha Beh, Battalion #1014 platoon commander, and his battalion commander is Maung Hsee. On June 19th 2013, Burma government soldier BGF Battalion #1013 Battalion Deputy Commander Kyaw Way ordered his soldier Saw Kaw Htoo to go and demand thatch shingles from Paw Ta Kwee villagers without paying anything.

On March 13rd 2013, Battalion #1014 [soldier] Pah Th'Beh and his four soldiers entered K--- village in the afternoon around at 2:00 pm. They did not follow their rules as they crossed over the limited area that they talked about with KNLA leaders [demarcating KNLA territory], so the KNLA soldiers attacked them and fighting happened. The fighting injured a father and son. The father is named Kyaw S---, 40 years old, and his baby boy is just one month old. Kyaw S--- was hit on his right elbow and his child was hit at the right side of his head on his temple by M79 [grenade launcher] shrapnel. The villager didn't know if the villagers were hit by a KNLA or BGF weapon.

The Burma government ordered its BGF army to secure Meh Hsee [village] where they have plan for the dam in Taw Kyah. They want to construct it without being disturbed. Therefore, they ordered the BGF to take the security in advance. There are things that likely will be damaged if the dam is built. These are the activities of the Tamadaw that we have documented so far. Forced labour has decreased compared to last year, but they still don't pay money to the villagers if they make orders.

KNLA soldier activity

In Bu Tho Township, regarding KNLA soldiers, wherever they go, they take courage [rely on resources] from the civilians. So, they inform the villagers before doing anything. Wherever they are, they encourage the civilians as best as they could. They also let the civilians express that any one [KNLA soldier] who violates any of the villagers' rights has the opportunity to express or report it to the media groups.

They also raised awareness about the fact that KNLA [soldiers] have no salary. They also said that we [KNLA] cannot afford to buy things like Burmese soldiers or the BGF, so we just rely on civilian support. They also said that they have to respect the civilians' rights.

Occupations

Civilians in Bu Tho Township mostly earn their livelihood by farming, cultivation and rubber plantations. At that work place [within Bu Tho Township], there is no way for them to do other business. Because the civilians do not understand the rules of business, if [an outside] business came into their work place, there would be problems for them. Now, they have been farming and cultivating for a long time ago, and compared with previous years there were many differences. In previous years, the farm that they worked on provided 200 or 300 baskets of paddy, but now it's decreasing. They get only over 100 or at most only 200 baskets. Livelihood problems are caused by many things. One of them is the Tatmadaw disturbance, and the other is because of the unstable weather conditions and rats and insects that destroy the paddies.

Currently, the problems in the region, especially in the southern village tracts such as Wah Day, Kyaw Pah, Meh P'Ree and Htee Tha Daw Hta region, [are that] they planted a lot of rubber so the areas for cultivation are narrowing, so has it caused livelihood problems [since there is less planting area]. The people who planted the rubber are not the people from companies but rich civilians. They [rich people] knew that if they develop rubber plantations they would get so much money and would buy rice for their livelihood. Because of this, it has become a problem for poor people who don't have money. Regarding this problem, the villagers don't know how to figure out a way to solve it.

Conclusion

The information that I have mentioned above is incidents that happened during the period when I was documenting human rights abuses. Some incidents I faced myself, and for some I heard it f from the villagers. The villagers still don't know what problems regarding food, health and education will come in the future, and they also don't know a way to solve it.

Situation update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in December 2013)

Source Document #41

KHRG Log #:	13-77-P1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Photo Notes: Bu Tho Township, Received July 2013,"KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	<i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpapun District in July 2013. The other notes were not relevant to</i>

land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]

Photo #: 0017, 0018, 0020, 0022 - 0024, 0029

On January 31st 2013, Bilin Township, Aye Kyoo Hkee village tract, Kyoo Htaw Loo [Shway Pu] is a gold mining area which about 30 minutes away from Kyoo Htaw Loo village.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in July 2013)

Source Document #42

KHRG Log #:	13-78-S1
Publishing Information:	“Thaton Situation Update: Hpa-an, Thaton and Bilin townships, January to July 2013,” KHRG, December 2013, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/13-78-s1_pdf.pdf
Project Type:	Agriculture, natural resource extraction, infrastructure
Location:	Hpa-an, Thaton and Bilin townships, Thaton District
Actors:	BGF, Myanmar private company, wealthy individuals, KNU
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, forced labour, livelihood Issues Displacement
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p>Villagers face problems after the ceasefire</p> <p>Since the ceasefire, a lot of private businessmen and companies have entered the area [Hpa-an, Thaton and Bilin townships]. These people come and carry out long-term agriculture (long-term crop projects), mine natural resources and work on infrastructure development such as vehicle roads, bridges, schools and clinics. This work impacts villagers' livelihood in some areas.</p> <p>In March 2013, BGF Battalion #1014 and the cooperating companies, Shwe Tha Lwin Company and Hein Naing Win Company, ordered villagers to go to clear their rubber plantations that they planted in 2012. They still order villagers. The villages that they order are; a big part of P---, small part of P---, R---, C---, B---, D---, Y--- and Z--- villages. They [Shwe Tha Lwin and Hein Naing Win Company] pay the villagers who they order 2,000 kyat (US \$2.06) per day. One person per household has to go and if they cannot go, they have to pay 2,000 kyat to the BGF. The villagers that have to go and work for the BGF are located in Meh K'Na Hkee village tract and Weh Pya village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Th'Htoo District. The location where they had to go and work was in between Meh K'Na Hkee and Hpa Paw [village tracts]. Regarding this rubber plantation, the KNU-KNLA leaders discussed and decided not to give permission [to the BGF and companies] to work on it anymore. They gave orders to the township leaders and brigade leaders to prohibit it decisively but it could not be forbidden. The BGF soldiers always guard [the rubber plantations]. One of the township leaders from Hpa-an Township reported that fighting might happen if people go and destroy the plants.</p>	

Rubber plantations

Since the ceasefire, many companies and rich people entered and planted rubber plantations. Some of the rubber plantations included villagers' land and villagers had to sell their land. Some villagers had to give up [their land without compensation] because of the explicit threats. Individual rich people, Win Hlaing and Thaug Htin, went to request the land from the [Burma Government] in order to work on the land for 30 years, and the Burma Government gave them permission to work in the Paw Kyoh Weh and Hpah Paw protected forest areas which are located in S--- village, T--- village and H--- village. There is a total of 500 acres of land [that were granted by the Burma Government to the individual rich people]. The Burma Government [department] that leases the location for them [the business people] did not come and investigate the information systematically, so it [the land that was leased] included many villagers' work places. People, whose land is included in the area where it was leased for the rich people, have to redeem for their land grant for 50,000 kyat (US \$51.60). If the land is one acre wide, they have to pay 50,000 kyat, and if the land is 10 acres wide, they will also have to pay 50,000 kyat. If they do not redeem their land [grant], they cannot get their land back. Therefore, the villagers reported to the KNU government in order to get back their land and the [KNU] people who are in charge could only solve the problem for them as the rich people do [demanded the villagers to redeem the land for 50,000 kyat]. So, villagers who do not have money had to forfeit their land. Nowadays, mostly the rich people go to report land as uncultivated and the government gives many of them permission as reported on above. The issue started in 2005 and it happens more and more.

Production of mineral resources

Starting on February 4th 2013, the company named Ko Cho/Maung Maung Yi came and entered and placed a boat in the Boo Loh River. They placed six boats from Baw Paw Hta to See Koh in order to start [mining] gold. They asked permission from the KNU government and they were given permission by the local business committee. The location is Ee Hkoo Hkee and P'Da Daw village tract, Bilin Township, Doo Th'Htoo [Thaton] District. The boats that mine gold are given permission to mine for six months and one boat has to pay 11 million [kyat] (US \$11,352) per month as a tax to the KNU. Because of the raining season and because the Ko Cho/Maung Maung company did not want to pay the tax, work stopped after one month. Regarding this gold mining, they [Ko Cho/Maung Maung company] produced gold in Boo Loh River and they drilled the sand from the river and dumped [the sand] on the top of the steep bank, which covers villagers' work places and damages the environment.

Regional development project

From January to June 2013, we saw a company which is [called] Max Myanmar enter and carry out village development [projects] related to health and education in many villages. We do not know if they get permission from the Burma government. But on the KNU side, we know that they got permission so they entered and did it [the development project]. The locations and villages where they carry it out are in the villages in Tha Htoo Township and Hpa-an Township. On May 2nd 2013, they started building one primary school and one clinic in Wa Poo village, Neh Hpaw Hta village tract, Th'Htoo Township. They are still in the process of building it [the school]. On May 6th 2013, they also started building up one kindergarten school in Neh Hpaw Hta village. In 2012, they also built up one middle school and one clinic in T'Maw Daw village and they finished in May 2013. There is no medicine or medics in the clinic. People do not know anything yet about whether the Government will come and place

them [medics and medicines] in the future or who they [Max Myanmar Company] will select to come and place them [medics]. In Hpa-an Township, Zin Yaung Htun Taung Company came and built up one clinic in Ee Heh village. They started building it [the clinic] on February 16th 2013 and they are finished now. The villagers are very happy because the clinic has been built for them and they believe that if they are sick, they can access the medicine freely. Though, the clinic has been built and there is still silence. The villagers are hopeless because nothing can be seen in the clinic and there is no medic.

The situation of actor Wai Lu Kyaw

In March 2013, the actor Wai Lu Kyaw came and met with one of the local KNLA [Karen National Liberation Army] intelligence. They met and discussed the issue about whether it is possible for them to enter and carry out regional development projects such as education, health and running electricity projects in Doo Th'Htoo [Thaton] District. Regarding these issues, in the township permanent committee meeting on April 6th 2013, this leader raised this issue and the permanent committee congress decided to accept Wai Lu Kyaw's project. The projects that they will do are: 1) Education. He would like to select Karen people from the mountain ranges who finished at least 10 standards and then, support them to study at the university for two years then return to help their village. He did not say anything about the number. It will depend on what can be organized. 2) Health. He also would like to select Karen people on the mountain ranges who finished 10 standards and ask [support] them to go to study [attend medical training] in the city for one year then come back and look after things in their village. 3) Electricity. He would like to select Karen people who finished at least four standards to go to attend the solar electric power training in order to study to be skillful and [the purpose] is for the villages to build access to electricity. If people can find [money] for them and if they start studying, he told them that they would be given the salary of 80,000 to 100,000 kyat (US \$82.56 to \$103.20) per month. However, until now, we have not seen anything about the reality of his projects.

Burma Government increases its reign in our area

The Burma Government also increases its sovereignty in almost every village tract and township. We have known that they already established all village tract administrators on the flat land, in the lower areas. But for Bilin Township, because it is located close to the mountain range, they could not establish it [sovereignty] in the villages and village tracts of the upper areas. The [administrative] structures that were established were a village tract administrator, a secretary and an accountant, these three people. They provide salary to one village tract administrator with 70,000 kyat (US \$72.24) per month, and 40,000 kyat (US \$41.28) for the office expenditures, in total 110,000 kyat (US \$113.52). But for the secretary and accountant, they do not provide the salary for these positions. They asked the three people that they selected to go to attend a training in the city. The training is about land policy and forestry policy. Another thing, they [Burma Government] also established a leader for every 10 households and one head leader for every one hundred households in this area. The Burma Government is establishing the sovereignty like this to get more votes for the 2015 election.

Education condition

During this year, starting from January to July, regarding the education, we have seen that the schools become better and there are more schools because the Burma Government and companies come and start doing the projects. For the school materials, the assistance from the KED [Karen Education Department] to the students' parents becomes relief to buy books for their children. And also, UNICEF [United

Nations International Children's Emergency Fund] which came along through the Burma Government also supports the students in primary school, which is related to the Government, [and] they supported one backpack, 10 note books and 1,000 kyat (US \$1.03) to each student. The schools that are not related to the Government schools are never supported.

Conclusion

Regarding this report that I wrote, we went in to the area and experienced this for ourselves, and some villagers who had to suffer things told us and we collected and compiled all the information in the situation update above. In some cases, because we did not get the full issue, it will require the readers to think more. It depends on the situation. Nowadays, the situation and information are not as apparent as in the past.

Situation update written by a KHRG Researcher, Hpa-an, Thaton and Bilin Townships, Thaton District, (Received in December 2013)

Source Document #43

KHRG Log #:	13-81-P1
Publishing Information:	“Hpa-an Photo Notes: Paingkyon and Nabu townships, Received August 2013,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Agriculture, natural resource extraction, other
Location:	Paingkyon and Nabu townships, Hpa-an District
Actors:	BGF, other
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpa-an District in August 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 5400, 5401 These were taken by me on June 4th 2013 in Kaw Hsoo village tract, Ta Kreh [Paingkyon] Township. This photos display Naw S---, BGF major Deh Ter Ler and Ko Bo Kyaw Heh who confiscated three acres of her land. Deh Ter Ler said to Naw S---, “<i>If you want back your land you have to give me 500,000 kyat (US \$484.10) then I will pay you back.</i>” Naw S--- does not have anything so she had to sell her motorbike, but she only got 400,000 kyat (US \$387.30) and the rest she had to borrow from someone else. As she wants back her land she went and gave 500,000 kyat to BGF Battalion Commander Deh Ter Ler.</p> <p>Photo #: 2720, 2725</p>	

These were taken by me on July 20th 2013 near Htee Poe Kyaw village tract, inside T'nay Hsah [Nabu] Township. This place was marked by a villager as "pasture land" to feed their livestock like cows and buffalos. The Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC) come to log and plant rubber trees, negatively impacting villager livelihoods.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Paingkyon and Nabu townships, Hpa-an District, (Received in August 2013)

Source Document #44

KHRG Log #:	13-84-P1
Publishing Information:	"Toungoo Photo Notes: Htantabin Township, Received in August 2013, KHRG," (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Htantabin Township, Toungoo District
Actors:	Myanmar private, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Some compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Lobbying KNU, formal registration, negotiation
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Toungoo District in August 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0043 - 0057 Taken on March 18th 2013. These are the photos of a car road from Toungoo to Hkler La. The bridge at Pae Lae Wa is covered by water because Shwe Swun In company built a dam. The company built a new road. But the company built it carelessly and we can see that there are a lot of depressions in it. The road could collapse in the rainy season and it is a risk for the villagers while they are travelling.</p> <p>Photo #: 0058 - 0062 These were taken on March 29th 2013 at Peh Leh Wa area, Htaw Ta Htu Township, Toungoo District. The water rose and reached the western Day Lo area and Maw Nay Bgwa area in Htaw Ta Htu [Htantabin] Township. The bridge of Paw Lae Wa is covered with water because of the dam. Shwe Swun In, the company that built the dam, made a barge to transfer motorbikes belonging to the villagers. We have seen that thousands of acres of villager's lands and plantations disappeared because of the Burmese government and the company that constructed the dam.</p> <p>Photo #: 0092 - 0100 These were taken on May 11th 2013. These are the photos of villagers' lands which are covered by water at western Day Lo area because the Shwe Swun In company built Thauk Yay Khat a hydropower project and they tried to block Day Lo river which caused flooding. The water flooded the lands of Hton Bo villagers and destroyed it. The KNU</p>	

[collected the list of the villagers who lost their lands and Shwe Swun In company to compensate the exact price of the lands. The responsible person of Shwe Swun In company, U Wan Maung, said that they will give money when they receive the exact number of acres of lands. We have seen that they gave money to some of the villagers, but some have not received the money yet.

Photo #: 0086 - 0109

These were taken on April 3rd 2013. These are the photos of the leaders of Toungoo District who are meeting with Shwe Swun In company at Toh Boh Dam area. This meeting is about the villagers who lost their lands and plantations because the company built the dam. Eight leaders from Toungoo District attended this meeting and they took photos together after the meeting.

Photo #: 0075 - 0079

These were taken on April 26th 2013 at Htaw Ta Htu [Htantabin] Township, Toungoo District. After the ceasefire agreement between the Burmese government and the KNU, the KNU tried to verify the area by using GPS [Geographic Positioning System] and they will also make land tenure and will give new seeds for plantation and farm lands to the villagers. The farming department started to measure the land at Ber Htee area. The SPDC [State Peace and Development Council] government confiscated the lands of villagers at Nyaunglebin Kwin [field] over the last 20 years. Now the government said that they will return the lands back to the villagers. Villagers who lost their lands requested that the KNU make land grants for them, so the KNU asked the farming department to measure the lands for the villagers and make land grants for the villagers.

Photo #: 0060 - 0026

These were taken on April 14th 2013 at Shwe Ta Saw village, Ber Htee area, Htaw Ta Htu [Htantabin] Township, Toungoo District. A problem occurred for the villagers who were living in Ber Htee area and where water from Yaw Hsa Lo River was overwhelming the farming fields of the villagers in the rainy season. So the leader of Toungoo District, the operation commander, the battalion commander and township leader met with the representatives of the villages from Ber Htee area and discussed how to solve this problem. To solve this problem, they will ask [for a] bulldozer to extend the river, so that the river will not overwhelm [flood] in the future and all the representatives agreed with decision.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Htantabin Township, Toungoo District, (Received in August 2013)

Source Document #45

KHRG Log #:	13-85-P1
Publishing Information:	"Toungoo Photo Notes: Htantabin Township, Received in August 2013," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure, natural resource extraction, other
Location:	Htantabin Township, Toungoo Division
Actors:	Myanmar private company, wealthy individuals, Tatmadaw
Compensation or	No compensation, some consultation

Consultation:	
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs, negotiation, other
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Toungoo District in August 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0035 - 0037 These were taken on March 16th 2013. These are the photos of the administrator of Section #1 of Thandaunggyi Town. He mentioned that the UNHCR [United Nation High Commission for Refugees] came and built 26 houses at Section #1 for refugees. But these houses are not perfect for the refugees and more than that the lands where the houses were built are the lands that were confiscated by the Burmese army.</p> <p>Photo #: 0045 - 0048 These were taken on April 17th 2013 at Zee Phyu Gone village. It is flooding every year in this village area during the rainy season and it destroys the paddy fields. More than that, because of the emergence of the Day Lo River Dam, it will be flooded 10 times worse than before. The leaders of the KNU worry for the villagers. So they ask Shwe Swun In company to dig a drainage system so as not to destroy the fields of the villagers. This drainage is very useful for the villagers in Htaw Ta Htu [Htantabin] Township.</p> <p>Photo #: 0064 - 0091 These were taken on April 18th 2013. It is the "Zay Kwet [business zone]" in Htaw Ta Htu [Htantabin] Township. The rich people had to ask permission from the KNU leaders to come and do logging at Ber Htee area. If we look back to this we can see that the logging affects the environment and more than that it becomes a hardship for the civilians to find firewood for cooking and to make fires with.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher, Htantabin Township, Toungoo District, (Received in August 2013)</p>	

Source Document #46

KHRG Log #:	13-85-S1
Publishing Information:	<p>"Toungoo Situation Update: Than Daung and Tantabin townships, February to July 2013," KHRG, January 2014, http://www.khrg.org/2014/01/13-85-s1/toungoo-situation-update-daung-and-tantabin-townships-february-july-2013</p>
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Htantabin and Thandaunggyi townships, Toungoo District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, KNU
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation

Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Official petitions/complaint mechanisms, lobbying government officials
Full Text:	
<p>Introduction This is the situation update from Toungoo District, February to July [2013] after the ceasefire agreement between the Burma government and KNU. There are no changes in the Tatmadaw's activities. [This report] documents villagers' concerns about land confiscation; provides an update on the education and health situation of the villagers; discusses the local activity of the Tatmadaw; and addresses the civilians' situation and their livelihoods. The leaders of the KNU are giving ceasefire awareness to the villagers, where they explain about the peace process and where they [the KNU] made commitments with the Government, and ask advice from the villagers to be able to work [on the ceasefire process] together in the future.</p> <p>The situation of Burmese army Compared with an earlier time before the year 2013, the Burmese army [Tatmadaw] do not force or oppress the villagers anymore. However, we cannot say [this] for sure. We do not know what will happen in the future. But on the other hand, if we look at the activities of the Burmese army, they get more opportunities to send rations and ammunition freely without any harassment. The reason why we can say that is because the situation of the Burmese army is the same as before. They have not reduced their military camps but instead, they repair and build more military camps.</p> <p>On March 15th 2013, a villager who lives near Klaw Mee Der area told me that the Tatmadaw built one more military camp in Klaw Mee Der area and the place [where the Tatmadaw army camp is built] is called Nat Tha Mee Taung [Fairy Mountain]. We do not know the date that they finished building [the camp] and started staying there. However, because there is more military [presence], the villagers are not feeling very comfortable and they do not want the military camps to increase. If possible, they want the Tatmadaw to withdraw their troops.</p> <p>LID #66 used to be based in Toungoo District in the beginning of 2013. But after the beginning of year 2013, MOC #9 replaced the LID #66. So, currently, the military that is based in Toungoo District is MOC #9.</p> <p>Situation of the civilians If we look at the beginning of year 2013, from February to July, the situation of the civilians is changing a lot because the KNU and the Burmese government made a ceasefire agreement and the villagers can work comfortably and can travel more freely. Most of the villagers in the Toungoo area work on cardamom, betel nut and the other fruit plantations for their livelihoods. They have to sell these things at Kler La [village] and some people have to go and sell in Toungoo [city] but mostly, they [villagers] do trading in Toungoo city. When they want to go to Toungoo, they have to get permission from the Kler La Tatmadaw camp. This permission is only for cars and motorbikes. It is dangerous for the villagers to ride a barge and there is no bridge on the way from Kler La to Toungoo. If we look back to the Toh Bon dam, the company said that they will build a rope bridge for the villagers to make their traveling easy but we cannot see the actual shape of it yet.</p> <p>The villagers are worried that if the ceasefire agreement between the KNU and the Burma government is not a real one, it will become a problem for the civilians. Some of</p>	

the villagers said, *"We know that the Tatmadaw always say something, but do something different so we cannot trust them. Therefore, we always need to be careful."*

The villagers said that, currently, there are no forced labour demands by the Burmese military. We also do not want them [demands to do forced labour] anymore. The other thing is many businessmen want to come and do business but the people [leaders] from KNU do not give them permission. But they bought some land with a very high price. Some of the villagers do not sell their land to the businessmen, but some sold it to them because they did not know [that they were businessmen]. The problem that happens mostly after the ceasefire is the land problem because, in the past, the Tatmadaw confiscated a lot of land from the villagers.

If we look back to the past, in Ber Htee area, the Tatmadaw Battalion #39 which is based in R--- village, confiscated villagers' lands and defined it as [Battalion] camp area. They confiscated lands from the villagers who are living in Q---, R---, S--- and T--- villages. We do not know the exact date [when the land was confiscated], but some of it was confiscated in the year 2005. The Burmese army leases the land that they confiscated to the Burmese villagers [who are from nearby villages], but now because the situation is getting better, the owners of the land want their land back to work on. They are trying very hard to get back their land in many ways. But they do not have the chance to work on their land yet. They not only go and meet with the responsible people [regional leaders] for land but more than that, they also submitted letters to them. However, they do not get permission to work on the land yet. They also submitted a letter to the KNU in charge. So, the [people] in charge from the agricultural department [KNU] have a plan to resolve the land issue.

The responsible people from the agricultural department who measure the [villagers'] land with a Global Positioning System [GPS] have a plan to make new land titles for the villagers. The purpose of doing this is because people should not be able to confiscate the land if the villagers have a land title. The villagers whose land was confiscated want to work on their land, but the Burmese [civilians] who have been working on their land want to create conflicts and they [people who are currently working on the land] said that the land belongs to them. But the owners of the lands said that they will work in their land this year and if any problem occurs, they will solve the problem together. However, when they [KNU] go and measure the land with GPS, the Burmese people who used to work in their land submitted complaint letters to the Township administrator and Tatmadaw IB #39 came to the group who are measuring the land with GPS and asked them who gave them permission to measure the land. One of the responsible people from [the KNU] agricultural department replied to them, that they are measuring their civilians' land in their region and told them that there is no need to disturb them. He also told them that they have a plan to make land titles for the people who are living in their area.

Education

Nowadays, if we look at the education in Toungoo District, it is very sorrowful. There is no high school in our area; we only have primary schools. There are also no people who will teach. People lack understanding and education. So, it is a big sadness for the future of the children. For the people who are educated, they have no commitment and they are only doing their own job. Moreover, most of the schools in our region only have up until the fourth standard. These schools are supported by the government [of Burma], but they do not receive enough support from the Government. However, now, they get some support from KESAN [Karen Environment and Social Action Network Education], but some of the schools do not receive support from KESAN because the

schools are not open regularly. They open in one year and close in the next year in our district because some of the parents of the students cannot afford to pay for the salary of teachers and they cannot find teachers [to teach in the school]. The parents of the students said that the Government teachers do not come to school regularly. Because of these reasons, this is an issue to think [about] and also a big concern for the students.

There are some students whose parents cannot afford to send them to school. Some of the students leave school after they finish grade four and help their parents with the housework. But some of the children do not want to go to school even if their parents can afford to send them to school. They said, “*thay li aw may, ta thay li aw may*” [everyone is able to earn money for food to eat regardless of if they are educated or illiterate].

During this year, the leaders of Toungoo District established two high schools; one is in Htaw Ta Htoo [Tantabin] Township and the other one is in Daw Hpa Hko [Than Daung] Township, but they do not have enough teachers and do not get enough support. However, the township leaders tried their best for children in their area to be able to go school. It is good for the students because they do not need to go to the city and also good for the parents because they do not need to spend a lot of money.

Health

If we look at our Toungoo District, we have hospitals built by the Burma government and we also have clinics built by the KNU. But we can say that it is not sufficient because there are so many diseases that are occurring today. The villagers say that the Government hospitals are very expensive and, mostly, they do not go there because they cannot afford to go, and they also say you will not receive good care if you do not have enough money.

However, most the villagers in Kler La area go to Kler La Hospital. Kler La Hospital is the Government hospital. People who are living in KNU-controlled areas go to the KNU hospital. But, the KNU hospital does not have enough medicine and it becomes a problem for the staff and the villagers.

The Tatmadaw government did not allow people to bring medicine from Toungoo to Kler La in the past. When they found out that people brought medicine, they arrested, beat and tortured people. Moreover, they also fined them.

Nevertheless, people have more opportunities to bring medicine [to the villages] after the ceasefire. So, it is a benefit for the villagers and more than that, it is a benefit for the KNU. The reasons why we are saying this is because the villagers can buy the medicine that they need by themselves, they can keep it [the medicine] and they can use it when they need it for treatment. Nowadays, the disease that occurs the most in our Toungoo District is malaria.

On April 19th 2013, our Htaw Ta Htoo Township held the fourth township congress. The leaders discussed health issues during the congress and FBR [Free Burma Rangers] in charge of Toungoo District said that the FBR wants to support Toungoo District to establish a hospital. Therefore, the leaders discussed this issue and agreed [to establish a hospital]. The reason why they agreed to establish the hospital is because building a hospital is good and it will benefit not only the villagers but also the staff [medics of KNU].

To be able to establish this hospital, FBR needs more staff to look after the hospital and

work in the hospital. FBR wants people to attend training with them before they work for the hospital. The leaders of KNU also said that the health workers of the township will also work with FBR. This hospital will be built in Maw Nay Bga area, Htaw Ta Htoo Township, because this place is very far from the [Burma government] hospital and more than that, there are no people who have knowledge about medicine. Thus, the representative of villages who attended the congress agreed to the idea of building a hospital. They also said that health is very important for human beings. We can only work if we are healthy. Therefore, this is a benefit for the people from that area and it would make them happy.

Landmines

In our Toungoo District, there are no serious landmine cases. If we look back since the ceasefire agreement between the KNU and the Burma government, we know that no new landmines have been planted. We only have the old landmines from the past, and they have not been taken out. The front line leaders of KNU said that they do not have the skills to do demining and they are also afraid to do demining. However, they do not allow people to travel in the area where landmines are planted.

People from that area and the KNU do not know the place where landmines are planted by the Tatmadaw, as the Tatmadaw does not let them know. Hence, we can say that none of the landmines from Toungoo District are being removed yet.

Landmines are things that can destroy the human body and can even kill people. The landmine is a very awful weapon.

Abuses and violations

The following describes the happenings of an incident of physical abuse against a villager. Major Hsan Htun, Deputy Battalion Commander of Tatmadaw IB #30 which is based in Htee Tha Saw camp committed abuse to Saw P--- in Htee Tha Saw area in Daw Hpa Hko Township, Toungoo District on June 26th 2013.

Major Hsan Htun, Deputy Battalion Commander of IB #30 and his group, which is based in Htee Tha Saw camp committed abuse to Saw P---, whose identification number is [number censored for security], and is the husband of a post-primary school teacher, Naw V---. On June 26th 2013, they [Major Hsan Htun and comrades] tortured him, cursed him and punched him until he was bleeding and was seriously injured.

While U Saw P--- was traveling from W--- to X--- by motorbike on June 26th 2013, Major Hsan Htu and his group ordered him to stop the motorbike and cursed him, kicked his chest and punched him. Then, when U Saw P--- was coming back [home] at 8:30 pm, they brought him to Htee Tha Saw camp and asked him to stand up, to sit down and then forced him to drink alcohol till he was drunk and cursed him. Then, they sent him back to the staff house, which is located in the middle of the village at 10:30 pm and they punched him and cursed him again and beat him with the butt of the gun. Consequently, Saw P--- was bleeding and was seriously injured.

Villagers took Saw P---, who was unconscious because of the serious injuries to the village clinic which is located in Thauk Yay Hket by carrying him in a hammock. They met with the Battalion Commander of IB #30 at 5:30pm on June 7th 2013, while they cured him [at the clinic]. Then, according to the Battalion Commander's order to send him to the hospital urgently, they rented a car and sent him to the nearest Leik Tho General Hospital. They arrived at 8:00 pm and he received treatment there.

Conclusion

The above information that I reported is the situation of Toungoo District currently occurring. The biggest issue is the land problem. The land of the villagers was confiscated by the Government in the past and the Government has not returned it back yet. Moreover, the villagers are worried that the companies will come in and do business in their area. Many companies want to come and do business, but the leaders of the KNU do not give permission so that they cannot do anything. However, based on the situation, we cannot say anything for sure.

Perspective for the future

People in our Toungoo District have different perspectives on ceasefire between the KNU and the Burma government. The ceasefire agreement between the Burma government and the KNU is good for the people but it is also a concerning thing. It is also a concerning thing for our Karen leaders. The reason why I am saying this is because the Burmese people have cheated us since the era of our parents and our grandparents. They are also the people who are very good at making people trust them as they can talk well [are persuasive]. Difficulties will occur if we trust in them too easily. Regarding the ceasefire process, we should go slowly, step by step.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher, Thandaunggyi and Htantabin townships, Toungoo District, (Received in July 2013)

Source Document #47

KHRG Log #:	13-86-P1
Publishing Information:	“Toungoo Photo Notes: Thandaunggyi Township, Received in August 2013,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Other
Location:	Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District
Actors:	Foreign NGO, religious leaders, other
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Formal registration of land
Full Text:	
<i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Toungoo District in August 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i>	
Photo #: 0007 - 0010	
These photos were taken by me on August 9 th 2013 about Naw W--- whose land was confiscated.	
Name: Naw W---	
Age: 51	
Religions: Christian	
Ethnic: Karen	
Status: Married	

Occupation: Plantation

Location: Taw Oo [Toungoo] District, Daw Hpa Khoh [Thandaunggyi] Township, Thandaung Town.

We have been using and working on plantations on our farmland for a very long time now. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)³⁷ built houses for refugees. When the government provided land titles for the villagers, the land acres in the land titles [the amount of land documented] was actually different from the reality. When they measured it, the land was three acres wide but in the land title, it was written [as] less than three acres.³⁸

Those who lead the land confiscation initiatives are pastor Per Tha, pastor Nay Tha and village leader Tabin Shweti. Some refugees already have their own homes but when they come back they still receive a new home which is constructed by the UNHCR. Unfortunately, when some refugees return they do not have a personal home and they do not get a home constructed by UNHCR either. There were three owners whose lands were confiscated, including one widow for which no compensation was received. There were already 26 houses constructed with more houses to be built in the future said a villager. For those who are going to build houses they have to inform and give 20,000 kyat (US \$19.33) to the person in charge. For those who do not give money, they will not get a house. They still stated they will build more houses in the summer season. They did not discuss the projects with the land owners while they were building houses. The land owners complained after their lands were used. Later, those who have the authority to work on this project met with the land owners and confiscated their land without the land owner's permission. They also did not take responsibility for compensating the villagers. They destroyed plantations and then divided the land for constructing refugee houses without asking the land owners. Even though villagers have land registration there was no meeting or discussion with land owners and some land owners have no possibility or guarantee that they will get their land back or be compensated [for their losses].

If we want to conduct community development, all community members should participate and share their perspectives. It would be a benefit for those organisations who work on development projects too, because in development projects there are advantages for some people and there are also some disadvantages which cause problems for other people. In the future, if they [the organisations] want to deal with community development projects every community member should be considered and every beneficiary should feel the advantage equally.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District, (Received in August 2013)

Source Document #48

KHRG Log #:	13-86-T1-I2
Publishing Information:	"Toungoo Interview: Naw M---, August 2013," KHRG, (first publication)

³⁷ Here the researcher mistakenly refers to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), when in reality this situation pertains to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

³⁸ Here the researcher started by talking about the UNHCR but then switched to talking about land titles without any notice.

Project Type:	Other
Location:	Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo Division
Actors:	Foreign NGOs, religious leaders, community leaders
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Negotiation, formal registration
Full Text:	
<p>Name: Naw M--- Gender: Female Age: 51 Village: Religion: Christian Ethnicity: Karen Family Statue: Married Occupation: Teacher Position:</p> <p>August 9th 2013: Meeting with a person who is in Daw Hpa Khoh [Thandaunggyi] Township.</p> <p>What is your name?</p> <p>Naw M---.</p> <p>How old are you?</p> <p>51 years old.</p> <p>What is your religion?</p> <p>Christian</p> <p>What is your ethnic group?</p> <p>Karen.</p> <p>Where do you live?</p> <p>Thandaung Town.</p> <p>Toungoo District, Daw Hpa Hkoh [Thandaunggyi] Township?</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Do you have your own family?</p> <p>Yes</p>	

How many children do you have?

I have four daughters.

How old is the eldest one?

24 years old.

How old is the youngest one?

14 years old.

Is there any difficulty in your family for the [your] livelihood?

Concerning livelihoods, we are working a little bit on agriculture. We are working a little bit on the tea plantations. We have collected some tea leaves. They are a little bit destroyed and we hope to keep the seeds. We have also planted some dog fruit trees in the plantation. Right now, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)³⁹ came and worked here and the villagers come to stay here. This plantation has a land title from the Tatmadaw.

Have people confiscated the plantation?

We can say that they are confiscating the plantations because the number of the land acres [the amount of acres] is not the same on the land grabbing forms. Then they confiscated the land which has the small acres [land which is not as large]. When they came to measure, they measured only 3 acres of lands. However, because the land is in different places and [there is] no communication between one another, we have to give them our land and it is a kind of confiscation of the land. Our belongings are on the plantation and they [UNICEF workers] destroyed them.

Regarding your land confiscation, does the perpetrator belong to any organisation?

In terms of whether the perpetrators who came and confiscated our land and whether they belong to any organisations - we know the leaders who are leading the confiscation are Pastor Per Tha, teacher Nay Than, Gher Wah Pa [Gher Wah's father] and the village head.

What is the name of the Gher Wah Pa?

The name of Gher Wah Pa is U Ta Pin Shwe Htee.⁴⁰

What did they do after they confiscated your lands?

They gave the confiscated land to the villagers from Eastern Day Loh.

³⁹ The interviewee mistakenly refers to UNHCR, when in actuality it is UNICEF.

⁴⁰ In Karen, if a man is married and has children, they are usually addressed by the name of their first child followed by 'Pa' which means 'father' in English. In this case therefore, 'Gher Wah' is the name of U Ta Pin Shwe Htee's first child. U Ta Pin Shwe Htee is therefore referred to as 'Gher Wah Pa.'

So they are doing development?

Yes. Some of the villagers who come to live there have their own houses in Thandaung [Town]. But some of them do not have their own land and they even do not get a place to live. We do not agree with that. We are happy to give them the lands to those who do not have a place to live at all. But when it happens like this, we are unhappy about that.

When they confiscated the land, did that only include your land? Are there any other people's lands which have been confiscated?

Yes, there are [other people] and some people have already planted trees in their plantations. We love [our land] like our children so if people destroy ours [it], we feel disappointed.

How many other peoples' lands have they confiscated?

It also includes the land of the teacher Saw R--- However, as he does not have the land grant he does not dare to talk very much. And it also includes the two land plots of a widow. She has not received anything [in terms of compensation].

When they confiscate the villagers' lands and they do not give compensation for the lands, are these lands inherited from their parents or have they bought it themselves?

I do not know whether they bought it or inherited it from their parents. However regarding compensation, I heard that they got compensation but we did not get compensation.

How many houses are there in that area that people have built?

There will be about 25 houses in that area.

Do they have a plan to construct more houses in the future?

For the plan, people are cutting down the trees in the hot season. I heard that as they [the trees] are on the other people's lands, they are going to stop doing [that].

The villagers who come to live in that area, do they give the cost of [pay for] the lands that they take?

One young man said he gives 20,000 kyat (US \$19.33) for building a house.

Does he give 20,000 kyat to the regional owner, the person who builds the house or the leader?

They have to give it to the person who is leading [the construction]. They said that it is the cost of travelling. Nevertheless, the person who is talking to me like that [about having to pay 20,000 kyat for building a house] has not been included in the 25 houses [which have already been built in that area].

Has he submitted it yet?

Yes, he has.

And has he given the money?

Yes, he has given 20,000 kyat.

What do you think of the houses that they are building?

The houses are not as good as they have estimated. When they estimate the cost for the toilet they said it will be 100,000 kyat (US \$96.66), however 100,000 kyat is actually not enough for a toilet. By looking at the toilet they built, you will know how the houses they built will look like.

They also will say that they are going to build up more houses in the future. So right now, which NGO is coming to support?

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

When they came to build the houses, did they come and meet with the village head?

Before they took the lands, they did not notify us about anything. We went and saw that our lands have been destroyed and we reported to them. Then they come and worked together with us.

You also have the land title form; why do you think they confiscated your land?

When they came and confiscated our land, the persons who were leading [the project] were our two teachers, and the village head and the person who is connected to the land department. They came together when they were working on the land issue.

Did they also give you your land compensation?

No, they did not give [it to] me.

Then what do they tell you about the future?

They did not tell me anything about the future. They designated the boundaries of our land that we have left. However, they are not the same as before. There are many plants that we planted in the lands where the houses are being built meaning they all are destroyed and we are upset with that.

You said you have a land title form, when did they start providing the land title forms?

In 2004. And the next time they are going to conduct it is in 2007. But they don't know exactly when they are going to do it again. We have our land grabbing forms and if they accept it we will submit it.

Do they also say that they are going to build more houses in 2007?

Yes, they said that they are going to construct buildings in 2007. Nevertheless, the situation of the country is not stable yet. There are some people who come and measure land.

When they come and measure the land that they are going to build their houses [on], is there any time where they have discussions with the owners of the land?

There is no time for discussion with us. We just know that they are coming and measuring the lands. We know that we have our own land title forms and we follow the case later.

When you try to follow your land [case] later, do they give back some of your land?

Yes, they gave me back some of the land.

The other people also got back [their land]?

No, they did not give [it all] back.

What is your opinion? How will the owners who have left their land face the people who are building their houses and living on their lands? There are also some plantations, is it alright for you to work on your land? Will it be alright?

Sometimes, I think that the plants will not grow very well as people are living close to them. As they are living with their children, their children might also destroy the plantations. The plantation also will die and as they are living around there, the environment will also be dirty. We are not happy about that because it causes all kinds of obstacles for us.

I cannot hear clearly

Regarding the development project, I think if we are doing it, we need to consider it very carefully to benefit those who will agree with the project. It should not be one which will impact the people. We can see that there are many people conducting development projects related to UN work. Some development projects are good while some have negative results because of laziness. Villagers will receive those kinds of bad impacts if the project is completed with laziness. So if we do it, we need to look at everything and the people who agree with the projects will have the real advantages. The people who are working on the development projects need to be eager for real development. If we look at the recent situation, we are disturbed by one another. We, the Karen people are living with one heart [unity] and this is also really important. Therefore, we should not be committing abuses on each other which will separate us from one another.

Thank you

Thank you.

Naw M---, (female, 51), Thandaung Town
Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District, (Interview in August 2013)

Source Document #49

KHRG Log #:	13-89-I1			
Publishing Information:	"Dooplaya Incident Report: Kawkareik Township, February 2010 to 2013," KHRG, 2013, (first publication)			
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction			
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District			
Actors:	Foreign private company, KPF			
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation (promised), some consultation			
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, environmental destruction			
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs			
Full Text:				
Part 1 – Incident Details				
Type of Incident	Iron mining destroys villager's farm land			
Date of Incident(s)	February 2010			
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	S--- village, Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District			
Victim Information				
Name	Saw L---			
Age	60			
Sex	Male			
Nationality				
Family	Married			
Occupation	Hill farming			
Religion	Buddhist			
Position	Villager			
Village	S---			
Perpetrator Information				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
U That		KPF Border Affair and Economic Officer in Charge Military Unit	Border check point	Saw Tha Dah, G1 KPF
Part 2 - Information Quality				
1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.				

In February 2010, villager Saw L--- from S--- village, which is close to the Thailand border, Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District, talked about the iron mining and how it destroyed his hill farm and betel nut plantation.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

Villager Saw L--- said that the KPF military unit started mining iron for business and it destroyed the hill farm and the plantations.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail. For each incident, be sure to include 1) when the incident happened, 2) where it happened, 3) what happened, 4) how it happened, 5) who was involved, and 6) why it happened. Also describe any villager response(s) to the incident, the aftermath and the current living situation of the victims. Please use the space prepared below, and create an attachment if needed.

In February 2010, KPF and the Chinese GSM Company, which are cooperating together for business, came and set up their working place at the border beside S--- village, in the eastern part of the base of Poh Theh cliff. Before they were starting [mining project], they told the villagers that if the lands were destroyed, they will give back half of the price of the land to each person. However, the villagers only agreed because they were afraid. They started mining in February 2010 until 2013 and the villagers whose lands were destroyed haven't received any of the compensation yet. The betel nut plantation and hill farm of the land owner whose name is mentioned above are destroyed and it is large [worth] over three big tins of paddy baskets.

Incident Report written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in September 2013)

Source Document #50

KHRG Log #:	13-89-I2
Publishing Information:	Dooplaya Incident Report: Kawkareik Township, February 2013, KHRG, 2013 , (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Myanmar government officials, Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation (promised), consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Negotiation, outreach to CBOs/NGOs
Full Text:	
<u>Part 1 – Incident Details</u>	

Type of Incident	Land confiscation			
Date of Incident(s)	February 18 th 2013			
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	K--- village, Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District			
Victim Information				
Name	Saw D---			
Age	28			
Sex	Male			
Nationality	Karen			
Family	Married			
Occupation	Farming			
Religion	Animist			
Position	Villager			
Village	K---			
Perpetrator Information				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
	Village Administrator		Ta Ta Kyo	
<u>Part 2 - Information Quality</u>				
1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.				
This villager said that the administrator ordered them to clear the land beside the Light Infantry Battalion #355 and #356 [which is based by] Myawaddy main road, in order to plant rubber. For the villagers' rubber plantation on which the Asian Highway is going to be built, the rubber plants need to be cut and they will be compensated.				
2. Explain how the source verified this information.				
K--- villager, Saw D---, said that they want to go and do farming on the land beside the road but the administrator still does not give permission to work on their own land. After they clear the land, they are going to plant rubber on the whole land.				
<u>Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident</u>				
Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail. For each incident, be sure to include 1) <u>when</u> the incident happened, 2) <u>where</u> it happened, 3) <u>what</u> happened, 4) <u>how</u> it happened, 5) <u>who</u> was involved, and 6) <u>why</u> it happened. Also describe any villager response(s) to the incident, the aftermath and the current living situation of the victims. Please use the space prepared below, and create an attachment if needed.				
K--- village is under Myawaddy controlled area and it is located beside Thin Gan Nyi				

Naung. It is close to the Light Infantry Battalion # 355 and #356. The villager from there said that Ta Ta Kyoh administrator, whom he does not know the name of, told them that the land beside the main road had to be cleared and they are going to plant rubber plants.

For the villagers, they cannot work on their land anymore. The road construction machine to construct the Asian Highway are located at the Myawaddy road beside K-- village and close to LIB #355 and #356. The machines are kept at the branch of the road to K--- village where they are going to build a road for trade and commerce between Kawkareik [Town] and Myawaddy [Town].

On February 18th 2013, K--- villager, 47-year-old Saw B---, whose wife is 45-year-old Naw S---, [said] that the Asian Highway construction would include their rubber plantation. In their rubber plantation, it includes 1,500 rubber plants and it is 10.4 acres.

On February 2013, a rubber plantation owner [Saw D---] said that they will be compensated 3,000 kyat (US \$2.92) for each rubber tree which has to be cut down for the Asian Highway.

Incident Report written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in September 2013)

Source Document #51

KHRG Log #:	13-90-S1
Publishing Information:	“Dooplaya Situation Update: Kyonedoe Township, January to August 2013,” KHRG, July 2013, http://www.khrq.org/2014/07/13-90-s1/dooplaya-situation-update-kyonedoe-township-january-august-2013
Project Type:	Agriculture, natural resource extraction
Location:	Kyonedoe Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	BGF, Tatmadaw, KNU/KNLA-PC, KPF, DKBA
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	<p>I am reporting about the politics, campaign, health, education and the human rights situation of the villagers in Kyonedoe Township, where many groups such as the Thein Sein [Burma] government, BGF, DKBA, KPF and KPC are operating when I went there from January to August 2013.</p> <p>Government and the BGF</p> <p>Sometimes, the operations column [Tatmadaw] arrives in A--- village, B--- village, C--- village, D--- village or E--- village. When they arrive [in those villages], they order the village administrator to come to them and when the village administrator arrives, they</p>

[village administrator] provides them with one to two viss (1.6 kg. or 3.52 lb. to 3.2 kg. or 7.04 lb.) of chicken. When the other [armed] groups come, he also provides for them, as he provides food for guests. The column commander [once] asked whether the DKBA or KNU soldiers come to the village and they [the village administrator] answered to him that sometimes they [DKBA or KNU] come, but sometimes they do not. He [the column commander] asked what they [DKBA or KNU] come and do, and they [village administrator] replied that they come for community development, such as for education and health. He [the column commander] said that during the ceasefire period, we [Tatmadaw] do not need to be afraid of gunfire. He [column commander] slept in some villages, but in some villages he just asked questions and left.

Some members of the BGF cooperate with the rich people from other areas and they sell the Dali Reserve Forest for 270,000 kyat (US \$247.02) per acre and nearly all of the land from the forest reserve is to be sold. Since November 30th 2012, they sold 100 acres of the forest reserve near Moo Wah [village] and the rest of the forest became a new rubber plantation. **KPF and KPC**

The groups cooperate with the rich stone miners and some of their members get involved in selling the forest land.

DKBA

Lieutenant Aung Yin's company set up their office in A'Le Kyun village and they collected taxes for rubber plantations, phones and logging machines from the villages to which they can reach [villages in close proximity to the office].

Civilians' situation

The villagers mainly do hill field farming, flat field farming and plantation for their livelihood. Now, the areas of forest have become narrower year by year for hill field farming. The reason is because of deforestation and an increasing number of rubber plantations. Because of that reason [the deforestation], the area has become warmer and the places [paddies] have dried up. The climate has changed so seriously that some of the villagers are suffering from difficulties.

The KNU [KNLA], Thein Sein government [Tatmadaw], BGF, DKBA, KPF and KPC armed groups are controlling the area and the villages need to give [fulfill] the demands from all groups for taxes, donations for the special days, religion, health and education. When the villagers face difficulties, they are not sure which group they have to report to or which group they have to rely on. The culprit often becomes [joins a different armed group after committing a crime], such as the BGF, DKBA, KPC or KPF, so that [the problem] is difficult to solve and the one who reports about the abuse [to the group] would also be in trouble.

On July 11th 2013, about at 9:00 am, BGF Battalion #1012 held [a meeting] led by Battalion Commander Saw P'Loo in Kyonedoe Township in a monastery chapel and there were over 150 people from two villages who attended the ceremony. The people who attended the ceremony [included]:

- (1) Kyonedoe Township KNU Campaign [Committee member] Director Saw Kyaw Kaw [and] Kyonedoe Township KNU Campaign Committee [member] Saw Hsa Yoo Moo;
- (2) KNDO [Karen National Defence Organisation] Battalion #6 Commander Saw Hpah Ni and KNDO Battalion #6 Deputy Commander Mahn Nyunt Maung;

- (3) DKBA Klo Htoo Baw Lieutenant Saw Moo Say;
- (4) BGF Battalion #1012 Commander Saw P'Loo; and
- (5) KPC Company Commander Mahn Hkin Lin.

In that public conference, they discussed and explained about health, education, land and religious issues.

From the DKBA, Moo Say said that, even though our [military] structures, clothes and logos are not the same, we are still human beings and we also hold the four principles of Saw Ba U Gyi firmly. From the BGF, Saw P'Loo said that, "*We do not want to be BGF but we have to be members because of the situation. If you take out my blood, it is still Karen blood.*"

As the villagers are facing difficulties, and in order to benefit something [from the meeting], they reported [asked the armed actors] to help them by building the school in Tha Main Doot, as it is not finished yet, and [they asked if] the groups [could] provide 1,000,000 kyat (US \$1,013.17) to each village. Some of the civilians said that the public conference and the support for renovating school building were led by the BGF battalion commander; they persuaded the community to trust them. They try to show the civilians that, even though they are separate [from the KNU] they are good and united for the Karen people. In 2011, they met and held a public conference with the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) [Burma] government but nothing has happened. Would it be fine for the villagers if there is only the ceasefire process? The villagers reported to them that now [since the 2012 ceasefire], the only improvement is that there is no fighting, but the villagers have to provide items, such as rations, petrol fees for cars and motorbikes to many groups [armed actors], which costs more money for villagers.

Health

There is no special information related with education [health].

Education

In our region, the Norway NGO [Myanmar Peace Support Initiative (MPSI)] and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) cooperate and are building three schools with no consultation [from the residents].

Conclusion

I would like to report that in the campaign area [of multiple authorities] of Kyonedoe Township, because the armed groups have taken control, I predict that there will be land issues, no rule of law and the civilians might face many difficulties.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kyonedoe Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in July 2013)

Source Document #52

KHRG Log #:	13-91-P1
Publishing	"Dooplaya Photo Notes: Kawkareik Township, Received

Information:	December 2012," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Some compensation, some consultation
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Negotiation
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Dooplaya District in December 2012. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>These photos are of the centre of D--- village. The [Myanmar] government constructed a bridge for the betterment of the village. The materials which are shown are the materials for constructing the bridge. The land shown in these photos have been dug and the process destroyed four coconut trees, seven mango trees, one jack fruit tree, and 50 trees of the villagers. They [the Myanmar government] gave 5,000 Kyat (US \$4.86) for the destroyed trees. The land owner hopes to be given much more than this amount. However, the village head and the constructors said that as building this road is for the development of the village, they can only give this amount. Uncle Saw D--- is satisfied [with this amount]. These photos were taken on December 30th 2012.</p> <p>Photo #: 0001 - 0003</p> <p>These photos shows that the road and the channel [has been] destroyed because of flooding. The government people who come to construct the road and stay in Choo K'Lee dug close to the channel so that people would be able to cross. Nevertheless, as they closed it, the two Choo K'Lee villagers whose lands are under the road cannot work on their fields. These two villagers reported the problem to the village head and the village head went to convey their problem to the constructors. They promised that they will be better [they will attempt to save the villagers land and not damage it]. However, as they have still not done anything to save the land, these two villagers (in 2013) cannot work on their paddy fields. These photos were taken on July 30th 2013.</p> <p>Photo #: 0004 - 0009</p> <p>This photo shows the Kwee Ta Auh bridge being constructed. As this bridge was being built, it destroyed the lands of the villagers and some of the paddy fields. Before constructing this bridge, the constructors and the villagers met and discussed it together. The villagers suggested constructing the road on the old road but the constructors wanted to construct it in another area. As the road that they planned to construct was completely straight, it destroyed one of the villagers' paddy field. The villagers did not receive any compensation. This photo was taken on July 1st 2013.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher, Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in September 2013)</p>	

Source Document #53

KHRG Log #:	13-91-S1
Publishing Information:	“Dooplaya Situation Update: Kawkareik Township, May to August 2013,” KHRG, February 2014, http://www.khrq.org/2014/02/13-91-s1/dooplaya-situation-update-kawkareik-township-may-august-2013
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Myanmar government officials, Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Negotiation, other
Full Text:	
<p>This situation update is about the situation in Kaw T'Ree Township, Dooplaya District. This situation update documents the abuses that happened from May to August 2013. The abuses included in this update are: the Light Infantry Division [LID] #231, which is currently based in the army camp close to the village, abused the villagers' rights. Also, the flooding which created livelihood problems for the villagers and the development project of the Myanmar government that has caused damage to the villagers' land.</p> <p>Military activity</p> <p>The Burmese military battalion that is currently based in Kaw T'Ree Township is LID #231. They have started to move here since the beginning of 2013 and base their army camp on the top of L---'s mountain, on the western part of Meh K'Lah River. Some of their battalion rotates every three months and some rotate every six months. Each battalion that rotates has a different kind of behavior. The army camps that they rotate [soldiers from] are: Th'Waw Thaw army camp, Choo K'Lay army camp, Maw Too army camp, Oo Kree Hta army camp, Waw Lay army camp, Maw Hkee army camp and Htee K'Pler army camp. They rotate [soldiers] every three months between these army camps. If they want to rotate to other battalions, they would rotate every six months. LID #231 is an armed group based there [L--- camp] and the patrolling battalion is IB #32.</p> <p>The Tatmadaw, who came and are based in Th'Waw Thaw, started to transport their equipment such as barbed wire and cement to repair their army camp in May 2013. While they were sending their equipment, they used L--- villagers' trucks. They only paid for the petrol. Now, they have already repaired their army camp.</p> <p>On May 10th 2013, the LID #231, which is based in L--- village, shot and ate Saw P---'s buffalo. Saw P--- is a L--- villager and he is 27 years old. While P--- was searching for his buffalo, he only saw the footprints of the Tatmadaw and the place where they killed and ate his buffalo. He saw the pieces of the Tatmadaw's clothes that were left over and their boot prints. He did not see the soldiers. Saw P--- grazes his buffalo on the mountain of western L--- village. On May 10th 2013, he was searching for his buffalo and found the place where the Tatmadaw killed and ate his buffalo.</p>	

Again on July 20th 2013, the same battalion of the Tatmadaw killed the buffalo of 44 year-old L--- villager, Saw M---. Saw M--- also only found the place where they killed the buffalo. Saw M--- grazes his buffalo at western L--- village, the old road that leads to Show Hta village and the Tatmadaw killed his buffalo on the mountain between L--- village and Show Hta village.

On August 5th 2013, they again killed the buffalo of 40 year-old L--- villager, Saw K---. While Saw K--- was searching for his buffalo, LID# 231 soldiers were already grilling its meat. Saw K--- told the village head about it and the village head informed Battalion #231's Battalion Commander Zaw Min Aung about it. However, the commander replied to the village head that it was not his soldier and he also said that if the villager alleged that it was his soldier, the villager would have to point out which one of the soldiers specifically. The villager did not dare go closer once he saw the Tatmadaw [soldiers] had killed and were eating his buffalo, so he did not know which soldiers did it.

L--- villagers graze their buffalo at the western part of the village because in the eastern part, there are landmines. Another reason is that they worry that the buffalo will eat their paddy, since it is presently the time to plant paddy. Therefore, they graze their buffalo in the forest and they go and check it often. The Tatmadaw [soldiers] were not searching for wild animals, [they] just killed the villagers' animals. Some of the Tatmadaw will buy pig, chicken and canned fish when they want to eat it. We also do not have [any] other kinds of meat.

The Burmese government repairs the road, which impacts the villagers' livelihood

In 2012, after the ceasefire talk, the Burma government started to repair the vehicle road between Choo K'Lay village and Rah Ma Tee village in Kawkareik Township. In 2013, the Burma government made a plan to develop or repair the vehicle roads and bridge between Choo K'Lay and Rah Ma Tee and they gave the responsibility to the companies. But the companies do not know anything. Starting in 2013, between Choo K'Lay and Rah Ma Tee village, they have completely built five bridges already now. The first bridge was built in the middle of Choo K'Lay village to cross over the Choo K'Lay Stream. The second bridge was built in the corner of the Choo K'Lay village. The third bridge was built in Maw K'Noo Hkee village and it crosses over Maw K'Noo Hkee Stream. The fourth bridge was built in Kwee Tah Auh village and it crosses over Meh K'Lah Stream. However, this bridge is not completely built yet. They still have to construct the end part of the bridge to make the cars run easier. The fifth bridge is built in Kwee Ta Hoh village and it cross over Maw Ler Stream. These five bridges are located between Choo K'Lee and Oo Kree Hta village. There is also bridge construction happening in the lower part of Oo Kree Hta but we are not sure about how many bridges have been completely built in the area.

Moreover, there are also small bridges that cross over the gullies. However, in August 2013, there were also many vehicle roads and small bridges that were destroyed by the flooding between L--- village and Maw K'Noo Hkee village. After the canals were destroyed, the company builders repaired the roads and blocked the water so L--- villager, Saw W--- and his brother Saw N---, do not get water anymore so they cannot work on their flat fields. Saw W--- gets 200 big tins (2,090 kg. / 4,608 lb.) of rice from his flat field every year. For Saw N---'s flat field, he gets 400 baskets (8,360 kg / 18,432 lb.) every year. These two villagers went and told the village head and the village head went and told the builders about it. The builders agreed to repair their canal. However, they still have not repaired the canal yet. These two villagers have already ploughed

and planted the paddy but until now their canals have not been repaired so they cannot work on their flat fields anymore. Both of them have big families so if they do not get to work on their flat fields, they will be faced with a food problem in the coming year.

The villagers facing natural disaster

In 2013, the citizens living in Dooplaya District faced a natural disaster so it has become the biggest problem for them. Starting from the middle of July, there was heavy rain and there was flooding and it damaged the villagers’ livelihood, such as flat fields, plantation fields, hill fields, houses, shops and vehicle roads.

After the flooding, the Ranger organization [Free Burma Rangers (FBR)] came and provided support such as pots, plates, spoons, blankets, clothes and mats. After that, the main food such as rice was provided to the villagers who lost their food and farms.

During the raining season in 2013, there was a big flood so the villagers lost many of their properties. There are some supports from the organization but it is not enough for many months. The Government staff in the area did not help the villagers with anything. The villagers who lost their homes have not built their new homes yet. They just built the small tents with bamboo to live in temporarily because they have problems finding thatch to roof their houses. During 2013, there will be some of the villagers who are facing food problems and some will have to face shelter problems.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in September 2013)

Source Document #54

KHRG Log #:	13-92-S1
Publishing Information:	“Nyaunglebin Situation Update: Kyaukkyi and Shwegyin townships, July to August 2013,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Agriculture, natural resource extraction, infrastructure, other
Location:	Shwegyin and Kyaukkyi townships, Nyaunglebin District
Actors:	Myanmar government, Myanmar government officials, wealthy individuals, Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Lobbying government officials
Full Text:	
Introduction	
<p>In our area we still have human rights abuses. Most are about land grabbing or land confiscation. There are incidents of the government recruiting militia soldiers. In Noh Koo village tract, pasture land was marked as a relocation place. The Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) used and ran farmland for their military purpose.⁴¹ Residents are denied use of their lake in our area. The Norwegian government has</p>	

⁴¹ The villagers mean here that the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar government use the land for military purposes and the USDP do not.

increased support into two more different areas. The government sold land to wealthy people, reducing the security of villagers' livelihood and Karen youth held a conference to discuss the peace process and other crises.

1. Militia recruitment in Ler Doh [Kyaukkyi] Township

On August 7th 2013, the government announced that they will ensure the tracking of militia recruitment and registration. They are recruiting 10 militias with 20 reserves, equaling a total of 30 people in each village tract. In the past they only collected the villagers' names on a list and later they would bring them to the related army camp to serve and the villagers who were selected did not need to register themselves officially in the recruitment team. Now they demand that we register on the list that we have given to them in the past and submit it to Ler Doh [Kyaukkyi] operation commands. Village tracts that have to submit militia recruiting lists include Ma Au Pin Seik village tract, Noh Ku village tract, Nat Than Kwin village tract, Kyauk Sa Yit village tract and Kyun Pin Seik village tract in Ler Doh area.

2. Wealthy [investors] bought land from government

During 2013, the government sold a lot of land in Shwe Kyin [Shwegyin] - Ler Doh [Kyaukkyi] area. Private business owner U Ye Htun bought 200 acres of land for a commercial rubber plantation project in Myay Ni Kon. U Nyan Hsway Win also bought 200 acres in Too Wah Koh [Do Khyauung], beside the Shwe Kyin and Ler Doh highway. Phyo Naing Soe bought 18,000 acres of farmland and forest from the government to operate a mining project in the area between Shwe Kyin, Ler Doh. Villagers raised [the issue] that their livelihoods depends on the land that government has sold. If companies and business owners grab their land it will be really difficult to survive. If the government and business owners ignore residents and villagers it will create many problems for the local people. Land that governments have sold belongs to villagers including villagers' dog fruit plantations, resident farmlands and some parts include deep forestry. The government indicates that they are uncultivated land so then they sell it to private companies and business owners.

3. Villagers seem concerned about travel

In the area, there was fighting sometimes between [KNU and Tatmadaw], so, in both of their areas there were a lot of landmines planted to protect against attacks on each other's territory. Because of [the amount of landmines] planted, a threat exists to the villagers in finding food for their livelihood, as well when travelling. There is no freedom of travel because government military regimes still question them and ask for recommendation letters. If villagers want to go somewhere they have to have a travel document while they are travelling.

4. Residents lost opportunity to use the lake

There are many lakes in the area and most residents use lakes for their livelihoods. The villagers work on the lakes in shifts. One family will work on the lake for two years and then will swap with another family. It has been like this for generations. Following the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) era the government only permits wealthy people and local authorities to use the lake. For this reason, even locals are denied use; they are even not allowed to step into the lake [area] because of rich people [businessmen]. Starting in 2012, the KNU in Ler Doh [Kyaukkyi] Township banned the use of the lake for personal benefit, which only allows villagers to share and work on the lake together. During the time the villagers were fishing, the government authorities and rich people threatened and disturbed them in many ways. After the lake issues, information which was gathered in our region spread to President Thein Sein.

He declared a letter which said no one is allowed to sell or buy the lake in the character of a trader. Only villagers who own the lake are allowed to use the lake. There was no problem using the lake in Kler Lwee Htoo [Nyaunglebin] District, Ler Doh [Kyaukkyi] Township but lakes in Hsaw Htee [Shwegyin] Township are still under the control of investors and rich individuals.

5. Noh Koo [Naung Kon] pasture land

There are over 100 acres of pastures in Noh Koo where the villagers use paddy fields, farmlands and cattle yards for cows and buffalos. But in 2012 the military regime designated a relocation place which every villager had to stay in. Moreover, they defined our farmland as USDP farmland until this day. Therefore, villagers in Noh Koo village tract asked to repay back their 20 acres of farmland or pasture land which was grabbed by USDP. Then they will use this farmland to generate income for community development. However, until now there was no answer or approval for what villagers have been asking for. Loss of Noh Koo pasture land is negatively impacting livestock and therefore food.

Norwegian government increases research

Norwegian government conducted research which started in 2012 taking place in Kheh Der village tract. They will increase this research in Kwee Lah village tract [Yan Myo Aaung relocation village]. On August 29th 2013, a Norwegian official went and met with a Kwee Lah villager. At this time they had not started the project, only surveying and analysing the situation.

Karen Youth Organization [KYO] held a conference for peace process discussions

Starting from June 13th 2013, Karen youth in different areas gathered and discussed about how youth can be involved in and participate in the Burmese government and KNU ceasefire peace process agreement. Minister U Saw Ju Bi Sa Hla and KNU headquarter organisation department officer conducted the opening speech in this conference meeting. The conference started on June 13th 2013 and finished on June 15th 2013. Youth who participated during the meeting gave many perspectives and opinions and together they formed the Karen Youth Network facilitation committee.

Situation of government military regime [Tatmadaw]

The [Myanmar] government military regime [Tatmadaw] always demand unreasonable taxation on gold machines. They renovated military base camps and sent over their soldiers to these army camps and they always rotated their soldiers. Government military regimes which are based in our area are LIB #351, #590, #264, #599, #598, #589 and #350, IB #57, #60, #20 and MOC #8. These are all active and operate in our area and they usually change and rotate their troops. Battalions based on the front line have to organise and manage funds or finance for operation command every month. Money cannot only come from farming [as it does not produce enough income]. They have to find it in many ways from the villagers [for example arbitrary taxation].

Shwegyin Dam

Shwe Kyin Kyauk Na Gar Dam was finished being constructed in 2010. 1,800 of acres lands were flooded because of the dam and many farmland and fruit gardens were destroyed and lost. Villagers in Shwe Kyin [Shwegyin] Township and Ler Doh [Kyaukkyi] Township demanded compensation for their land lost, but the government has not approved anything yet.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kyaukkyi Township, Nyaunglebin District, (Received in August 2013)

Source Document #55

KHRG Log #:	13-93-S1
Publishing Information:	Nyaunglebin Situation Update: Mone Township, August 2013, KHRG , (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction, militarisation
Location:	Hsaw Me village tract, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Displacement
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p>Situation update:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The problem of not trusting one another 2. Villagers do not know their rights 3. Villagers still have to live with worry and anxiety 4. Land issues <p>The problems:</p> <p>Not trusting each other yet There is no trust among one another in Moo [Mone] Township yet. The villagers are looking at one another and they are not daring to work openly because they do not trust one another. Due to the civil war in the past they [the villagers] have to work wisely in whatever they do even though there is currently a ceasefire.</p> <p>The villagers do not know their rights The villagers do not understand their rights as they are living in the interim of dictatorship and democracy. They have to live wisely even though their rights are violated. Some people do not know their rights and do not know how to use their rights properly and it has become a problem for them. For example, it is a problem if someone does not follow the rules and regulations that is laid down by the village and it affects the rights [of other people].</p> <p>Villagers still have to live with worry and anxiety As I mentioned above, the villagers do not understand their rights and they do not trust one another. I have seen that they are not brave and have less courage because they are living under the control of the KNU and the Burma government. For example, in the past few days on August 3rd 2013, villagers were afraid to talk and discuss frankly in the workshop that we held in Ng Lauk Tet because the LIB #590 of the Burma government led by the deputy Battalion Commander Zaw Win joined the workshop. It was annoying to the villagers. So we can say that the villagers still have worries and anxieties.</p>	

Land issues

After the investigation, we have seen that some of the villagers who are living in the flat area lost their places of work and some of their lands were confiscated by [Tatmadaw] IB #60 and LIB #351 of the Burma government. Villagers have not received their land back after the four cuts in 1974 and 1975. Some people said that they will get back their lands. When I asked Naw S--- who used to live in H--- village, Hsaw Me village tract but now living in Myit Ta section in Ler Doh city on July 26th 2013, she said that her fields were confiscated by the commander and soldiers of LIB #351 and #60 since the four cuts and she has not got back her land until now. According to Naw S--- four to five acres of her lands were confiscated.

More than that, another problem that the villagers who are living in the mixed control areas are encountering are human rights abuses such as companies arriving and gold panning in some places and some of their lands are sold [by the government] to the companies. This is a problem for them. I met with Saw D--- a villager of C--- in Moo [Mone] Township on July 5th 2013 and he told me about the information.

Who cause the problems and difficulties?

The problems happening nowadays were started by the Burma military government a long time ago and it is still happening until now. The problems are still happening until now even though the KNU and the Burma Naypyidaw government signed the ceasefire agreement. So we can say that these problems were caused by the Burma government.

Why did the Burma Naypyidaw government cause the problems?

If we look back to the past and until now, the regime government wanted to colonise and oppress the civilians and they wanted to destroy the rights of the other people and this has caused problems up till now. They are creating the conflicts that I mentioned above to maintain their power. Personally I think that these problems will still happen if we do not struggle for our rights and equality.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District, (Received in September 2013)

Source Document #56

KHRG Log #:	13-95-S1
Publishing Information:	“Hpa-an Situation Update: Nabu Township, October 2013,” KHRG, October 2013, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction, agriculture
Location:	Nabu Township, Hpa-an District
Actors:	KNU, BGF, DKBA, Myanmar government officials, KNU/KNLA-PC, wealthy individuals
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Lobbying KNU/KNLA, lobbying government officials, formal registration

Full Text:

I am going to write a Situation Update about land issues which I have seen happen in Township #3: T'Nay Hsah [Nabu] Township.

1. The reason for [the] land confiscation or possession of land is because of more rubber trees being planted which causes an increase in conflict among villagers and they become miserable and envious of each other. Regarding this issue even village tract leaders cannot control the situation any longer and they hope that the person who is in charge of the land department will resolve these land issues as soon as possible because land registration is conducted by different groups. Some land titles are registered by the KNU, some are from the Burmese government, some are DKBA, some are Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC) and some are conducted by the BGF. I think the land titles that they provided 20 years ago are no longer recognised. Many people lost their land registration documents because they had to hide, flee from fighting and [due to the] transition of different armed groups. They want the KNU or the land registration department officer to solve their issues as soon as possible; otherwise the conflict will get worse. Some land issues happened to land owners who had to flee and [as a result] lost their land registration documents; their land was, as a result, confiscated. Even though they have their own land documents they are still confiscating other peoples' lands.

2. In this village area borrowing money is the biggest conflict among villagers which leads to killing. There was a killing case because of finance issues. On September 6th 2013 at 8:30 pm, 48-year-old Myat Lwin, called Neh Pa Dee, and his wife, 50-year-old Ma Yay Tay, were both murdered by an unknown gunman shooting 17 times with a kabyle musket.⁴² They [Neh Pa Dee and Ma Yay Tay] tried to enter their house after watching a movie at their friend's house in Noh Yaw village, Noh Kay village tract, T'nay Hsah [Nabu] Township, Hpa-an district. Now, I understand that villagers in this area are really scared of this and there is no assurance of security for them and [further] there is no organisation that will take action on security issues. The village head and the village leaders are also afraid of taking action and speaking out because of this issue [of lack of security]. Villagers [have] reported that there is no stable situation for them. For this reason, the KNU and township leader should provide security guards for us like Karen youth or other kinds of organisations to assist villager needs.

3. Illegal *yaba* manufacturing and trafficking is the biggest threat and is a major concern for community members. As we know *yaba* is originally produced in Ka Lah Koe, Kye Paw village, Kye Paw village tract, T'nay Hsah [Nabu] Township, Hpa- an District which is lead by BGF Battalion #1016 General Battalion Commander Mya Khel. General Battalion Commander Mya Khel threatened the local people and said "*Who dares to arrest me? If you are willing to die come and arrest me.*" He gives permission [to sell drugs] together with a gun to his trustworthy villagers. For this reason, it became a concern for the community and they are afraid. Consumption of *yaba* [is becoming] increasingly widespread among the community and 80% of the local villagers are consuming the drug and 4% of the consumption is done by children. Villagers and community members hope and expect drug smuggling to be reduced and/or end soon. The community reports that if someone is behind them and supporting them [in terms of

⁴² The Kabyle musket or 'Moukalla' is a type of musket widely used in North Africa. The caliber of the musket ball is large, usually in the .67 range. These guns tend to be very long (around 6ft) the barrel alone ranges from 44-52 inches in length. Kabyle muskets may be engraved with metal work and locks and may be covered in silver.

stopping] drugs smuggling, they will fight for it [preventing drug smuggling].

Regarding this, the villagers hope that the anti-drug smuggling initiatives will be implemented as soon as possible. One of the drug sellers said *“We will not punish or imprison those who use, sell and produce drugs, but we will deal and give serious punishment to those who tell or report on it.”* One villager who is against the drug producing and selling ironically said *“We will use and sell [the drugs], will anybody dare to take action on these cases? We all know that yaba is not beneficial for people and also it is illegal. Can’t the government arrest people who use, sell and produce drugs?”* It is my understanding the whole world prohibits everyone from using drugs. Previously, we have never seen or heard about drug issues much in our area. Now, it is widely spread after the DKBA became BGF in 2010.

4. In T’nay Hsah [Nabu] Township, Hpa-an District, logging *t’la aw* trees where villagers find firewood and have their cattle yards is operated by armed groups, rich people and the local authorities. They are logging *t’la aw* trees to replace them with rubber trees. I see that still many villagers cannot afford to build their houses with a zinc roof. One villager said few people are allowed to participate in logging *t’la aw* trees and planting rubber trees. Most are rich people from the city and some resident businessmen cooperate together to confiscate *t’la aw* forests. They [the rich individuals and businessmen] said the land was uncultivated so they conduct logging then turn the land into rubber plantations. If we are not going to protect our land and continue to let people plant rubber trees, after five years we will not have any cows left [as there will be nowhere for them to graze] and there will be no more *t’la aw* leaves to collect either. The villagers therefore request KNU leaders to liaise with the forest department leader, township leader and district leader to solve these issues as soon as possible. Everything that I have mentioned is realistic with accurate information. The DKBA already seized it [land] once. If rubber plantation owners confiscate land again it will majorly impact us, especially those who are poor and do not have farmland; they are more likely to become refugees.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Nabu Township, Hpa-an District, (Received in October 2013)

Source Document #57

KHRG Log #:	13-99-P1
Publishing Information:	“Dooplaya Photo Notes: Kawkareik Township, Received in October 2013,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Consultation unknown, compensation unknown
Consequences:	Unknown
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	

[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Dooplaya District in October 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]

Photo #: 0307

This is Ma C--- and her friend Ma P---. They live in Yangon. They arrived in the countryside and we can see them in Meh Naw Aa village. We saw them and we took photos of them. Both Ma C--- and Ma P--- are Burmese. They cannot speak Karen. Since the [Myanmar] government came to check on the process of the road construction they [government officials] followed them. Ma C---, she said she has three siblings; two females and one male. One male is the youngest and the oldest female is named Ma C---. I do not know the names of her younger brother and younger sister. Her younger sister has already gotten married and her youngest brother is not married yet. She said she cannot work and there is not enough space in her village. As for her youngest brother, he repairs bicycles and repairs broken motorbikes. Their mother and father are old. Ma C--- is 31 years old. She has no work in the village and she came to the countryside following the person who built the road, and the people who came to check on the bridge. The person in charge of the construction and oversees the construction is U Aung Win. He gets 30,000 kyat (US \$29.00) per month. He said there is no work in the city and so he followed the others and people gave him 30,000 kyat. U Aung Win is the manager.

Photo #: 0304, 0305

We see U Aung Win in Meh Naw Aa village. Teacher Hkaw Eh Hklay discusses with him about the construction of the road and bridge. He is the manager. He talks about the cost of his work 400,000,000 kyat (US \$386,280.10). U Aung win has to build the road and it will take many months. He has to build the bridge and road until it is [completely] done. The [Myanmar] government asked him to build 12 roads and three big bridges. The government asks him to build the road while there is no civil war. At present, it is peaceful and we do not know what will happen in the future years. After they have built the road and bridges, if there is peace, it makes it easier for the villagers to work and earn a living. U Aung Win said that he was a major in the Tatmadaw in the past and now he said that he is not [part of the Tatmadaw anymore]. [The photo record which we have taken is not showing us interviewing him. It is the teacher [Hkaw Eh Hklay] interviewing him. We took photos and we wrote about him.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in October 2013)

Source Document #58

KHRG Log #:	14-5-A3-I1
Publishing Information:	“Dooplaya Interview, Saw D---, August 2013,” KHRG 2014, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Myanmar private company
Compensation or	No compensation, no consultation

Consultation:	
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p>Ethnicity: Karen Religion: Marital Status: Married Occupation: Position: Villager</p> <p>I would like to question you about the plantation that had been ploughed out and destroyed [by the Tatmadaw]. How do you feel about that?</p> <p>We ask them [the perpetrators] and our village head also said that the lands that they surveyed is only this land⁴³ [referring to a particular area of land in the village that will be used in the project]. They were counting the betel nut trees and mango trees [before they ploughed the land]. They had noted down how many trees will be destroyed as a result of the road construction. [After they recorded the trees] they went back to the town and sent us the paper record. I am the one who complained about the loss of the plantations but they didn't pay attention to me. If we mentioned [the plantations that had been destroyed] some village leaders said, <i>"If you want to complain go and complain in Naypyidaw."</i> My wife said, <i>"I have never been in Naypyidaw. If you make me go I want to go there too."</i> However, we have our own leaders [KNU] we don't know what their orders are to the perpetrators. They came directly to us. We don't know if the KNU is informed about the project already or not. I always think [about whether or not] this road construction project can be implemented peacefully without any disturbance.</p> <p>Did they tell you that they will give you compensation for plantations? Did they tell you about the compensation for plantations? Did they tell you how much they will give you [compensation] for each tree?</p> <p>No, they not told us how much the damaged plantations were worth. They made us count the number of the trees that were damaged. The village head calculated the amount of trees which had been destroyed and said that it was 150 trees including my betel nut trees, and 88 mango trees, but it is more than 88 mango trees. When they came to construct the road they had destroyed 200 or 300 betel nut trees, including small trees that we were going to be planted very soon.</p> <p>Can I talk [the interviewee's wife interrupts]?</p> <p>Yes!</p> <p>Wife: After they confiscated the lands they called a meeting in a monastery. During the meeting the village head made us take pieces of paper and note down our plantations that had been destroyed. The head villager said the trees [betel nut and mango] that could not produce fruits would not be compensated for. This is what they said in the meeting. I am the one who went to the meeting. The head villager said, <i>"I thought you could have compensation but they didn't count the trees without fruit."</i> Head leader</p>	

⁴³ During the interview, the interviewee would have been pointing at a specific plot of land.

[village head] said we would get compensation but we have to wait. We couldn't say anything because it was respected elders from the village who told us this.

I want to know more about the situation. Are all the villagers satisfied with losing their plantations and land?

Husband: No, they [villagers] are not satisfied. A person [a passerby during the interview] who we made stop when he passed by also lost a lot of betel nut trees. He was very angry. My land on the river bank that was purchased by me I planned to plant beans on but it was destroyed [before I could]. My land was not included when they came to survey the lands, but when they started to plough it included my land.

Wife: We were not willing to look around the house if we saw the plantations that had been destroyed we get the blood rise [our blood pressure would rise] because we are not happy about losing our plantations.

Husband: Yesterday we tried to negotiate with the ploughmen but they didn't pay attention to us and continued to plough. Some of the villagers lost four or five acres of lands which they inherited. They constructed the road on central farms and plantations

Can you have your betel nut fruit?

Yes, we can have the fruit. The land that you can see when you cross over the river was Naung Laing Min's land. He is the owner. If you want to interview the land owner I can talk to them and you can come and interview later. I have lived here a very long time. The people call me Saw D--- you can question Saw S--- and Saw C---. They all know my biography.

There is a law regarding the construction of roads, like if they destroy land they should give compensation to the land owners. So, we want to know if they told you that you will get compensation for the land that has been destroyed?

No, they didn't tell us anything. When they ploughed the land I used to ask them if they would give us compensation for the land that has been destroyed. They told me that the land does not belong to me and that they plough the land ordered by the leaders.

Do you know the name of company?

No, I don't know the name of company but Myit Lwin is the one who leads the company. I'm not sure because each part has different company leaders. The first time he was involved in the land survey. He also is the one who would go around getting food or other tools.

Before they came to survey the land did they discuss with the land owner? Example: They have to call the village head and then the village head has to call the land owner. They should let you know they are going to use those lands. Did they let you know?

Husband: They did not. I never heard.

Wife: I will tell you before they came to plough the land they came two or three times to survey the land. After they surveyed the land, the village head held a meeting in a

monastery. The company held consultations with the village head, but they did not say anything to the villagers. When they ploughed the land across to Naw L---'s farm in front of her house she started to complain. But the village head wrote a letter to her [to not complain]. By looking at what she is facing, we have no confidence to say anything or complain. She is the first person to complain about losing land. She was drunk when she complained and she was also brave to complain because her water well was also destroyed.

That letter was given by the village head?

Husband: Yes, I heard the head leader wrote to her. His name is Saw M---. I asked Naw L--- and she told me the same thing that I heard [confirmed what I had heard].

Wife: He came to my house when I was complaining. He told me if you want to complain go and complain to Naypyidaw. I said to him I have never been to Naypyidaw if I need to go I will go. I told him that I just want my children to live in peace in the future. If I go there maybe my children will have peace. I could not see the plantation destroyed. A lot of our plantations have been destroyed.

Uncle,⁴⁴ Can you imagine how many betel nut trees were destroyed?

Where I live around 100,000 betel nut trees were destroyed. In the down part [downstream] of the river, a lot of plantations have been destroyed, but some of trees do not have fruit yet.

Were there also any other kinds of plantations that were destroyed?

Yes, betel nut trees, mango trees, durian trees and palm trees [the leaves of] which are used for house roofing.

How many durian trees have been destroyed? Can you guess?

There were lots of durian trees that were destroyed.

Could it be around 50 trees?

Husband: Yes, it is more than 50 durian trees.

Wife: A couple durian trees from each person were destroyed and if we combine every villager there were a lot.

How about the mango plantations? Were there a lot destroyed?

Wife: A lot of plantations have been destroyed. Some people plant them row by row beside their land to make it into a fence.

It is a sad thing right?

Husband: Yes, we feel sad. If I had known the situation I would not have planted

⁴⁴ The researcher is calling the interviewee 'uncle.' In Karen culture this is a sign of respect and not familial relations.

anything.

Wife: I cannot go and see that the trees have been destroyed. If I see it, it makes me unhappy.

What is the name of this company based here?

Husband: We do not know. We only know Myit Lwin [is the leader]. He is also ordered by the company to lead the project.

Wife: Is he the leader of this company or where? We are not sure. You should go and ask Thra Myit Thet. He should know it. There is no reason for why he wouldn't know.

Uncle, are all the villagers happy with those [lands that has been] destroyed?

Husband: No, many people are not happy with this. That is what I see by myself. The name of the one who asked my wife to go to Naypyidaw is Nay Myit. He said, "*if you want to complain go to complain in Naypyidaw.*" I asked him, "*Does she have the opportunity to go. Can you agree that she can go?*"

Wife: If you ask me to go I will go no matter whether I can speak Burmese or not. I will try to speak with them in Burmese. I said I will go to the Naypyidaw; many people are laughing at me.

Your plantations have already been destroyed. If they give you some compensation this will be a little better?

Husband: One [member] of the DKBA told me that they will give [compensation] for plants that have been destroyed.

Wife: We cannot say anything. If we try to say something they tell us to go to Naypyidaw.

Husband: I think they are not sure if we can really go to Naypyidaw.

Did they inform or meet with you before they ploughed the land? Or did they tell you that when they ploughed it will include your land?

Husband: No, they did not tell us anything. I tried to ask but they just said they would plough till they got to the fence. We destroyed our fence because we were afraid that our fence would be included in the project. I said you should pay us for destroying the fence. He just shook his head. Myit Lwin said it will also impact that land plantation. I replied to him that if it is going to impact it just let it impact it. After that they make signs on the trees. I ask him will it reach here. He said, "*No it will not reach there.*"

Wife: You told one person [the confiscator] not to do [the project] but another different person [company] came and implemented it.

Husband: When the driver ploughed the land I tried to stop him but he said he cannot do anything as he is just doing what they ordered. He said the sign [the marked land] is here so we have to plough to there. The person who surveyed these lands is known as Myit Lwin.

I want to know the situation. If we have anything [we want] to know we will interview you later. What is this place called?

It call P--- village.

Saw D---, (male, 63), P--- village,
Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District, (Interviewed in August 2013)

Source Document #59

KHRG Log #:	14-5-P1
Publishing Information:	“Dooplaya Photo Notes: Kawkareik Township, Received February 2014,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Dooplaya District in February 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0545 This photo is the plantation which was harmed and damaged.</p> <p>Photo #: 0546 This photo shows that a coconut plantation was also damaged; you can see that the trees have recently fallen down.</p> <p>Photo #: 0547 This photo is of trees which are near the road which were damaged by the big bulldozer while it ploughed the land.</p> <p>Photo #: 0540 This photo is of people ploughing the road to make it larger in front of a house.</p> <p>Photo #: 0541 This photo shows the road close to a house. As the road was very narrow in the past, it was far from the house and now it is close to the house.</p> <p>Photo #: 0542 This photo shows that some of the small coconut trees have also fallen.</p>	

Photo #: 0543

This photo shows that some of the coconut plantations and coconut trees have been destroyed.

Photo #: 0544

This photo shows that the road is close to the houses.

Photo #: 0534

This photo shows small coconut trees which have recently fallen down.

Photo #: 0535

This photo shows small coconut trees which have fallen due to a bulldozer.

Photo #: 0536

This photo shows destroyed plantations which have new green leaves.

Photo #: 0537

This photo shows a coconut plantation which has been ploughed a little bit.

Photo #: 0530

This photo shows coconut trees which have been destroyed a bit more.

Photo #: 0523

This photo shows harm to others' plantation trees, including pepper trees.

Photo #: 0524

This photo shows that the road construction damaged the people's plantations and some of the people's plants.

Photo #: 0526

This photo shows that it also harms the side of the plantation as well as some of the betel nut trees.

Photo #: 0527

This photo shows that it also harms part of the plantations of the people from Baw Ta Loh village.

Photo #: 0515

This photo shows the bulldozer ploughing.

Photo #: 0516

The photo shows a betel nut plantation field, another [plantation] which was destroyed.

Photo #: 0517

This photo shows that this bulldozer is going to plough another coconut plantation.

Photo #: 0518

This photo shows that one or two more betel trees have been destroyed.

Photo #: 0519

This photo shows that it also harms the other peoples' plants

Photo #: 0520

This photo shows that it also destroys the betel nut trees in the other people's plantation.

Photo #: 0521

This photo shows another betel nut plantation field that was destroyed.

Photo #: 0506

This photo shows a plantation which has been destroyed because of the bulldozer's ploughing.

Photo #: 0507

This photo shows that some of the trees and betel nut trees are destroyed.

Photo #: 0508

This photo shows a destroyed betel nut plantation.

Photo #: 0509

This photo shows a paddy field which has been destroyed.

Photo #: 0511

This photo shows a palm tree which has been destroyed due to ploughing.

Photo #: 0512

This photo shows a betel nut plantation which has been ploughed.

Photo #: 0513

This photo shows that it is another betel nut plantation which has been ploughed.

Photo #: 0500

This photo is the road which has been made larger and is harming the others' plantation.

Photo #: 0501

This photo is of the palm tree in the village that was destroyed.

Photo #: 0502

This photo is the toddy [palm] trees which have fallen.

Photo #: 0503

This photo shows the ploughing that reaches the house.

Photo #: 0504

This photo is of the big road which is being constructed.

Photo #: 0505

This photo is of the road which is in front of the house.

Introduction:

The Burmese company constructs the main road starting from Kaw T'Ree [Kawkareik]

to Kyone Doh [Kyonedoe] in between Law Pa and A'Kluh villages, Kaw T'Ree [Kawkareik] Township, Dooplaya district.

The date that we get the information and taking photos – December 10th 2013

As the Burmese constructors have a strong desire to construct the road they have destroyed the villagers' plantations and paddy fields. As the villagers want their coconut trees, mango tree plantations, toddy [palm] plants and yam plants back, they do not feel good [because they have been destroyed]. However, they cannot do anything. They are told that they will be given compensation for the destroyed plantations fields but they do not know how much they will be given. Therefore, they are not satisfied and they report to us so we can help them report about the abuses to the right people. Some of them have been destroyed [lost] most of their materials. There are more than 20 plantations that were harmed and destroyed. Two of the villagers reported like that. I interviewed both of them. If you listen to their talking, you will know more about [the company] and the name of the constructor company.

Photo #: 0715

This photo shows a school of Htee Ghuh Thaw village which the government built for them. It is not finished yet. As construction began on this school this year it is not done yet.

Photo #: 0703

This photo is of both schools; the previous one and the modern one.

Photo #: 0650

This photo is of the library of Tha Waw Thaw which the Tamadaw came and built for them. Since there are no books to read the village head asked the students to attend school in the library.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in February 2014)

Source Document #60

KHRG: Log #:	14-7-P1
Publishing Information:	"Dooplaya Photo Notes: Kyonedoe Township, Received February 2013," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Kyonedoe Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for</i>	

photographs taken in Dooplaya District in February 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]

Photo #: 0236

This photo was taken on November 25th 2013 in Kaw Khaw village, Lay T'Ler village tract, Kyonedoe Township and shows the trucks from the city carrying stone. They mine the stone and crush it into pieces and then put it in the truck and bring it with them. The person who is shown in the photo with the white shirt is U Tin Moe Aung.

Photo #: 0232

This photo was taken on November 25th 2013 in Kaw Khaw village, Kyonedoe Township. The photo shows U Tin Moe Aung crushing the stone. The people shown in the picture are not the workers, but KNU soldiers who travelled together with us. They brought the stone to the city. The roads and fences of the villagers are damaged but the villagers did not receive any support. They have to buy materials by themselves to repair the road.

Photo #: 0233

This photo was taken on November 25th 2013 in Kaw Khaw village, Kyonedoe Township. This is a video and the machines that are shown are the machines that crush the stones. They said in the past, in our parents' generation, we worked on flat fields and relied on it. We also paid the taxes for the flat fields. But now our flat fields are damaged and the paddy grains have also died; we don't know what to do. They showed us the flat fields that were damaged.

Photo #: 0243

This photo was taken on November 25th 2013 in Kaw Khaw village Lay T'Ler base and Kyonedoe Township. This is the photo of the villagers' flat fields that are damaged because of U Tin Moe Aung mining stone. The villagers' drains are exactly where the truck travels but the drains are covered with stone so the water that we can see here is from the villagers attempting to build a new drain in order to protect the paddy. The stone miners mined in this place again covering up the drain again. The woman in the picture is the owner of the flat field.

Photo #: 0246

This photo was taken on November 25th 2013 at the bottom of Lay Ta Ler cliff in Kaw Khaw village, Kruh Tuh [Kyonedoe] Township. This photo shows the paddy fields and the stones. As people are causing explosions on the cliffs, many of the stones are falling into the paddy fields; all of the paddy plants have been destroyed. The smaller of the stones are collected on the border of the paddy field. The owner of the paddy field cannot collect and move the big stones. As for the channel that is seen in the picture, they try to make a new one. Only half of the paddy field is good and undamaged; the rest is all destroyed.

Photo #: 0248

This photo was taken on November 25th 2013 at the bottom of Lay Ta Ler cliff in Kaw Khaw village, Kruh Tuh [Kyonedoe] Township. This photo shows that the people who are cracking the piles of stone are all workers of U Tein Moe Aung. The photo also shows the paddy that has turned yellow in colour [destroyed by insects and bugs] and died.

Photo #: 0659

This photo was taken on January 1st 2014 in Seikgyi City, Kyainseikgyi Township. This photo is of the Tatmadaw confiscating the people's land. However, I have not got the exact news and the information yet.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kyonedoe Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in February 2014)

Source Document #61

KHRG Log #:	14-10-P1
Publishing Information:	"Dooplaya Photo Notes: Kyonedoe Township, Received February 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Kyonedoe Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Wealthy individuals
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood Issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Dooplaya District in February 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 4012 A rich man came to Kyonedoe Township, Ma Yan Kon village and started a rock business by extracting rock from Naung At Ta Yan Mountain. This business affects the villages around this mountain. The collapse of huge stones blocks and damages the water systems for farming. Farm owners, villagers, including D--- [village] head leader presented about this problem at D--- [village] monastery.</p> <p>Photo #: 4913 This mountain, Naung At Ta Yan Mountain, was destroyed for [the] rock business.</p> <p>Photo #: 4917 This shows some places of the Naung At Ta Yan Mountain that were damaged as the rock collapsed.</p> <p>Photo #: 4919 This shows the rock place where the rich man, U Pay Aung, has been working on for three years. The photo also shows the machine that destroyed the rock at At Ta Yan Mountain.</p> <p>Photo #: 4924</p>	

These are pieces of small stone which have been smashed by a big machine.

Photo #: 4925

The man in the white shirt is U Thu Daw who is [the boss of the] rock company.

Photo #: 4927

These are big trucks [which] carry stones.

Photo #: 4929

This photo shows a big net to cover the stones when mining to prevent the stones from scattering. Sometimes the net gets ripped by bigger stones.

Photo #: 4931

These big stones scattered from mining and are scattered in a farm. Cultivation processes for farming were impeded by these stones. This is the proprietor of this farm, Nan P---, who is 50 years old.

Photo #: 4932

Farmers could not access water for cultivation because these stones blocked the water system in the gutter.

Photo #: 4933

Machines cannot smash big stones and were thrown into the gutter. Because the stones were thrown into the gutter, it blocked the water from flowing. The farmers reported the problem that their fields do not receive as much water as needed. The photos were taken when the owner showed where the gutter was blocked by the big stones.

Photo #: 4935

This photo shows the net that was used to cover the stone while mining. but because some scattered rocks are very big, it ripped the net.

Photo #: 4940

These stones are being scattered in the farm after people caused [created] explosions when mining on [the] mountain. Therefore, nobody can clear these big stones in the farm because they are so heavy. Thus, farmers cannot grow rice in the paddy [field].

Photo #: 4942

This photo is of a destroyed farm, because when stones are thrown on the farm it damages [the] land and the paddy cannot be grown.

Photo #: 4943

This is a big stone which damaged [a] farm.

Photo #: 100 - 4944

These are big stones that cannot be removed from [the] farm because they are so heavy.

Photo #: 4945

This is a view from far away of Kyone Ro Pa Doh Mountain from Kyonedoe Township, At Ta Yan Rock Mountain. Villagers depend on this mountain for farming because [there] is [a] main water source from the mountain for farming around this area. Now

they heard that business people will come and start to collapse the rock mountain for a project in 2013.

Photo #: 4946

This is one of the owners of a farm and she shows rocks from the mountain that have blocked gutters and damaged the water system.

Photo #: 4946

This is one of the places where rocks block the gutter.

Photo #: 4948 - 4950

Many big rocks block gutters when mining and villagers cannot move them because they are very heavy. Farmers went to ask the rich man, U Thu Daw, to make new gutters but the new gutters exist a bit lower than land⁴⁵ and water could not flow through [the] gutters. Therefore, villagers explained that more than ten areas of farm land could not get enough water.

Photo #: 2951

This photo shows a worker who is preparing for mining and digging rock to collapse. He said his boss gave 10,000 kyat (US \$9.14) per day [for] working on [the] mountain.

Photo #: 4952

People are carrying stones and putting [them] on the truck to bring [them] to [the] rock machine to smash [them so they] become small stones.

Photo #: 4953

Although farmers tried to cover the stones [so as] not to block [the] gutters, [the] stones are too big and fell onto [the] bamboo cover and destroyed them. Finally, stones blocked [the] gutters and access to water [is only possible by a few]. [This is] not enough.

Photo #: 4955, 4956

This cave has been in this region for many years and the villagers in the area pay respect to this cave every year and they build the Buddhist pagoda on the cave and inside the cave, they build the statue of Buddha. Every year they celebrate traditional customs on this mountain. We can see many Buddhist gods inside the cave. If this mountain disappears, there will be many loses such as paddy, farms, water, crops and natural beauty around this mountain. There will [also] be environmental change.

Photo #: 4961, 4962

In some fields at the bottom of Naung At Ta Yan rock, the water dries up so the farmers have to stop working in their farms.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kyonedoe Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in February 2014)

Source Document #62

⁴⁵ The land surrounding the gutter is at a higher level.

KHRG Log #:	14-10-S1
Publishing Information:	“Dooplaya Situation Update: Kyonedoe Township, September to December 2013,” KHRG, September 2014, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/14-10-s1_-3.pdf
Project Type:	Infrastructure, natural resource extraction, agriculture, militarisation
Location:	Kyonedoe Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, BGF, KPF, DKBA, wealthy individuals
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues, health issues, forced labour
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs
Full Text:	
<p>This report describes the situation of civilians from villages in Kyonedoe Township, including the political situation, healthcare, education and human rights. This is an area where all armed actors including the Tatmadaw, BGF, KPF and the KNU are active.</p> <p>The situation of civilians</p> <p>Karen people are mostly farming, working on plantations and [engaging in] cultivation for their livelihoods. Summer paddy [paddy grown in summer time rather than in the rainy season] is grown in Kyonedoe Township. There was very little rain at the end of the last rainy season, and the water dried up because of climate change and some farms could not be worked on.</p> <p>Some NGOs came to some of the villages in the area. CWS [Church World Service] provided one basket of paddy seed [of a value of] 5,000 kyat (US \$4.57) to the farmers whose fields were affected by the flooding. The UNDP [United Nations Development Programme] supported agriculture and [animal] husbandry for poor people in order to eliminate poverty. UNICEF [the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund] helped the villagers with healthcare and education.</p> <p>We can say that poor people who do not have land and do hill field farming have almost no land to cultivate. This is because there are many [different] authorities [armed actors] in the area, and the soldiers and some villagers worked together and sold the land to rich people from other areas, and the rich people are growing rubber trees. Therefore, it is hard for the local people to do cultivation and hard for them to find wood, bamboo, leaves for roofing and posts for fencing when they build houses. Now they have to pay 500 kyat (US \$0.45) for one bamboo [pole] and 500 kyat for one fence post.</p> <p>There are 75,320.09 acres of forest in Kyonedoe Township and the civilians could not protect it after the emergence of the DKBA, BGF and KPC [KNU/KNLA Peace Council]. These armed actors demarcated the forest into plots and sold it to rich people from other places. The civilians dare not say anything because [those responsible] are armed actors. According to the local forestry leader of the KNU [administrative official in the KNU Forestry Department], only one-third of the forest is left [has not been logged].</p> <p>It was easy to protect the forest when there were only the KNU and the Burmese</p>	

government [in the area]. Because there are so many armed actors [now], some people said that we would have to call the forest a rubber plantation [because armed actors, villagers and business people from other areas grow so many rubber trees there].

Because the KNU has signed the preliminary ceasefire with the Burmese government, for the development of the region the KNU allowed the government to construct and repair bridges and three concrete vehicle roads in Brigade #6, Dooplaya District, between Than Phyu Za Yap and Hpa Ya Thone Su, Kyainseikgyi and Kyeh Don, and Kawkareik via A' Zinn to Paing K' Ler and Taung Ka Lay. When the companies came and worked on the three roads, they widened the narrow parts of the roads and straightened the curved roads [constructed new sections of road to cut across particularly curved sections of the existing road in order to shorten it]. As a result, the farms and plantations of some villagers were destroyed. Some of the owners of the land that was destroyed said that they would be very happy if they received proper compensation.

Civilians can travel more quickly, transport things and trade more easily because of the construction of the three new roads. However, some of the travellers and traders are disappointed because there are many check points [and they have to pay to pass the check points]. Some villagers made up a humorous poem to describe their experience of check points:

12 inches = 1 foot
Every three feet = one check point
Between here and Kawkareik = 12 check points

Some villagers and the village administrators said that they do not dare to report human right abuses and the problems in the villages as they do not have extra heads [a darkly sarcastic expression meaning they don't want to risk speaking out for fear that their heads may be cut off]. Armed conflict is the only [kind of problem] that has decreased during the ceasefire, and the villagers still have to pay tax and do Loh ah pay.

Some villagers reported that the number of young people who are using drugs is increasing because there are many organisations [armed actors involved in the drug trade].

There is a lot of mining happening in Noh T'Kaw [Kyainseikgyi] Township in Dooplaya District and many [mining] companies are coming in. In particular, mining that produces antimony in Ta Mo Theh village pollutes Win Lon stream because polluted water from the mine flows into the stream. Moreover, a kiln that was built by a Chinese company emits smoke into the air when it is running and people get dizzy and have headaches when they breathe it, and people get diarrhoea when they touch the ashes produced by the kiln.

Nine villages from that area [Kyainseikgyi Township] rely on the Win Lon stream [for drinking water]. Villagers who do not have wells use the water from the Win Lon stream. Moreover buffalos, cattle, pigs and other animals from the villages along the stream drink water from the Win Lon stream in the summer time. The village administrator of Win Lon reported on November 11th 2013 that the villagers worry that the [animals] will get diseases if they drink water from the stream often.

Education

The villagers built schools by themselves and hired teachers by giving them 40 to 60 baskets of paddy for one year because they realise that education is vital. [Community founded] schools in some villages have to join with government schools; otherwise they [the students] cannot attend middle school because the government does not recognise them [the local schools established by villagers]. The government does not recognise the people who pass tenth standard in KNU schools or people who pass tenth standard in refugee camps on the border. The teachers that are appointed by the government get a salary but the villagers have to provide them with rice, cooking oil, salt, coal, curry, travel [expenses when they attend training or meetings], sickness [expenses to pay for medicine] and everything. Both teachers hired [by the villagers] and those appointed by the government [and sent to teaching posts in different areas of the country] have to attend training or sit exams once every three or four months. [The training sessions or exams] take between two days and one month [to complete], and because there are no teachers to replace them [while they are in training or sitting exams] it disrupts the education of the students. The students have to pay school fees and fees for other things in some government primary schools even though the students get free books and pens provided by UNICEF.

The schools built by the villagers by themselves and the teachers hired by the villagers receive stationary, sports equipment and money for the teachers from the KED [Karen Education Department].

Healthcare

Healthcare is very important for the civilians. The government appointed [local village heads] as village administrators and assigned medics to some villages. Sometimes patients from the villages receive medicine for free and sometime they have to pay money, because the government does not provide all medicines for free.

WHA⁴⁶ from the side of military government led by Doctor Saw Moe Myint Win distributed elephantiasis medicine to 1,144 villagers from 254 households from 25 villages in Kyeh Don Sub-Township, Kawkareik Township on September 9th 2013. The last day of the vaccination was September 19th 2013. Doctor Saw Moe Myint Win and his superior medics together with teachers from the villages distributed elephantiasis medicine to the villagers in that area. They informed the villagers via the village tract leaders [who then informed] the ten households leaders [and then the ten households leaders informed the households they represent]. They said that people who have heart disease, patients with gastric illnesses, pregnant women and people with chronic illnesses should not take the medicine. There was no equipment for [diagnostic] examinations. There was only one pot [of water] and one cup [which the villagers had to share] to take the medicine, [which had to be swallowed in pill form].

The ten household's leaders had to distribute the medicine to those who could not come [to receive the medicine initially]. Some people who took the medicine felt dizzy, vomited and felt itchy, [the side effects also reportedly included one case of] miscarriage and some men's testicles became swollen as a consequence. People from Kyonedoe Township suffered the same things after they took the medicine. A malaria elimination team of the government came and distributed mosquito nets for free but they asked for 500 kyat (US \$0.51) from the villagers as a transportation fee for each mosquito net.

⁴⁶ It is unclear what this acronym refers to.

A Back Pack Health Worker Team, the FBR [Free Burma Rangers] and a malaria elimination group from the KNU come [to the village] twice per year. Also, CIDKP [the Committee for Internally Displace Karen People] and KORD [the Karen Office of Relief and Development] help the villagers when it is necessary. They distribute medicines and mosquito nets for free.

KNU

The KNU could not establish a township level administration in this area. So they are operating as an organizing committee. They have nine members in the organising committee and they are each given responsibility for one department. As for the military, there are three platoons of the KNDO [the Karen National Defence Organisation] and they are given responsibility in three different places. They are working together with the [KNU] administration group and they report what they need to the district office and brigade office.

The military and the BGF

The movement of government soldiers [from the Tatmadaw] in Kyonedoe Township is decreasing. BGF Battalion #2012 set up their base camp in Noh Lone village and they also built a small camp in Htee Hu Than village. There are 20 government soldiers [the Tatmadaw] who always stay with the BGF soldiers in the Noh Lone camp. People do not see them doing anything to benefit civilians. Mostly they run gambling games during Ar Wer days and collect money from that.

DKBA

The DKBA is traveling and operating in this area. We do not see them doing anything to benefit civilians. They are collecting tax from saw mills, cars [which pass checkpoints], 50,000 kyat (US \$51.33) for one phone, 100,000 kyat (US \$102.67) [to be allowed to own] one elephant [for one year], 100,000 kyat for one wild yam stove, rubber plantations, and they collect money from [travellers at] check points.

KPF

The KPF are not very active and they do not do anything that benefits civilians. They set up checkpoints and collect tax [from travellers who pass the checkpoints].

KPC

There is no KPC battalion [based in this area]. There are [individual] members of the KPC [who live in the area] and they are doing nothing that benefits civilians. They are just like the superior soldiers of the KPF and the DKBA, and have relationships with rich people and sell land.

Conclusion

Social problems, land problems, judicial [problems], and killing cases are occurring in the Kyonedoe Township [KNU organizing committee] area as there are many armed actors. Therefore, the rule of law and security for the civilians is weak. The problems that are happening now are very difficult for the responsible people to solve.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kyonedoe Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in September 2014)

Source Document #63

KHRG Log #:	14-101-S1
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Publishing Information:	“Thaton Situation Update: Bilin, Thaton, Kyaikto and Hpa-an townships, September to November 2014,” KHRG, February 2015, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/14-101-s1.pdf
Project Type:	Infrastructure, other
Location:	Bilin, Thaton, Kyaikto and Hpa-an townships, Thaton District
Actors:	Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Lobbying government officials
Full Text:	
<p>This report concerns the situation in the region, the villagers’ feelings, armed groups’ activities, forced labour, development activities, support to villagers and education problems occurring between the beginning of September and November 2014. There are four townships focused on: Bilin Township, Tha Htoo [Thaton] Township, Kye Hto [Kyaikto] Township and Hpa-an Township in Doo Tha Htoo [Thaton] District. The KNU is unable to control Paw Maws’ko [Paung] Township. Hpa-an Township is located west of the Salween river and at the lower part of eastern Baw Naw river. Bilin Township is located along the Baw Naw river. Tha Htoo [Thaton] Township is located nearby a highway and there are only flat fields surrounding it. Kye Hto [Kyaikto] Township is joint with the boundary of Brigade 3 [Nyaunglebin District] down to the Salween River⁴⁷.</p> <p>Forced labour for building army camp in Hpa-an Township Border Guard Force (BGF) #1014 Company Commander Tin Win from Htee Soo Kaw village, forced villagers from Meh K’nah Hkee, Htee Saw Hkee, Meh K’nah Noo and P’hee to work hard labour. For one day, ten villagers had to cut wood, bamboo and weave baskets [repair them] in the BGF army camp in Meh K’nah Noo village.</p> <p>In Bilin Township, in Tah Paw camp and Lay Kay camp, one person a day was forced [by the Tatamdaw] to work as a sentry. We know through the villagers that “<i>The Lay Kay camp government military would cut the bamboo and sell it</i>”. Per day, more than ten soldiers from the Tatmadaw cut the bamboo in the forest. Due to the ceasefire they are daring to go and cut the bamboo. Villagers have complained that their village is big and they have to build fences around their houses. If the amount of bamboo is decreasing [because the soldiers are cutting and selling it] there will not be enough for the villagers as well.</p> <p>Road construction There are two highways that were constructed at the beginning of 2013, and one in 2014 in Doo Tha Htoo [Thaton] District. In an agreement between the Burma government and the [Thaton] District leader, one highway has been constructed from P’nweh Klah to Lay Kay; one highway in Wa Bon Taw road in Hpa-an Township from Kye Hto to Tha Waw Thaw village west of Yoh Thee Yoo, Kye Hto [Kyaikto] Township and one highway in Nah Kyi was constructed in the summer of 2014.</p>	

⁴⁷ Although in the original translation the researcher did state the Salween River, according to our maps, the river the researcher was referring to was the Bilin River.

U Ye Htun, Maung Hla Win, Zun Nyi Naung constructed the Lay Kay highway; U Kin Mi Kauk constructed the Tha Waw Thaw village and Nah Kyi highway. The identity of the person who constructed the Wa Bon Daw highway is not known. Villagers who live nearby the construction of the roads have had their land confiscated and their crops and plants destroyed. Villagers were not compensated for their losses. They reported to the person in the township responsible [for dealing with these kinds of issues] about their suffering. Even though the reports have been submitted nothing has been solved yet.

Support

In September a programme of rice distribution to the villagers began across Doo Tha Htoo [Thaton] District. An organisation called the NIPPON FOUNDATION distributed the rice. It distributed eight bowls of rice per individual and also provided solar panels. They provided 438 solar panels for each township. The manager of this project is KNU Commander Aee Thah. Commander Aee Thah's assistant in transport is the trader Saw Ah Nge Lay. This programme has been operating for two months.

Building a clinic

We know that a hospital is going to be built in Lay Kay village since 2010, but it still has not been built. A villager reported that the construction of the hospital was confirmed in September 2014. The location of the hospital is on land confiscated by the government which belongs to villagers in the local community. The original owners of the land did not receive any payment for the land, as it has been confiscated since the era of government military dictatorship.

Malaria Project

This project has been formed in rural villages. Representatives of the villages are selected to attend the training at Kyeh Kaw town and then implement this training back in their own village. The healthcare department also conducts training in a village tract as well. In Doo Tha Htoo [Thaton] District there are two clinics: Khaw Htee Hkee and Tah Meh Htah which were founded by the KNU Healthcare Department. A clinic was established in the brigade [Thaton District] named Tah Meh Hkee clinic. In September we found out that villagers in virtually all townships of Doo Tha Htoo [Thaton District] were suffering with eye pain [an eye disease]. Some seriously suffered and are yet to get better.

Residence construction for IDP (Internally Displaced Person) in 2015

The building that is going to be constructed is nearby Lah Hkoe village in Bilin Township. We have known that a register will be taken in October 2015 for those who are going to stay there. Some villagers said that a house is going to be provided and they [those living there] will get support for three years. This project is supported by the Burma government and the [Thaton] district leader. A stone crusher [cement] factory will be constructed in Hpa-an Township. We know that the [Thaton] District leader and [Tatmadaw] military leader would operate this project in the summer. One of the district leaders said that "*we should do this for our district income*". Villagers who live nearby the project area are worried. If this project is actually going to go ahead, their plantation fields will definitely be damaged. The location of the project is at Kyaw Pyee K'Sah village tract nearby Meh K'yay tract in Hpa-an Township. The Burma government and So Naing Pyo Company will operate the project.

We know that following the ceasefire the Tatmadaw [began to] inform the KNU before they would go in to KNU areas. When the KNU approves of their presence they

[Tatmadaw] launch their activities in the area. When the fighting occurred between the Tatmadaw and DKBA [Democratic Karen Benevolence Army] we knew that their movements [around the area] had grown and more people who travel around the area were being questioned. They would record the names of the people who captain the boat that travels in Yoh Klah area. In Lay Kay we know that they would not allow people to wear their military uniforms when they go inside the village. They do not complain however when the KNU soldiers travel with uniform and guns. The BGF have also increased the harassment and questioning of villagers when villagers travel around [the area]. Because of the current situation, villagers worry that the fighting between the DKBA, KNU and Tatmadaw will happen again and they worry they will be forced to labour and will not be able to work freely for a living like before. At the moment villagers can work well and freely for their living unless it is raining. Villagers in the village are happy that they can go to work and can stay overnight in the field and farm freely.

When the situation became stable, we found out that villagers faced the problem of drugs. In Doo Tha Htoo [Thaton] District, Baw Kyoh Leh, K'mah Moe and Sway Koe (Shwe Gone) are the areas that drugs enter the most frequently and when you need them you can easily buy them in these places. Therefore, the amount of youths who use drugs has increased. There is no community awareness and no action has been taken yet. District leaders have discussed how to handle the problem and how to deal with it together. Villagers are worrying that the drugs will cause negative effects on their children and the youths in the village. Some are expecting that this will be solved as soon as possible because most of the drugs that are entering are from areas where the BGF live.

In the education sector, we know that in the academic year of 2013-2014 there were more [Burma/Myanmar] government teachers coming to teach in Karen villages. As a consequence, villagers faced more problems. Previously, villagers recruited teachers from their own villages and they would share a common ethnicity. When the government teachers arrive, whatever they request the villagers must produce. Villagers do not dare to complain about having to do this. For example in the past the principal of Htee Hpah Doh Htah Middle school is from Htee Hpah Doh Htah village so we [principle and student's parents] have a mutual understanding. This year the principal is a teacher from the Burmese government and she launched a school competition – a football match with schools from the surrounding villages - Kwee Lay, Klaw Htah, Noh Ber Baw and Yoh Klah. The competition is a week-long. One of the teachers told me they have to bring their own food, their own belongings and they have to pay for all of the expense so it causes problems for them. As far as we know, if there is a school competition, the Burma/ Myanmar government will pay for the cost but Htee Hpah Doh Htah School's principal said that the government will only pay for his school. Therefore the competition is likely to become a burden for the villagers and the students' parents.

One of the school committees said that “another problem has occurred in Tah Paw school since a Burmese teacher has become principle. She does not allow us to teach the Karen language and she complains that it is just making everyone busier and if we want to teach Karen language, we have to teach it after school.” This has happened in another school as well. Our village leader has said that this kind of issue is not good for the village.

Another issue is the Burmese government teachers have to go back to city for the training once or twice per month. When they go back they disappear for around ten

days. Students' parents have to pay for the transportation cost of the teacher which is a burden for them. One of the students' parents said that it cost more than a teacher that we hire on our own. We have to take care of the government teachers for example in terms of food and candle costs.

As for my personal opinion, in the summer, the development project, logging, construction and land confiscation will increase because the roads are accessible and people from the urban cities will get permission from the KNU to come and conduct business here. The local villagers will suffer because whatever they come to do here will only benefit a small amount of people.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Hpa-an Township, Thaton District, (Received in December 2014)

Source Document #64

KHRG Log #:	14-104-P1
Publishing Information:	"Dooplaya Photo Notes: Kyainseikgyi Township, Received December 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction, infrastructure, militarisation
Location:	Kyainseikgyi Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Foreign private company, Myanmar private company, Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	Some compensation, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Health issues, displacement, livelihood issues, environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Outreach to NGOs/CBOs, lobbying, other
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Dooplaya District in December 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 6180 This photo is from Noh T'Kaw [Kyainseikgyi] Township, Dooplaya District and it is a river which villagers use and drink from in Law Pah Kee village. In the photo, you will see that the river is very polluted [murky] and it is not clean. Originally, this river was really clean but because of the wealthy individuals and Chinese people who are doing stone mining from the upper part of the river, the whole river is completely polluted.</p> <p>Photo #: 6183 This is also a photo from Law Pah Kee village as well. These villagers are always waiting for help regarding water. There are around 30 to 40 houses in this village, in the past there were more houses than now. Because of the increase in stone mining, water became unsafe and polluted so some people moved to another place.</p> <p>Photo #: 9172 This photo is about a school in Hsoh K'lee that was built with the cooperation of the</p>	

Burmese government and a partner from a foreign country. The school was built in the area [where] villagers [live] without paying them any compensation. There are 40 classrooms in this school and it located right on the villagers' land. Over around 100 water buffalo trees, coconut trees, mango trees and jackfruit trees were damaged. There wasn't any financial help [given] to the land owners. They did not even say thank you.

Photo #: 1715

This photo shows the rubber plantation of wealthy person Khin Zaw in Noh T'Kaw [Kyainseikgyi] Township, T'Koo Kee village. He came and bought the land and planted the rubber trees. As he is a rich person he buys all lands that people sell. This area is a place of Karen people from Mae K'Taw village. Now it became property of rich people and we think that this is going to increase in the future because Karen people do not know what will happen with them in the future.

Photo #: 1716

This photo is about a big road which was undertaken by Khin Zaw and constructed by a company. This road starts from Kya Inn and arrive to Kyiek Don and on both sides of the road is a rubber plantation of Khin Zaw. It is also in the territory of T'Koo Kee village, Noh T'Kaw [Kyainseikgyi] Township.

Photo #: 1717

This photo is about road construction in Mae K'Taw Kee in Noh T'Kaw [Kyainseikgyi] Township. It was during ploughing the land for the construction that a stone appears from the ground, but they were unable to identify whether it is antimony⁴⁸ or not. But this kind of stone stuff smells very bad as soon as it is dug out of the land, so the owner asked to cover it. They cannot identify exactly what kind of stone [it is] and now the land owner does not allow stone mining. We will wait and see in the future [regarding the stone that they found]. The people who ploughed the land are the people of Khin Zaw.

Photo #: 1727 - 1729

These photos are about the clinic that was built by [Myanmar] government staff in order to improve the health of the villagers in Noh T'Kaw [Kyainseikgyi] Township, Kah Lee Kee village. In the past year, we have seen that villagers were faced with diseases and died. In fact they should not [have died]. Now the diseases are decreasing because the clinic is available.

Photo #: 1728

This photo is about a clinic in Kah Lee Kee village which was built by [Myanmar] government staff just for the villagers, in order to improve their health and to let the Karen people get access to healthcare. In the past we have seen that the villagers died even though they should not, because they did not have access to the healthcare. But right now we have the clinic so sickness has decreased a lot.

Photo #: 1731

I took this photo to let my Karen people know that Kyaw Naywin company built the bridge in order to let the villager travel easily and comfortably in summer and rainy season.

Photo #: 1732

⁴⁸ 'Antimony' is a silvery-white metalloid.

This photo also is the bridge that was built by Kyaw Naywin. Kyaw Naywin is a responsible person from the BGF as well. His goal of building the bridge is to make travelling easier for everyone.

Photo #: 1738

In this photo you may see Thoo Lei company's stone grinding machines that are set up in the local paddy field. They found that this place is wide and good for grinding stone. But villagers and land owners do not agree to this so they gathered together and lobbied those who grind the stone asking them not to do it with and on their land. Then they accepted the villagers pleas to not to work in the paddy field and tried looking for another place to work.

Photo #: 1739

This photo is about the same place as the paddy field. One part of this paddy field already has been destroyed since people ploughed it. Therefore, the land owner can't accept grinding the stone in the land and stands bravely and tries to complain. This is the paddy field of the C--- village pastor. We do not know whether the confiscator will listen to our complaints or not, since we are just villagers.

Photo #: 1744

This photo is about the [Tatmadaw] Burmese army camp in the Kyaw Htah village that was built in the villagers' lands. Villagers do not dare to complain and they do not get any compensation for the land. Now a day they are constructing more army buildings.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kyainseikyi Township, Doooplaya District, (Received in December 2014)

Source Document #65

KHRG Log #:	14-105-S1
Publishing Information:	"Nyaunglebin Situation Update, Kyaukkyi Township, September 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure, other
Location:	Kyaukkyi Township, Nyaunglebin District
Actors:	Government officials, KNU, Foreign NGOs/CBOs
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, some consultation
Consequences:	Unknown
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
Introduction [This report] concerns situations that affect human rights that exist in this area. There are development projects among the civilians and there are so many Burmese soldier activities.	
Villagers' livelihood and transportation Despite villagers having freedom for their livelihoods the natural disaster [heavy rainfall	

flooding] is still remaining and causing the difficulties and problem for food. Now a day, even though villagers can travel freely and work comfortably for their living because of the KNU and Burmese government peace talks, they still have less confidence towards the peace talk process. The trustworthiness of the peace talk process from both sides of leaders is less and there is worry that the armed groups fighting will happen again. Because of the numerous activities of soldiers, villager have less confidence.

The Burmese soldier's movement activities and encampment

Burmese soldier have a lot of activities such as active [patrolling] battalions, rear battalion and support unit. In Ler Doh [Kyaukkyi] Township, the army camps that Burmese soldiers set up are

- (1) Mu Theh
- (2) Hkler Soe
- (3) Kaw Hplah Lay Hkoh
- (4) Maw Day Kleh Hkaw
- (5) Baw K'Htah
- (6) Ton T'dar
- (7) Paw Khay Hkoh
- (8) Nat Than Kwin and Noh Ku

In Moo [Mone] Township,

1. Military base IB (Infantry Battalion #60) Battalion Commander Zarni Aung at Than Bo
2. LID (Light Infantry Division #351) Lieutenant Ye Htut Zaw at Sit Hsin Kon
3. LIB (Light Infantry Battalion #599) Lieutenant Soe Tint Lin in Intoinshay area,
4. #590 Lieutenant Aung Than Htay in Yay Ao Sin area and the army camps are Yaygate camp, Thit Kyat Seik, Htee Toh Loh, Paw Pee Der, Myaung Oo, Kyo Pay Say, Nyaung Pin Thar, Aaw Law See, Mar Lar Daw, Ma Lwan Pon, Thapyay Nyunt, Hsaw Mee Loo, Htee Mu Htah, Kyaung Pyan are Aung Soe Moe army camps.

In Hsaw Htee [Shwegyin] Township there are five battalions of military operation which are

1. IB (Infantry Battalion #57) Shwegyin,
2. LIB (Light Infantry Battalion #349) Shwegyin
3. LIB (Light Infantry Battalion #350) Shwegyin
4. LIB (Light Infantry Battalion #598) Z'lok Gyi
5. LIB (Light Infantry Battalion #589) Do Seik area

The army camps are: K'ser Kaw Htee, Ler Htaw Thoe, S'loo Chaw, Kaw Lar Seh, Hkoh Hpeh Htah, Meh Teh Htah, P'hee Soe, Thit Hkay Meh Soe, Wah Hkoh Law Teh, Ler Kyoe Hkaw, Moh Kyoe Hkoh, Thoo Ter Ther Hkoh, Paw Loe Htah, Kyaw Ku and Aye K'nee. The military activities had increased in 2014. Therefore civilians are worrying that the armed fighting will happen.

KNU situation and activity

There is no military activity of the KNU, just the arrangement of leaders and responsible persons in cooperating with CBOs (Community Based Organisations), CSOs (Civil Society Organisations), village tract community committees and NGO (Non-Governmental Organisations) for the civilians. Regarding the support that comes from independent organisations, the KNU assigns human rights committees to the village

tracts and lets them handle it. The cooperation of the KNU and village tracts has increased now a days. The obtaining of the public's opinion and needs had increased and civilians also dare to give feedback to KNU if they exhibit any weak points. There is no activity of KNU soldiers. If there is any problem or conflict from both sides of governments they meet and solve it out. Pegu District peace representative team and the KNU formed a peace committee and if there is any issue that has been raised these two groups meet all the time and solve out the problem between the two groups.

The circumstance of peace

Because of increasing government military activities, even though the ongoing peace process between the KNU and Burmese government has been going on for over two years, the trust in the peace talk process from the people is lesser. Because of the non-observance of the peace talk processes and the ineffective decision making of the peace talk processes between the two groups of government, the belief in peace by the public is less. On September 27th 2014 in Nyaunglebin District, Ler Doh [Kyaukkyi] Township the KNDO Battalion #3 encountered and fought with the government military LIB #361 Lt-Colonel Kyaw Swar Moe. This government military [LIB #361] is based in Kler Soe army camp (Ton T'dar sakan) and they entered KNU territory which is at Hkeh Der village in Beh Kaw Plaw area which is where villagers' paddy fields and their working place is located. The place is three miles from the vehicle road. Burmese soldiers came over several miles of KNU controlled zones and this is where the fighting happened. KNDO Corporal Saw Poe Law died and soldier Pah Tah Au was injured. On the first of October 2014, in a KNU region in Moo [Mone] Township, the government military is active all the time. The KNU warned them not to enter, but they did not listen and the day they left, the KNU subordinate asked the village head to inform them not to move on but they didn't care and went to Infantry Battalion #8 in Nyaunglebin District headquarters. The KNU gave a warning shot to the government military LIB #598 and Battalion Commander Zaw Win Naing and his soldiers. The villagers were frightened and their worry is increasing. Their belief in the peace process is reducing because of the war that is happening.

Baw Ka Htah Dam Project

The Burmese government has had a plan for a dam for so long, but the KNU forbade and interfered with this project. It therefore was not a success. Now a days the KNU has peace talks with the Burmese government and the Burmese government has a project to build the dam at Theh Loh Kloe (Baw K'htah River). If the dam is built, there will be many negative consequences so, the KNU requested carrying out the project on their own. On the 18th of October 2014 a community meeting about Baw K'htah Hydroelectric Project was held in Ler Doh [Kyaukkyi] Township in Hkoh Poe area. The programme was held at first as a study and it was just a discussion and dialogue with a CBO and CSO [trying to decide] whether they should build the dam or not. In this meeting, although villagers presented a lot of their opinions and desires, the questions and answers were not perfect and the leaders and those responsible failed to answer all the questions that villagers asked. Over twenty villages' representatives and community religious leaders attended this meeting and asked questions and expected

answers. There were over two hundred people including foreign countries, a Norwegian Embassy Representative (Mattal), MPSI (Myanmar Peace Support Initiative) Representative (Ashely) and Norway professionals and KNU Representatives from Thaton district and Nyaunglebin District and Headquarter-In-Charge, Saw Tah Doh Moo, led the program and held the meeting.

Padoh Saw Tah Doh Moo said to the villager *“The person who came and supported the dam construction has to listen to the local voice and follow the rules of community.”*

Norwegians who came for the dam project are not the people who will construct the dam, they are just the people who were just doing research in order to examine and confirm whether they should construct the dam or not and [whether it would] meet with the [expectations of the] local people and set up [follow] the law for the dam construction.

Conclusion

Two groups of government have a development project plan in the region. If there is a development project plan, there are negative consequences from the project that will follow. This information was reported collectively according to the situation.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kyaukkyi Township, Nyaunglebin District, (Received in December 2014)

Source Document #66

KHRG Log #:	14-13-S1
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun Situation Update: Dwe Lo Township, November 2013 - February 2014,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>The villagers from Day Lo Bu village and Wa Tho Lo village are the villagers who suffered human right abuses the most in Dwe Lo Township between November 12th 2013 and February 21st 2014. The villagers are doing cultivation, plantation, planting vegetables, peanuts, long beans, watermelon and eggplant for their livelihoods. Gold mining companies, Myint Mo Taung company and Hla Min Ta Htaung company, came and started gold mining in S--- [village], Meh Way Hta village tract. The villagers did not even have time to eat all of their vegetables that they grew and many things were destroyed.</p>	

The gold mining started on November 15th 2013 [and carried on] until 2014 and the Company Operation Commander of Brigade #5 [Hpapun] Commander Kyaw They has been put in charge of it. He banned the villagers from travelling and only allowed the people that he likes to travel. It is difficult for the villagers to travel because of the restriction of movement.

Regarding the gold mining in Meh Way Hta village by Myint Tar Yeik – Hla Min Ta Htaung companies, the leaders said that the companies and the headquarters of the KNU are working together and sharing the profit. They did not consult the villagers about the gold mining and ignored the will of the villagers and did it anyway

Some villagers said that no one dares to complain to Commander Kyaw [They] because they are afraid that he will scold them. Some villagers said that they would be ruled by the army and the KNLA has the power like the Burmese soldiers ruled them in the past.

Gold mining

People are facing difficulties because of the gold mining in S--- village between November 12th 2013 and February 21st 2014. Some of the villagers from Meh Way Hta village, Meh Way village and Wa Tho Lo village lost their land and some lost some of their plantations.

Some villagers said that in the past, when there was no gold mining in Meh Way Hta River, the villagers who live near Meh Way Hta River went and panned for gold in Meh Way Hta River. The villagers bought salt, fish paste, and clothes and used that money to send their children to school and they worked for their livelihoods like this. They [villagers] cannot go to the river and pan for gold this year because the Myint Tar Yeik company and Hla Min Ta Htaung company came in and mined for gold with big cars and with many workers.

Saw B--- reported that the Karen leaders and rich people did not consult with the villagers. Now I [KHRG Researcher] am presenting you the report of Saw B---.

I went to Meh Baw Htah village in Meh Way village tract on November 12th 2013 and met with a villager from Meh Baw Htah and asked him how he will ban the gold mining or will he [the villagers] ban the gold mining and he told me that the people [rich people] who are doing gold mining are dropped from the sky [they do not know where the perpetrators come from]. I know that Saw N--- [a villager] is feeling very upset according to his talk. I took the photos of the place and the places are very beautiful with trees. But now the place is not like before and everything was destroyed because of the gold mining.

Restrictions

The gold mining started in Meh Way Hta villgae, Bu Lo River; Meh Toh village, Meh Kleh village since November 12th 2013 and the Company Operation Commander of Brigade #5 [Hpapun] Commander Kyaw They came and took security and restricted the villagers in many different ways.

Some civilians bought the land to do gold mining but Commander Kyaw They did not allow them and took back the land. If we look at this we can see that he did it by his own will and was like U Ne Win.⁴⁹

Water

The gold mining happens every year in the summer time in Meh Way stream, Bu Tho stream, Meh Kleh stream from 2011 to 2014. The water is polluted because of so much gold mining. Villagers from Meh Baw Hta, Hpa Weh Hta, Hku Thu Hta, Mae Lay Ler, Kwee Ta Mer, Hpo Hkeh Hta, Nyah Hsa Ghaw Hta and Ghaw Mu encounter water issues because water is scarce for bathing and drinking. Some villagers get the water from rubber pipes but it is not enough water for drinking and bathing. More than that, because the people who work in the gold mining business used so many chemicals the villagers do not dare to use the water for drinking and bathing because they are afraid that it would cause diseases. The polluted water not only causes problems for the villagers, but also causes problems for the fish, shrimp, buffalo and cattle. It causes diseases and causes the animals to die when they drink it.

Threats

M---, a Chinese man and wood trader, went to Meh Way village, the place where people are doing gold mining on November 17th 2013. He had to pass through the area that was controlled by Commander Kyaw They, the operation commander of Brigade #5 [Hpapun], and M--- thought that he would pay Commander Kyaw They a visit. Kyaw They did not say anything when he saw M--- and grabbed a gun off his soldier and shot three times to threaten M---. M--- was very frightened then went back to the boat and went back right away.

In my opinion M--- did not make any mistake. The only thing is he did not fulfill the will of Commander Kyaw They. The case that Kyaw They shot at M--- with a gun will just be like this [no action will be taken].

Wa Na, a company commander of the Burmese soldiers [Tatmadaw] from IB #76, which is based in Kay Klaw K' Ler, Ma Lay Ler village tract, came to the riverside of Bu Lo River and Saw L---, a villager of P---, who was coming back from Meh Way by boat. Wa Na saw him and called to him. But Saw L--- did not hear it because of the noise of the engine boat. So Wa Na shot the gun three times. Then Saw L--- heard the sound of the gun and saw the Burmese soldiers [Tatmadaw] so he drove the engine boat close to them. Then Wa Na said that Saw L--- did not respect him when he called him so that he must give him 1,000,000 kyat (US \$914.91). Saw L--- was frightened and gave Wa Na 1,000,000 kyat and Wa Na released him very quickly.

The movement of Burmese soldiers [Tatmadaw]

LIB #555 is based in Meh Pre Hkee camp and Hku Thu Hta camp from 2013 to 2014 and IB #96 is based in Waw Mu camp, Kay Kaw camp and Meh Way camp. Forced labour, arbitrary taxation and asking for porters by the Burmese [Tatmadaw] soldiers has reduced a lot. The Burmese soldiers who live in Wah Mu camp, Kay Kaw camp, Meh Way camp and Hku Thu Hta asked the village heads to arrange boats for them to transport their rations which they will eat for a year. The villagers who have a boat did it. The Burmese soldiers provided fuel and boat propellers for the villagers and the villagers were very happy. Some boat owners said that the Burmese soldier are

⁴⁹ U Ne Win was the dictator who seized power in Burma in 1962.

becoming nicer little by little. In the past [before the ceasefire], the Burmese army forced the villagers to do the labour for them, demanded and threatened the villagers so the villagers were afraid whenever they were asked to do something. Forced labor and arbitrary taxation is reducing a lot after the ceasefire and it is very good for us.

Healthcare

There is a hospital in our Dwe Lo Township and it is located in Ler Htoh Hpoh [village], Meh Thu village tract. Some villagers go to the township hospital when they are not feeling well. The Back Pack Health Workers (BPHWT) come and distribute medicine twice per year. The people who live very far from the hospital and people from the villages where Back Pack Health Workers cannot go go to the hospital in the city and it costs so much. There is no hospital in other villages and village tracts. Most of the diseases that villagers suffer from are flu, malaria, headaches and joint pain.

Education

There are a few high schools in Dwe Lo Township. Most of the schools are middle schools and primary schools. The villages which have many households set up middle schools and villages which have fewer households set up primary schools. Every school-age child has the chance to go to school in Dwe Lo Township. Some children finish middle school and go to refugee camps and some go to the city to continue their studies. Some schools are supported by the Burmese government, some schools are supported by the KNU, while some schools are supported by Tharamu [teacher] Eh Thway and some schools are set up by the villagers on their own.

Livelihood of the villagers

In our Dwe Lo Township, the villagers are working on cultivation and farming, while some people are working on agriculture like sesame, peanuts and beans for their livelihood. Some people who do not have cultivation fields and farming fields are working in gold mining, selling goods and pottery. Particularly, the land of the villagers who are living in Wa Tho Lo village, Meh Baw Hta village, Meh Way village in Meh Way village tract lost their land and their agriculture was destroyed in 2014 because Myint Tar Yeik [company], Hlah Min Ta Htaung [company] came and did gold mining in Meh Way Hta area.

The villagers who planted peanuts had to take out the peanuts before the time to take them out and villagers who planted watermelons had to pick their watermelons before they were ripe. The agriculture places of villagers in Meh Way Hta village were destroyed and they do not have the land to do agriculture in the coming year. They therefore encountered hardship

Conclusion

All the information that is included in this report is true and I saw it with my eyes. In my opinion, from 2013 to 2014, I think that the leaders from the Myanmar government side cannot do the governing anymore and the villagers have to suffer more in the future if it is ruled by the military. I think it would be great if they [KNU] modified the governing system.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District, (Received in March 2014)

KHRG Log #:	14-15-S1
Publishing Information:	“Dooplaya Situation Update: Kyainseikgyi, Kawkareik and Win Yay Townships, December 2013 - February 2014,” KHRG, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/14-15-s1_0.pdf
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Kyainseikgyi, Kawkareik and Win Yay Townships, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Myanmar government, Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	None
Full Text:	
<p>Kyainseikgyi Township</p> <p>I went and saw the situation in Lay Wa Hploh village. On December 19th 2013, I met with one of the villagers [from nearby A--- village] who has been oppressed [by the DKBA]. He said to me “<i>Why does Officer Ee Wah who is a DKBA [soldier] have the right [to work on uncultivated lands] in Lay Wa Hploh, Ghuh Poo, Meh Ka Tha and Htee Ta Bluh areas. From whom does he get permission? This township is Kyainseikgyi Township. Why don’t people [the village head] tell him [not to work on that land]. Even though we, A--- villagers, want to work on one or two acres [of land each] in this area, we cannot work on it, nor did we have the chance to. What can we do? People, [like the village head], do not give us the opportunity [to work on it].</i>” The villager also added “<i>DKBA [Officer Ee Wah’s] organisation of these things [cultivation of the land] is not a good thing [for local farmers]. The local farmers hire [labourers from the village and can only pay] a total of 40,000 kyat (US \$41.07) for one cleared field [large enough to fill] one [big] tin (10.45 kg. or 23.04 lb.) with paddy. However, the DKBA hires [and pays villagers] to clear one field [large enough to fill] one [big] tin of paddy for 4,000 baht (US \$124.77). Therefore, it causes some difficulties for the villagers [when trying to hire labourers]. There are about 100 workers who work for him [Officer Ee Wah]. It costs 70,000 baht (US \$2,182.35) for the monthly salaries of all of the workers [he hires to clear land]. There are also 78 of his followers [soldiers] who are being fed and supported by him and it costs 80,000 baht (US \$2,494.11) per month [for their food and wages]. These [fees] do not include other things [required for farming]. These two things, [paying villagers and soldiers] costs 150,000 baht (US \$4,675.94) per month [for him].</i>”</p> <p>[However], if we look at him [in a different] way, there is one good aspect to Officer Ee Wah, a DKBA soldier. He has built two clinics in Lay Wa Hploh village for the villagers. He also bought medicine for the patients and poor villagers and hired healthcare workers to take care of the patients. He also bought two cars to send the patients back and forth [from their homes to the clinics]. Moreover, if some of the patients who are having medical treatment in Lay Wa Hploh clinic do not get better, they are sent to Hsaw Loh hospital, as well as provided with enough money [for treatment and medicine]. The villagers in Lay Wa Hploh village see that Officer Ee Wah, a DKBA soldier, is doing good things. If we look at him in this way, I see that it is a good thing that he helps the villagers. If we look at him in another way, the way that he did [land confiscation, it] is not good for the civilians.</p>	

I went to B--- village and I saw and heard about this village. On December 23rd 2013, the village head and village secretary said that “[Tatmadaw] *soldiers who are [currently] staying near our village ordered us not to fish because the fish were going extinct.*” Responsibility [for this] was given to these two persons, [the village head and village secretary], and they were ordered to watch over villagers so that no one went to go to fish.⁵⁰ One day, these soldiers themselves [went fishing and] caught three bags of fish. The village tract leader went and told them “*You said no one was going to fish and now you are fishing.*” They then said to the village head “*Do not say anything! It is not your concern. If you dare to say [anything], then say it. [But] if the Tatmadaw and KNU [Karen National Union] fight against each other again in the future, you will see [what I will do to you].*” They [the Tatmadaw] asked the two of them, “*How many heads do you have, [are you willing to risk losing it]?*”. However, after these two persons explained the issue to me, I asked them the names of the soldiers, but they did not know. I also do not know the names of the soldiers. The villagers want to report this issue [to the Tatmadaw], but they do not dare to report as they are afraid of them. I see this is not such a good thing. It affects the rights of the civilians.

As well, in the education sector [in Kyainseikgyi Township] there is a teacher in C--- village who asked me “*Why we did we not get permission to build the [middle] school? We want a middle school. [Tell me], how do we go about getting permission to build a middle school in this place? The local authorities [Burma/Myanmar government] in this area have already said that we cannot [build the middle school]. They [Burma/Myanmar government] said that they do not have free time to manage [the construction], so do not build it.*” The local teacher said that he really wants to build the school, as students who are in higher grades [fifth standard and up] in this village have to leave school [and stop studying] sometimes [if they cannot afford to move to another town]. It is difficult [for students] in this village [to continue their education]. This teacher said “*It will be good if we can build a middle school [in this village]*”. Therefore, how can we think of [solutions for] him?

I [also] went and saw the situation of the villages related to the building [of houses and roads]. When I look at the transportation used by the villagers for their physical livelihoods, there have been some changes with the road between Kyainseikgyi town and Three Pagodas town compared to the past. Before [the ceasefire], there was no road. Presently, there is a road which looks good. When I go back and see it [the road], I feel very good. When I look at one village after another between Kyainseikgyi town and Three Pagodas town, the [villagers'] buildings, economy, agriculture, plantations, transportation and cultivation are going well. There might also be some destruction of the villagers' things [plantation or cultivation from road construction]. Things are changing because, in the past, there was nothing [buildings] beside the road in Kyoh Kyaw village. Now, when I go back, I see there are some shops beside the road. The [Tatmadaw] soldiers are also building shops [that they run themselves] there and the traders usually go to stop there and buy something to eat. They [soldiers] get some income from them [traders]. In the past, [before the ceasefire], when I looked around along the road, the villagers dared not work alongside the road as they were afraid of the Tatmadaw. When they were going to harvest the paddy, they would have to be

⁵⁰ In a follow up discussion with the village head, they described that after the Tatmadaw's decree that there would be no fishing in the river, the village head and the Tatmadaw agreed that there would be a three year moratorium on fishing in the river, to allow replenishing of stocks. Any fish caught following that would be shared between the Tatmadaw and the villagers. This agreement was broken by the Tatmadaw, as described.

careful and pay attention to when the artillery would start firing and when the Tatmadaw would come. The villagers say “*It is getting better than the past. We have more opportunities to work than the past.*” When I go back and see the villagers, I feel good. It is a good thing.

Kawkareik Township

On December 4th 2013, I went and saw some villagers [in Htee Ghuh Thaw village]. Things are going well with them. During the ceasefire, they have better opportunities to work for their livelihoods as they can travel more freely. I started [my travels] from Htee Ghuh Thaw village and [went] forward [from there]. In Htee Ghuh Thaw village, the Tatmadaw [Burma/Myanmar] government came and built a cement school which cost about (US)\$1,000 and they had [financial] support from a foreign country. Therefore, if we look at the Tatmadaw, they did a good thing for the civilians. They started building the school in April 2013 and it [construction] finished on November 16th [2013]. [They] are doing the opening ceremony of this school on February 6th [2014]. After they built the school, they [Tatmadaw] gave it to the villagers and asked the villagers to start [running] the school by themselves. The buildings in [Kawkareik Township] villages are getting nicer compared to the buildings that I have seen in the past. This is a great thing.

[On December 9th 2013], I went and saw the situation of the villages [again]. I also saw a strange thing in [Kawkareik] Township where I visited. The villagers in Tha May Doo village have a great ability to adjust the [size of] things [houses]. When I looked at their houses, it seemed all of their houses were the same size and the same height.⁵¹ There were no houses which were bigger or smaller than the other houses. The roads were very clean and flat, which looked beautiful. They did not have businesses for their occupations; they were only working on cultivating paddy and hill fields. It is going well with their livelihoods. It is a big village, too. [The villagers] have unity; they love and help each other. The other villages are very small and the villagers do not have unity and love for one another. As well, they do not help each other with their work [farming]. Tha May Doo village is an unusual village. When I saw it I felt very good.

The villagers [in Kawkareik Township] said that there is an organisation, the UNTBBC,⁵² which is from a foreign country that will come and support them. They said that they are going to give some support to the villagers as they feel pity for the villagers. They will help [by lending] 100,000 kyat (US \$102.67) per house. They asked some of the villagers whether they wanted to raise pigs or whether they want to work in agriculture. There are some villagers who wanted to raise animals, as well as some villagers who want to work in agriculture. However, they (UNTBBC) said that the villagers would have to report how much they have earned [and start paying back] the capital plus interest after three months. Therefore, some of the villagers said that they do not dare take [their money]. [A villagers said] “*For example, after we have taken 100,000 kyat of their money and we buy one pig, we would not be able to find 100,000 kyat for them [to pay*

⁵¹ Here and throughout this report the community member continually draws attention to the quality of new buildings, as well as other features of local development. His interest and often surprise at the quality of these projects are indicative of the level of development that has occurred since the preliminary ceasefire.

⁵² Although the community member wrote UNTBBC, it is unclear which organisation(s) or project the community member is referring to. It is likely the community member is referring to The Border Consortium (TBC), formerly the Thai-Burma Border Consortium (TBBC), as well as to one of the several United Nations (UN) bodies that works within Burma/Myanmar on development projects and with Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), or in Thailand with refugees. However, it is unclear which UN body the community member is referring to or the particular project being implemented.

back the loan] *if our pig has died. As a result, we do not dare take their money* [as it is too risky]. *It will cause problems for us in the future and we dare not to accept* [their support].” Actually, that is not the right way for them to [support the villagers]. If they are willing to help the villagers, they should not help them by giving the villagers 100,000 kyat [and expecting them to pay it back with interest]. This is like they are lending [the villagers] their money, [instead of providing real support]. I see that this is not a good thing for the civilians.

On January 3rd 2014, I went again and visited Kawkareik Township. The situation is getting better. Starting from Kawkareik town and forward, things such as the roads, livelihoods of the villagers, education sector and health care sector are getting better village by village. There is the Asia Highway which leads to Myawaddy [from Kawkareik town] and it is a very splendid road. The road from Kawkareik town to Aung Hpa Gyi region [in Kawkareik Township] area is also good. When I go from place to place and from village to village, the buildings look very good. I have reported all of the things that I have seen.

Win Yay Township

[On February 6th 2014], I went back and saw the situation in the field. In Htee Hpa Hta village, Win Yay Township, [the villagers'] occupations, the buildings, the health care sector, the school, and the churches for religion are getting better compared to the past [before the ceasefire]. I also arrived between Taw Tee village and Pha Pya village. Presently, the ethnic group [Burmese Tatmadaw] are repairing the roads to be better. In some places, it destroys some part of the villagers' paddy fields. It also destroys some of the rubber plants belonging to the villagers. I asked a Taw Tee village tract administrator *“Do the villagers feel good about it? Are things going well with them?”* The village tract administrator replied *“There are village tract administrators in every village tract. Do they not have responsibility for that?”*⁵³ I see that this is one thing that abuses the civilians' rights.

Conclusion

The ethnic groups [Tatmadaw and KNU] are in a ceasefire. If we look at the [current] situation, although they [Tatmadaw] said they have stopped fighting, we do not know what they have planned. They also have not withdrawn the Border Guard Force (BGF) soldiers. They [Tatmadaw] are [still] sending rations and weapons [to their camps]. We do not know what their purpose [for doing this] is. If we look at the [Thai-Burma/Myanmar] border in Kwee Ler Ter, Per Hkler and Tha Waw Thaw villages, the Tatmadaw repair their camps to be better. It is not good for the villagers [as they might harm the villagers]. It is not a good thing.

There is no complete freedom for the villagers to work on their livelihoods [as they still fear the Tatmadaw]. Although they want to work on cultivation, they cannot work [completely free from fear] on it. [I ask them] why they are not given the freedom [to work without fear]. They [villagers] said “[even though] *They* [Tatmadaw and KNU] *have a ceasefire* [for] *the freedom of the civilians, we do not have any freedom* [from fear of Tatmadaw reprisals]. [We see] *the value of ourselves* [as human beings] *as not even being worth 0.005 kyat* [zero]. *We cannot work on anything* [completely free of fear].” I see this is not a good thing. In this Situation Update, I have reported everything that I

⁵³ Here the village tract administrator responds to the community member's question with his own question, effectively that he is aware that the destruction of villagers' land is an issue that he, as the village tract administrator, has a responsibility to address, but has yet to find a solution.

know from the situation in the field.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher, Kyainseikgyi, Kawkareik and Win Yay townships, Dooplaya District, (Received in March 2014)

Source Document #68

KHRG Log #:	14-20-S1
Publishing Information:	“Dooplaya Situation Update: Kyainseikgyi, Kawkareik and Kyonedoe Townships, October 2013 to January 2014,” KHRG, July 2014, www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/14-20-s1_pdf.pdf
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction, agriculture
Location:	Kyainseikgyi, Kawkareik and Kyonedoe Townships, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Myanmar private company, wealthy individuals
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, health issues
VA Strategies:	Lobbying government officials
Full Text:	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>The information in this situation update was documented between October 9th 2013 and January 15th 2014. It includes information on: 1) ongoing militarisation; 2) local villagers’ situation; 3) education; and 4) killing and violent cases in the area.</p> <p>Ongoing militarisation</p> <p>Regarding the military activities, on November 11th 2013, Tatmadaw [troops] based in Hpoh Hsee Muh village, Kaw T’Ree [Kawkareik] Township, Dooplaya District, began rotating. [Light Infantry Battalion (LIB)] #548 moved to another area and [LIB] #545 moved into the village from Kyaik Done [town]. When they were travelling to the village, they ordered the villagers to transport their materials with their [the villagers own] tractors. They ordered the villagers to go to Kyaik Done to collect their materials and then bring them back to S--- village. They [the Tatmadaw] brought food and plantation seeds with them. They only paid [the villagers] for the cost of the gasoline, but did not pay them anything for food [which the villagers had to buy for their own consumption during the journey]. As for the Tatmadaw based in Noh T’Kaw Township, we saw that they rotated and transported rations and plantation seeds to their new bases.</p> <p>Local villagers’ situation</p> <p>In the area [Kyainseikgyi Township], we see that the villagers face problems because of flooding. The villagers’ paddy grains died because of flooding. Flooding also damaged a lot of the natural environment [bamboo and trees]. A company came to a place in Ta Moh Theh and did coal mining, and in a place in Meh Kwaw Hkee, there is a stone mining project. Because of those projects the villagers face deforestation and their food has also been contaminated. The villagers get many skin diseases because of drinking and bathing in polluted water. Because the villagers breathe so much dust from the stone, they also get lung disease [respiratory problems], headache and dizziness. The villagers reported this to the leaders [Burma government township level officials] to help</p>	

them solve the problems that they are facing. However, the villagers said that they have not received any response from them yet.

In Kruh Tuh [Kyonedoe] Township area, there is a big cliff called Lay T'Ler. For many years, the villagers and religious leaders have built their shrines on the cliff. They also built a monastery on the top of the cliff and another one on the base of the cliff. A company came in and started to mine the cliff, so the villagers feel like their religion has been damaged. The land and the plantation fields have also been damaged. The river has been polluted and the trees and bamboo have been cut down. The villagers' livestock have also vanished. In Hpah Bu village, there is a forest that has been protected for a long time. The villagers were collecting *t'la aw* from that forest to earn income for their livelihood. But now an armed group sold that forest and Mon people bought the land and planted a rubber plantation on it. They cut down the trees and bamboo and, even though the villagers and the village head [tried to] stop them, they did not listen. They reported it to the leaders but did not hear anything back yet, so it has become a big problem for the villagers. That *t'la aw* forest is 100 furlongs (20 km. / 12.5 miles) in length, and the width is 1,000 furlongs (200 km. / 125 miles). Currently, almost all of the forest has been damaged. As for the villagers who live in Kaw T'Ree Township area, they face [arbitrary] taxation problems. There is no problem caused by the KNU [Karen National Union]. But The Tatmadaw is still creating many problems for the villagers.

Education

Some areas in Noh Ta Kaw Township face a lack of education as there is no school. Especially in P'Aw Hkee village, there is no school [building] and the children have to study on the ground [in the open]. The village leaders are trying to build a school in order for the children to get an education. The village is small and the population is small, so even though they tried to build one school, they did not succeed [due to lack of funds]. In K'Kya village also, the number of students is growing each year, so it has become a problem because they do not fit in the school anymore. Some students [have to] study on the ground [outside]. The students' parents and the village leaders are trying to strengthen the school, but there are many problems as they are weak financially. They need support and encouragement from the leaders.

Killing and sexual violence

In the area, the community is facing drug problems [particularly related to the use of *yaba*], which have led to more killing, rape and sexual harassment [than in the past]. The livelihood problems cause some people to abuse other people's rights. An incident reportedly happened in K'Yin Kyauk Pya village in Kruh Tu [Kyonedoe] Township in which a villager was killed because of a drug issue.⁵⁴ In W--- village, Ta Ree Ta Kaw village tract, Noh T'Kaw [Kyainseikgyi] Township, a girl named Ma P--- who is mute and mentally handicapped was raped by a perpetrator who was under the influence of drugs and she got pregnant, but the victim does not know what date she was raped, as she is mentally handicapped [and therefore cannot] remember. The perpetrator is reported [by villagers] to be called D---. He is a villager and is a married man who has four children already with his wife.⁵⁵ In K'Yin Hlaing village, Kruh Tu Township, we see so many

⁵⁴ Further information on this incident will be published as it is received.

⁵⁵ According to information received through telephone calls with a KHRG community member in June 2014, as of mid-June 2014, the perpetrator was being kept in the local police station and the township leaders had filed a court case. By the end of June, the court case had come to an end, with a decision from the court sentencing the perpetrator to a jail term. The victim was being cared for by local members of the community and village leaders. The victim is reported by villagers to have delivered a child, which died shortly after the delivery.

cases in which the villagers are violently abusing each other because of drug use. It has become the biggest problem and biggest concern for the villagers.

Conclusion

I have reported everything that I saw and heard had happened in the area when I was travelling to document human rights abuses.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher, Kyainseikgyi, Kawkareik and Kyonedoe Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in March 2014)

Source Document #69

KHRG Log #:	14-21-P1
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun Photo Notes: Bu Tho Township, Received in January 2013,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Agriculture, infrastructure, militarisation
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Some compensation, unknown consultation
Consequences:	Unknown
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpapun District in January 2013. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0003, 0004, 0006 - 0008 On November 17th 2013, I took this photo in Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, in Mutraw [Hpapun] District in Baw Hta farm because the Burmese government land demarcation administrator, U Maung Shein, came and demarcated Baw Hta villagers’ farms in order to register the land and provide the land owners with land titles. It shows him demarcating the land. When he conducted the demarcation, the land owners were not there, there was only the village head. If the land owner received the land title he, the land owner, would have to pay 50 kyat (US \$0.05).</p> <p>Photo #: 0100, 0101, 0103, 0105, 0106 On December 7th 2013, I took this photo in Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mutraw [Hpapun] District, Baw Hta village showing the Burma government conducting a development project so that the villagers of Baw Hta village do not have to go and get water from far away. They came and constructed the water storage with 30 sacks of cement and 4,000 bricks. They hired villagers to carry bricks and they paid 50 kyat (US \$0.05) for carrying one brick. The villagers felt that the project was beneficial so both the young and elderly voluntarily carried the blocks; it was not forced labour.</p> <p>Photo #: 0130 - 0132, 0134, 0136 On December 8th 2013, I went and took this photo in Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho</p>	

[Township], Mutraw [Hpapun] District. Meh Th'Roh Kloh Dam #1 of the Burma government will block the water and it shows when they were preparing [for the dam construction]. If this project is completed, some villagers' canals and their farms' side [the area around their farms] will be destroyed.

Photo #: 0147 - 0151

On December 11th 2013, I took this photo in Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mutraw [Hpapun] District, Baw Hta where the Burma government was conducting a development project so Baw Hta villagers can get access to water so they do not have to carry it from far away. They built the water storage and paid 200,000 kyat (US \$194.45) for the people who built it [to be divided between all the workers].

Photo #: 0183 - 0187

On December 14th 2013, I took this photo from Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mutraw [Hpapun] District in Htee Ber Hka Hta village because the Burma government was conducting a development project and donated a generator to Htee Ber Hka Hta village and said that the villagers do not need to buy oil for their lamps. However, they do have to pay the electric fee of 3,000 kyat (US \$2.92) per month. For those who are not able to provide this fee they do not receive electricity.

Photo #: 0022, 0024, 0025, 0027 - 0029

On January 22nd 2014, I took photos in Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mutraw [Hpapun] District, in the lower part of Meh Th'Roh Kloh village. The photos show how Military Operation Command [MOC] #642 military weapon supervisory troop's camp strengthened their camp and the camp's fence so that if the villagers walk around the camp they cannot see inside it.

Photo #: 0030, 0031, 0033 - 0035

On January 23rd 2014, I took this photo in Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mutraw [Hpapun] District, of the Meh Th'Roh Kloh River Dam #2's canal that was constructed by the Burma government for the purpose of helping the farmers or farm owners to reduce the amount of bamboo they were cutting down in the region. This was constructed in region #1 of the area. They [the Burma government] do not agree with the place that the villagers recommended them to construct the dam because if they constructed it according to the villagers' recommendation they will have to spend more money and will have less money remaining for them to keep for their own. This is corruption. For this irrigation, it was attempted to be built in the past but it broke during the rainy season and it had absolutely no benefit for the farmers or farm owners. In order to carry the stones for the irrigation construction, they constructed the road in Baw Hta village in Saw D---'s farm first to make the transportation easier for the vehicle but they did not inform the farm owner and the farm owner requested compensation for the construction and they requested the farm owners that use the water from the irrigation to pay for the water they used. The leader was township administrator U Aung Than and Meh Tha Lwut village administrator U Win Shwe. The farm owner Saw D--- requested compensation of 100,000 kyat (US \$97.23), however they will pay only 50,000 kyat (US \$48.61).

Photo #: 0161 - 0163, 0165, 0169

On February 11th 2014, I took photos in Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mutraw [Hpapun] District, in Meh Th'Roh River #2 Dam canal irrigation that Burma government constructed with concrete for the villagers. The photos show when the

construction was almost finished. For this canal, at first they wished to construct it in zone #1 along the river but the villagers in zone #1 one did not accept their plans, so they constructed it in zone #2. The villagers in zone #1 said that if we allow them to construct it in #1 they will just work for their own profit.

Photo #: 0176, 0179, 0183 - 0185, 0189

On February 13th 2014, I took photos in Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mutraw [Hpapun] District, in a Baw Hta villager's farm where Burma Tatmadaw IB #19 planted landmines before the ceasefire. Now that the ceasefire has been made, they are yet to remove the landmines and so Baw Hta villagers worry for their cows and buffalos. Two buffalos of Baw Hta villagers have been hit by the landmines from the time that the landmines were planted.

Photo #: 0194 - 0197, 0200

On February 13th 2014, I took photos in Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mutraw [Hpapun] District, in Htee Ber Hka Hta village. The KNU battalion commander in Hpapun District heard that the Burma government came and conducted a development project in their region and so went and had a meeting with the village tract's leaders. The villagers said "*This is not the right time to do a development project*" and did not accept the Burma government's development plans.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in March 2014)

Source Document #71

KHRG Log #:	14-22-17
Publishing Information:	" Toungoo Incident Report: Thandaunggyi Township, Received in March 2014, " KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District
Actors:	Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequence:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<u>Part 1 – Incident Details</u>	
Type of Incident	Production of natural resources
Date of Incident(s)	
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	Mya Tha Gone, Leik Tho Sub-Township, Toungoo District
Victim Information	

Name	Saw P---; Saw W---, Saw L---, Saw Y---
Age	
Sex	
Nationality	Multiple
Family	
Occupation	
Religion	Christian
Position	Villagers
Village	

Perpetrator Information				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Commander Kyaw Win	Battalion Commander		Leik Tho Town, Toungoo District	

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

The villagers talk about it because they suffered it.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

I took the photos and got the information from the villagers.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail. For each incident, be sure to include 1) when the incident happened, 2) where it happened, 3) what happened, 4) how it happened, 5) who was involved, and 6) why it happened. Also describe any villager response(s) to the incident, the aftermath and the current living situation of the victims. Please use the space prepared below, and create an attachment if needed.

In 1997, about 50 soldiers led by Company Commander, Peh Ro Mo Oo separated from the KNU and joined the SPDC and became the Peace Group. Since 1998 the government confiscated land from the villagers in Leik Tho area and gave it to the Peace Group. Moreover they allowed them to produce and sell the valuable trees from the region. They started producing timber in 1998. This caused the deforestation of forest in Mya Tha Gone and Leik Tho Township area. They started to do business with the natural resources under earth because there is no more forest. They have not returned the land to the local people but [instead] grow rubber for their own profit.

They set up a stone crushing machine company call Way Yan Kyaw in Kwun Pin

village, Kyauk Taing village tract, Toungoo District. Commander Kyaw Win, monk Ah Lu Maung, monk of Ngway Taung Ka Lay monastery and the government shared the profits from the company. The stone crushing machine is close to Nyway Taung Ka Lay school. It disturbed the study of the students because the machine works in day time and is very loud. But the villagers do not dare to complain about it because Commander Kyaw Win is one of the leaders of an armed group.

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

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

I wrote it as the villagers told me.

Incident Report written by a KHRG Researcher, Mya Tha Gone village, Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District, (Received in March 2014))

Source Document #72

KHRG Log #:	14-22-P1
Publishing Information:	“Toungoo Photo Notes: Thandaunggyi Township Received in March 2014,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District
Actors:	Wealthy individual, other
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Toungoo District in March 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0001 - 0007, 0009 - 0016</p> <p>These photos were taken on February 8th 2014. These are photos showing some of the villagers from Pya Sa Khan village, Thandaunggyi Township trying to dig for gold in their garden. I took these photos by myself. Daw Nwe lives in Pya Sa Kha village, Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District. The peace group which is also called Thangdaung Special Area Peace Group coordinates with rich people and they have been cutting down the trees since 1997. Daw Ma Nwe, who is the owner of the business, lives in Pya Sa Kha village and she has cooperated with the Peace Group and she controls as she likes, in not only her village, but also the environment in other areas. Daw Ma Nwe presently has been doing the job of digging for gold for over two years and she started to dig with gold mining machines. Because of the gold digging, the environment around the area was destroyed when it should not have been. Although the indigenous villagers reported the incident to the responsible person of the</p>	

project or the administrator, the administrator did not tackle anything [the issue]. Further, despite reporting to the Peace Group, the Peace Group also did not take any action. The ignorance of the indigenous owner of the compound who has lost [their land] has become a serious concern for the future. They are doing this because they give money to the responsible person to dig for the gold and there are no policies for the project so, if this keeps going on, it will cause more loss in the future.

Photo #: 0003 - 0005

This photo was taken on October 31st 2013. It is the photo of a Hseik Pu Taung villager named Maung Win Naing who drowned because of the flooding of the Dam in Hswa Township [Thandaunggyi Township], Bago Region [Thaton District]. I took this photo myself.

It was raining continually from October 28th 2013 to October 30th 2013 and the water in the water storage which is in Hswa Township, Toungoo District overflowed. Since it caused concern, the responsible persons of the dam released the water from the water storage on October 30th 2013 at night at 11 pm. They did not inform the people when releasing the water. It flooded at night time and the people had to run away to escape. The Tatmadaw's responsible person from the water irrigation [department] did not notify the people; some people had to carry their belongings. Maung Win Naing, 38 years old, who is from Hseik Pu Taung village, Thandaunggyi Township was drown because it was flooding and he was saving a group of his ducks which he had bred so that they would not drift into the water at 10 am on October 31st 2013. I also know that there was also the death of Maung Win Naing in another village in the area. The paddy fields which are east of Sit Taung River in Thandaunggyi Township were also destroyed. Since it is the time for paddies to ripen, it was flooding and people lost them. There are about 10,000 acres of the paddy fields that were flooded. There are concerns that flooding in the future will be worse than this.

Photo #: 0001 - 0008

This photo was taken on August 25th 2013. It is showing a landslide in La Me Ka Lay village, Khon Htaing village tract, Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District destroying gardens. I took this photo by myself. There is the water irrigation in Hton Bon Lay village, Htantabin Township, Toungoo District built by Shwe Swan In company. This water irrigation produces electric power. However, although this produces electric power, there is no ability to share the electric power in the villages around the area of the Hton Bon's water irrigation. Moreover, it flooded all the way to La Me Ka Lay village; Khon Htaing village tract, Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District and the paddy fields were destroyed. As a result, there was a landslide on August 12th 2013 which had never happened before. The comment based on the landslide is that since the water is stored in the water irrigation, the soil became soft and therefore collapsed. The place where the landslide happened is not very far from the village. The long-term plants, such as coconut trees, dog fruit trees, and cardamom trees, which the indigenous people depend on for their livelihoods, were affected by the landslide. Thandaunggyi Township Administrator U Thein Win and the Hpa-an District administrator came to watch the landslide. They came to watch and also met with the local people and said that they will demand the amount of money [compensation] for the destroyed gardens. After they have demanded the money and received the compensation, only some of the indigenous people whose land was destroyed received money. The compensation that they got compared to what they have lost do not match. The residents who have not got the compensation went and discussed with the administrator but they have still not got anything. I am concerned that incidents like this will continue to happen in the future.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Toungoo Township, Toungoo District, (Received in March 2014)

Source Document #73

KHRG Log #:	14-24-P2
Publishing Information:	“Dooplaya Photo Notes: Kawkareik Township, Received April 2014,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	None
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Dooplaya District in April 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity].</i></p> <p>Photo #: 3276 This is the main road which is being constructed along the Thoo Mweh River lower Kyauk Khe village inside Burma.</p> <p>Photo #: 3278 This is the Thoo Mweh River of which both sides have no trees. More than ten years ago, the place seemed very green and was full with timber and other sorts of trees. Now it is all gone.</p> <p>Photo #: 3342 This is the same place where the road is being made to be straight; the direction leads [directly into a] corn plantation in order for it to be straight.</p> <p>Photo #: 3343 This is also the same place. The corn plantation becomes the main road.</p> <p>Photo #: 3352 This is a new main road that damages some parts of the farm in lower Per Kler village beside Meh Ner Ah River. The land owner said that he did not hear anything from the company about compensation.</p> <p>Photo #: 3353 This is the main road, from Kyink Don to Per Kler village, crossing through the farm, but it is not in the middle of the farm. It is situated beside the farm. Only sesame plants are planted in this farm. The farm owner also did not hear anything from the company [in</p>	

terms of consultation].

Photo #: 3355

This road is between Poh Hsee Muh and Kyaw Hta in someone's farm. It cannot be used in the rainy season because of too much water in the farm. As it has to use a lot of ground, it also damages some farm areas. The soil in the farm are taken out or dug because of the gold mining. therefore, some part of the farm became small ponds with no soil in them. The farm owner does not know anything about the land compensation.

Photo #: 3358

This is Khoh Toh Meh Kwee River bridge which is recently being constructed. It will be very useful for the people because the bridge [will be] very big. The company is starting their construction.

Photo #: 3359

This is beyond the river at the Meh Ner Ah [village]. It is where the bridge joins both sides [Khoh Toh and Meh Ner Ah village]. You will see what items are used for the construction. They will definitely build the bridge.

Photo #: 3360

This is the main road from Kyainseikgyi Town to Kyeik Don Town. The picture also shows some part of the rubber plantation which is planted year to year is damaged. It is in T'Khaw Luh village closed to Ka Lee Hkee village in Kyainseikgyi Township. The land owner did not hear anything form the company [in terms of consultation].

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kawkareik Township, Doolaya District, (Received in April 2014)

Source Document #74

KHRG Log #:	14-26-P1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Photo Notes: Bu Tho Township, Received in April 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Myanmar private company, wealthy individual
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Forced labour
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpapun District in March 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i>	
Photo #: 0223, 0224, 0227, 0228	

These pictures display the built road that has destroyed some land. The land owners did not get any compensation [for the destroyed land]. The road was constructed by [local] residents. Poe Kyaw Kywet [a local wealthy resident] was in charge and had to pay wages to the workers. Each man [was meant to] receive 5,000 kyat (US \$4.83) [in total], and each woman [was meant to] receive 4,000 kyat (US \$3.87). However, because of insufficient funds only 4,000 kyat was paid to each man and 3,500 kyat (US \$3.38) was paid to each woman after construction of the road was finished. Therefore, the men told [Poe Kyaw Kywet] that they had been informed that they would get paid sufficiently but now were only receiving 4,000 kyat, which they would not accept. The men told [Poe Kyaw Kywet] this and he then paid them 5,000 kyat. Nonetheless, they did not dare [argue] on behalf of the women to [Poe Kyaw Kywet], so each [women] was [still] only paid 3,500 kyat and did not receive [the full] 4,000 kyat.

Photo #: 1042, 1077, 1078, 1080, 1081, 1082

These pictures depict the road that has been repaired and filled in with gravel. The repairing [and expansion] of the road destroyed betel nut plantations. Nevertheless, compensation [never materialised] for the land owners. The road leads to the monastery in Section #4 [of Hpapun Town]. The man in charge of the construction company lives in Hpapun [Town]. We do not know his name.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in April 2014)

Source Document #75

KHRG Log #:	14-28-D2
Publishing Information:	“Hpa-an Short Update: Don Yin Township, March 2014,” KHRG, July 2014, http://www.khr.org/sites/default/files/14-28-d2_pdf_0.pdf
Project Type:	Agriculture
Location:	Don Yin Township, Hpa-an District
Actors:	KNLA, KNU/KNLA-PC, wealthy individuals
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, violent threats/abuse
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
Situation Update: March 18th 2014	
<p>I would like to report a situation update in the Northern part of A--- village, Tha Ya Kon village tract, Doo Yaw [Don Yin] Township (Township #4), Hpa-an District. It is about the confiscation of villagers’ land and the land of their ancestors. The people who confiscated the land are: (1) San Mya Aung; (2) an [unnamed Karen National Liberation Army] brigade administration official; (3) an [unnamed] officer of the KNLA/KNU-PC [KNU/KNLA Peace Council]; (4) KNU/KNLA-PC Headquarters Commander Saw Joe Set and his soldiers; (5) and a Mon [man], U Aung Mya, who is rich. The first person whose land was confiscated is B---; three acres of her paddy fields and seven acres of her plantations were confiscated. There were two bamboo</p>	

huts in the plantation and they [individuals connected with the above mentioned five actors] destroyed both of them. They also threatened her with their guns. The second person is C---; three acres of his paddy fields and over five acres of his plantations were confiscated. The third one is D---; seven acres of her paddy fields and six acres of her plantations were confiscated. The fourth one is E---; four acres of his paddy fields and eight acres of his plantations [were confiscated]. The fifth one is F---; four acres of his paddy fields and six acres of his plantations [were confiscated]. The sixth one is G---; three acres of his paddy fields and six acres of his plantations were confiscated. They threatened the villagers with their guns many times. They also used aggressive words with the villagers. This village is located in the region of Tha Ma Nya [town]. There are H---houses and this village is [inhabited by] Pwo Karen [people].

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Don Yin Township, Hpa-an District, (Received in April 2014)

Source Document #76

KHRG Log #:	14-28-P1
Publishing Information:	"Hpa-an Photo Notes: Hlaingbwe Township, Received in April 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Agriculture, militarisation
Location:	Hlaingbwe and Don Yin townships, Hpa-an District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, DKBA, KNU/KNLA-PC, foreign private company, Myanmar government official, religious leader, BGF
Compensation or Consultation:	Some compensation, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, environmental destruction, violent threats/abuse
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs, lobbying KNU/KNLA, other
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpa-an District in March 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 4224 - 4245 I took these photos on March 8th 2014 on the eastern side of A--- village, Taung Ka Lay village tract, Township #4 [Don Yin Township], Hpa-an District. As these photos show, it is written on a zinc [sign] that [it is forbidden] to trespass [on] the military's land. This place [in the photograph] is the [designated] place where the villagers maintain [<i>ta la aw</i> trees for] thatch shingles. There are also some paddy fields [in the area]. The Tatmadaw expropriated all of this land, which amounts to about 500 acres. The Tatmadaw that confiscated the land was Battalion [IB] #22. This photo shows that Battalion [IB] #22 has cut down the shingle thatch trees and built a rubber plantation.</p> <p>Photo #: 4246 - 4255 The photos numbered 4246 to 4255 were taken on March 9th 2014 in the western part of B--- village, Hti Lon village tract, Township #5 [Hti Lon Township] and [in] Luh Pleh [Hlaingbwe] Township, Hpa-an District. You can see in the photos that the Tatmadaw</p>	

are building a water storage [irrigation system] that [can be used to] release water for the planting of corn, paddy and other vegetables. I inquired about the villagers' opinions on whether there have been benefits for them since the Tatmadaw built the water storage and releasing [system] and they told me that there is not much benefit. As for the destruction [of property], it impacts the people a lot. The destruction includes [the initial] destruction of about 3,000 acres of the peoples' land when the Tatmadaw [first] built the water irrigation [system]. Furthermore, when there is too much water [in the storage tanks], they [the Tatmadaw] release the water and the people who live below that area lose their houses and there is [widespread] destruction [due to flooding]. In addition, the people cannot cultivate paddy in their lands in this area even though it is the season for growing paddy. I see that the paddy that is planted in the hot season does not grow very well; the corn also does not grow. Nevertheless, people have to work on all of the paddy fields which are below the water irrigation [system]. If people do not work on them [the fields], the Tatmadaw can expropriate them. The benefit of building the water irrigation [system] is that villagers can grow watermelons, vegetables and paddy [adequate enough for livestock feed].

Photo #: 0894 - 0936

Photos 0894 to 0936 were taken on March 20th 2014 at the Tatmadaw camp in Lu Pleh City, Lu Pleh [Hlaingbwe] Township. The name of their army units in Lu Pleh City are [Light] Infantry Battalion [LIB] #339, [Light] Infantry Battalion [LIB] #338 and Infantry Battalion [IB] #28. They expropriated the paddy fields of the villagers and built up their army camps. All of the paddy fields [that were confiscated] are on the list which they [the villagers] gave to me. They [villagers] complained about the Tatmadaw confiscating their paddy fields. If we look at the photo we can see the paddy fields which were expropriated. The photo which I took with my friend included a monastery. The monastery is located on a hill and the army camps are situated around it. When I took the photo of them [army camps], I was on the hill.

Photo #: 1048 - 1050

Photos 1048 to 1050 were taken on March 24th 2014 in B--- village, Hti Lon village tract, Hti Lon Township and [in] Lu Pleh [Hlaingbwe] Township, Hpa-an District. These photos show that LIB #203 confiscated the land that the Muslim mosque [is on]. They [Tatmadaw] came and told the Muslims to move to the entrance of B--- village, which you can see in [one of] the photos. The Muslims came and gathered themselves in this place, where they will establish about 38 houses. The Tatmadaw confiscated their land and built up the water storage [facility on it], which also destroyed their paddy fields. The date I started to write was March 19th 2014.

Photo #: 3375 - 3796

Photos 3775 to 3796 were taken on January 1st 2014 on the upper side of A--- village in an area where people built up an industrial zone. It [industrial zone] is in A--- village, Kyay Naing village tract, Doo Yaw [Don Yin] Township, Hpa-an District. These places [industrial zones] are built by rich Japanese [people]. When they build these places, it also destroys a lot of the villagers' paddy fields. Some villagers received a small amount of compensation while some did not get any compensation. When the Japanese constructed the buildings, the people who assisted them were Tatmadaw Light Infantry Division [LID] #22, Battalion [LIB] #202 and Battalion [LIB] #203. The villagers who have had their lands expropriated do not dare talk to them.

Photo #: 3700 - 3709

Photos 3700 to 3709 were taken on December 21st 2013 in C--- [village], which is called

D--- village [in Burmese], in Doo Yaw [Don Yin] Township, [as well as in] Township #5 and Lu Pleh [Hlaingbwe] Township, Hpa-an District. In the photos you will see that an auntie is sitting with her land title. There was a landslide and the land [in the pictures] is the land that was confiscated from the villagers. The person who confiscated the land was DKBA General Kyaw Than. The villagers dare not talk to them [DKBA about] anything.

Photo #: 4315 - 4328

The photos 4315 to 4328 were taken on March 17th 2014 in the northern part of E--- [village], Tha Ya Kon Kyay Naing [village tract]. In the photo you can see a rubber plantation. The people from the [KNU/KNLA-PC] confiscated these lands from the villagers. The name of the KNU/KNLA-PC [individual] who confiscated the land is Mya Aye. The leader of the headquarters is Saw Kyoh She, who lives in Htoh Kaw Koh [village]. The villagers have gone to ask for their land back many times but they [KNU/KNLA-PC] do not listen to them.

Photo #: 4310 - 4312

Photos 4310 to 4312 were taken on March 17th 2014 in F--- village, Doo Yaw [Don Yin] Township, Hpa-an District. In the photo you can see three females. The three females are the activists who advocate for the villagers' land [and have] asked for money from the villagers [as a fee for advocating on their behalf]. When people were building up the Htoo Koh exemplary village, they [the three women] tried to advocate for the land of the villagers. The villagers have already paid 3,000,000 kyat (US \$2,899.50) [to the advocates]. However, they have not got [their land] yet. When they came together on March 17th 2014, they [the advocates] asked the villagers how much money they will get if they advocate for their case. The villagers told them that they would give them [advocates] 3,000,000 kyat again. The names of the activists are Daw Mar Lar Win, Daw Nay Lar Win and Daw Nyan Win. They become rich due to advocating [on behalf of villagers] in cases of land, plantation, and paddy field [confiscation].

Photo #: 0937 - 0960

Photos 0937 to 0960 were taken on March 21st 2014 in A--- village, Maw Ko village tract, Hti Lon Township and [in] Lu Pleh [Hlaingbwe] Township, Hpa-an District. In the photos you can see the forest and the villages. This is the area which was expropriated by the village head, the former DKBA soldiers and the monk who came to lead in A--- village. They [divide the land into] land plots and then sell them to people who want to buy [them]. One of the villagers said that the activities of the monk and the village head impact the villagers very much. There is no place for [villagers] to cut down firewood. Since they [the village head, monk, and DKBA soldiers] are cutting down the shingle thatch trees, there is no place for [villagers] to collect the shingle thatch leaves.

Photo #: 0961 - 1007

Photos 0961 to 1007 were taken on March 21st 2014 on the plain of a large field that is under G--- Mountain near B--- village, Doo Yaw [Don Yin] Township, Hpa-an District. All of this area is the villagers' land and paddy fields. In the photos you will see people digging water channels. This area is about 1,000 acres [when taken together]. In these places, General Kyaw Than, who was a DKBA general in the past, is now working together with an [unknown] company. They bought some of the land and they confiscated some of the land which appears in the photos. Their purpose is to build up an airport in this area. Some of the villagers knew [that they would lose their land either way] so sold their land for 200,000 kyat (US \$182.98) per acre [instead of having it confiscated]. As for the land which [villagers] did not have land titles for, they

confiscated this land freely.

Photo #: 1014 - 1108

Photos 1014 to 1108 were taken on March 26th 2014 in H--- village, Kaw Bo Kyay Naing village tract, Township #5 [Hti Lon Township], and [in] Lu Pleh Township, Hpa-an District. [In the photos], there is the [general] area, the bridge, the school, the land grabbing [area], and the paddy fields. The armed group expropriated these lands from the villagers. The people who confiscated the land were the BGF leaders, General Hpah Nwee and [General] Win Naing Sein. They are the BGF's command group. Their group mostly destroyed the villagers' paddy fields in the area [that was confiscated].

Photo #: 1054 - 1067

Photos 1054 to 1067 were taken on March 24th 2014 in I--- village which is below J--- village, Maw Koh village tract, Hti Lon Township, and in Lu Pleh [Hlaingbwe] Township, Hpa-an District. In the photos you can see the forest, the shingle thatch trees and the teak which people are planting. You will also see the villagers gathering to discuss the benefits of the shingle thatch and rubber plantation to the villagers. One of the villagers told me that rubber can affect the natural forest and environment while it does not benefit all of the villagers. It is profitable for only one person. People have to grow [rubber trees] for seven years and [only] then will they [rubber trees] benefit the people [become profitable]. When people are tapping the rubber they will get 300 kyat (US \$0.29) per one rubber tree in one morning. People have to look after them very well and the Tatmadaw will also collect a tax [on them]. In the photo you can see that the villagers are discussing why planting rubber is not good. They also [agreed] that the shingle thatch trees have a lot of benefits for the people and villagers. One shingle thatch tree which is small enough to hug has a lot of advantages [as it provides a lot of leaves for thatch roofing material]. People can get 100 thatch shingles per year [from one large tree] as well as the truffles [that grow] under the trees. People can use the oil [tree sap] which drips down [the trees] when they [the trees] are eaten by insects. [In addition], when we cut down the trees, we can make planks. We do not need to take care of them, we do not need to worry [about] a fire, we do not need to worry and we do not need to pay taxes [on them]. When it is time, we go to collect the thatch shingles and we carry them back and we sell some of them and use some of them for our houses. The shingle thatch has so many benefits for the people and the villagers. Therefore, we hope that the village head, the soldiers of the armed group and the government will not destroy the shingle thatch trees. As for the rubber plantation, [we hope that] they will reduce it.

Photo #: 1017 - 1044

Photos 1017 to 1044 were taken on March 24th 2014 under G--- Mountain in Hti Lon and Lu Pleh [Hlaingbwe] townships, Hpa-an District. The photos which I took are of the villagers' paddy fields that were confiscated by the BGF's leaders, General Hpah Nwee and General Win Naing Sein. The four villagers, three females and one male, are the owners of these paddy fields. I also took a photo of two people standing on the road. The two [people] are carrying guns to shoot birds and are going to look at their property. You can also see photos of the rubber plantation, the peoples' plantation, and the abandoned hill fields and paddy fields which are all confiscated. If the villagers go and tell them [BGF] that [the land you are clearing] also includes our paddy fields, they [BGF] will threaten the villagers with their guns. The villagers have to be afraid of them.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Hlaingbwe Township, Hpa-an District, (Received in April 2014)

Source Document #77

KHRG Log #:	14-28-S1					
Publishing Information:	“Hpa-an Short Update: Hti Lon Township, March 2014,” KHRG, August 2014, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/14-28-s1.pdf					
Project Type:	Infrastructure					
Location:	Hti Lon Township, Hpa-an District					
Actors:	Myanmar government officials, wealthy individuals					
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation					
Consequences:	Economic migration, livelihood issues, environmental destruction, violent threats/abuse					
VA Strategies:	Lobbying government officials, official petitions/complaint mechanisms, outreach to media					
Full Text:						
<p>I want to report about the suffering of the villagers of Noh Ka Mler village. The village is called Naung Ka Myaing village in Burmese. The villagers are suffering the same things as the villagers from Maw Ko Der village, Hti Lon village, the <i>kaw la</i> [Muslims] and the Mon. In the list that was submitted to me by the villagers of Naung Ka Myaing village, there are 40 fields that were flooded [due to the Yay Boat Dam]. They submitted the amount of land and the names of the villagers whose land was confiscated. They also submitted the acres of land that were confiscated by the government and rich people, and the names of 58 land owners⁵⁶ whose land was confiscated. The villagers are also trying their best to get compensation for their land that was affected by flooding, and the land that was confiscated by other people. There are 3,000 acres of land that were flooded. They also gave videos that show the land that was confiscated (while traditional music plays in the background), and the list of land owners, in their own hand writing. The government also threatened the villagers.</p> <p>Table A1. List of farmers whose land was flooded due to the Yay Boat Dam, and the number of acres flooded:</p>						
No.	Name	Father's name	Residence	ID number	Acres	Signature
1	U Saw Kin Shwe	U Chit Thein	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	12.00	
2	Daw Ma Than Nweh	U Moo Be	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	16.00	
3	Saw Aung Kyi Win	U Shwe Li	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	2.22	
4	U Thein Lon	U Ton Nyin	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing)	4.87	
5	U Naing	U Awh Tha	Naung Ka	N/BAN(Naing) --	3.57	

⁵⁶ In the original report, the researcher indicated there were 58 landowners whose land was confiscated. Upon reviewing the lists provided, there were 39 landowners who lost land due to flooding, and 44 whose land was confiscated and marked as ‘forest land’.

	Min Aung		Myaing	-		
6	Kay Thi Soe	U Pipe Thaing	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	3.57	
7	U Loon Shwe	U Aung Kin	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	8.84	
8	Daw Naw Moo	U Ton Hpay	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	11.30	
9	U Saw Myah Shwe Aung	U Maung Tin	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	25.00	
10	U Than Tin	U Kyah Mee Lone	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	6.00	
11	Daw Hlah Sa Ber	U Tu Lu	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	5.00	
12	Daw Moo Thout Lah	U Ah Ku	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	20.00	
13	U San Thein	U Sein	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	15.00	
14	Saw Hpa Lay Kyaw	U Tha Tin	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing)---		
15	U Than Tin Aye	U Be Sa Koe	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	17.00	
16	U Paing Law	U Kyaw Thin	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	7.00	
17	Saw Thein Ngwe	U Hpa Ler	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	6.00	
18	U Maung Htun	U Paw Law	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	1.14	
19	Nan Hte Po	U Shwe Htun	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	4.20	
20	Moo Hta Ler	U Sein Tway	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	15.00	
21	Daw Ta Htet Htet	U Kya Hkin	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	5.00	
22	U Saw Kin Hlet	U Shwe Mya	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	10.00	
23	Nan Paw Hka Lu	U Tway Maung	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	2.08	
24	U Hpa Sa Lon	U Tha Yin Aye	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	2.50	
25	U Shwe Sein	U Hpa Shaung	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -		
26	Maung Win Naing	U Mya Yon	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	17.00	
27	Htain Lin	U Hton Hpay	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- --	7.00	
28	Naung Mu Ti	U Maung Oo	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	3.00	
29	Daw Nan Hkin Myint	U Hpa Hpaung	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- --	3.00	
30	U Tha	U Lone	Naung Ka	N/BAN(Naing) --	20.00	

	Kwee	Shwe	Myaing	-		
31	U Win Kyaw	U Hpa Su	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	13.50	
32	Moo Naung Htee	U Ba Lee	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	13.44	
33	U Hpa Taw	U Hton Rate	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) -- -	3.58	
34	Daw Ma Thaug Na	U Kyah Kee	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) ---	20.00	
35	U Ka Lee Htun	U Myah Sein	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) --- -	20.00	
36	U Hpa Lo	U Tin Poe	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) --- -	13.14	
37	U Saw Hpah Htoo	U Shwe Hlah Tun	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing) --- -	14.00	
38	Nan Moe Moe	U Tun Maung Shwe	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing)---	12.00	
39	U Sein Myah Shin	U Kway Paw	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN(Naing)---	25.00	

Table A2. The list of farmers whose land was confiscated and marked as 'forest land', and the number of acres confiscated:

No.	Name	Father's name	Residence	ID number	Acres	Signature
1	Nan Lu Ku	U Tin Aung	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing) ---	Farms	
2	Maung Myint Soe	U Myaing Thein	Ta Wan Pan Ya	N/LBN (Naing) ---	1.50	
3	U Ah Bu	U Maung Shwe	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	3.00	
4	U Win Kyaw	U Phaa Wu	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	11.68	
5	Daw Pu Lone	U Maung Saung	Kyone Kaw	N/LBN (Naing)---	Farm	
6	U La Kwa	U Ba Chit	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	Farm	
7	Daw Sein Lite	U Myah Sein	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	3.00	
8	Saw Nay Tun Aung	U Mot Kain	Gyone Pa Kaw	N/LBN/ (Naing) ---	Farm	
9	U Maung Sein Myint	U Htee K' No	Gyone Pa Kaw	HBE – ---	3.00	
10	Saw Tin Soe	U Pa La Bon	Gyone Pa Kaw	N/BAN (Naing)---	Farm	
11	Daw Po No	U Kyah Doe	Gyone Pa Kaw	N/BAN (Naing)----	8.75	
12	Daw Moo Nya	U A' Dwite	Naung Ka Myaing	HBE – ---	Farm	
13	U Saw Pu Lu	U Nyuat Sin	Ta Wan Pan	N/BAN	Farm	

			Ya	(Naing)---		
14	Saw Has Ma Nya	U Hpa Gaw Htee	Ta Wan Pan Ya	N/BAN (Naing)---	Farm	
15	U Maung Way	U Pipe Poe	Ta Wan Pan Ya	HBE – ---	Farm	
16	Daw Ma Yin Aye	U Ta Bu	Ta Wan Pan Ya	N/LBN/ (Naing)	Farm	
17	U Hlah Aye	U Pan Mya	Naung Ka Myaing	N/LBN/ (Naing)---	4.00	
18	Daw Myu Hlaing	U Ban Du La	Naung Ka Myaing	N/LBN/ (Naing)---	20	
19	Saw Ba Thein	U Htun Maung	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	15	
20	U Ah Pa Lon	U Tun Hla	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)----	Farm	
21	Daw Mya Kyone	U Nyaing Myaung	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	3.00	
22	U Maung Sin Shwe	U Tin Aung	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	4.00	
23	U Hpa La Own	U Chaung Lone Pyu	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	1.50	
24	Daw Kin Mya	U Hpay Mon	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	Farm	
25	Daw A' Wa	U Hpaa Pu Lu	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	Farm	
26	Daw Mya Than	U Taung Thu	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	Farm	
27	Daw Ma Yi Tun	U Thein Aye	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	Farm	
28	U Than Aye	U Than Hpay	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	Farm	
29	U Thant Kin	U Kaing De	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	2.50	
30	Nan Kin Myint Htay	U Ban Du La	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	Farm	
31	Saw Hpa Loung	U Kyaw Kin	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	Farm	
32	Nan Meh Yin Thein	U Pa Da	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	Farm	
33	U Hpa Thon	U Ngwe Htun	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	3.00	
34	U Tha Daw	U Hpa Hla Aung	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	3.00	
35	U Saw Hpa Da	U Jet Nu Paw	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---		
36	U Saw A'Ka Ler	U Hpa Pu Lu	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	9.95	
37	U Awh Ba Sein	U Maung Chit	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	Hill field	
38	Daw Ma Win Aye	U Shwe Hla Lu	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	Hill field	

39	Saw Shwe Hlaing	U Aung Tin	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)----	3.00	
40	U Kyah Aee	U Aung Kyaw	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	2.00	
41	U Shae Lone Sein	U Hpa Ti Ka Lu	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	5.00	
42	U Maung Shwe Sein	U Hpa Naung	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---		
43	Daw Pi Li	U Za Bout	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)---	2.50	
44	Daw Sa Per Nyaunt	Ni Taw Lu	Naung Ka Myaing	N/BAN (Naing)----	3.00	

Review of BNI video:

Burma News International (bnionline.net) conducted a video news report on the case, which can be viewed at <http://burmese.bnionline.net/index.php/videos.html?task=videodirectlink&id=200> (Burmese language).

In the video, local people who live between Hti Lon Township and Hpa-an Township discuss the land that they have lost due to the construction of the Hti Lon Dam, and how they reported this to Nan Say Hwah, a member of Parliament from Hpa-an Township.

Over 100 people⁵⁷ from Hlaing Bwe Township, Karen State, had over 3,000 acres of their land confiscated due to the construction of the dam, and the villagers have encountered various difficulties because of this. The villagers do not have land to live and work on, so they must do odd jobs in order to survive. In addition, a number of their children have gone to work in Thailand, as there is no work available locally. The local Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry (#6) began construction on the Hti Lon Dam in 2006, and finished in 2010. The villagers have not yet received any compensation for the land they have lost. Villagers from Naung Ka Myaing village in Hpa-an Township, and Hti Lon village & Yay Pu village in Hlaing Bwe Township, in particular have suffered the consequences of the dam project. The villagers were not informed and consulted about the project.

U Zaw Htike, Chairman of the 88 Generation Students in Hpa-an, arranged for the villagers to meet with Nan Say Hwah. Nan Say Hwah stated that she did not have the right to tell the Chief Minister of State to provide compensation to the villagers who lost their land, but she will report about the case to the Minister, as well as to the chairman of the Farmland Investigation Commission.

Short Update written by a KHRG Researcher, Hti Lon Township, Hpa-an District, (Received in April 2014)

Source Document #78

KHRG Log #:	14-28-S2
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⁵⁷ The video describes 'over 100' villagers losing their land due to flooding caused by the dam. KHRG only received information pertaining to 39 villagers who lost their land specifically due to flooding.

Publishing Information:	“Hpa-an Situation Update: Hlaingbwe, Don Yin and Hti Lon townships, April 2014,” KHRG, July 2014, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/14-28-s2_pdf.pdf
Project Type:	Infrastructure, agriculture
Location:	Hlaingbwe, Don Yin and Hti Lon townships, Hpa-an District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, BGF, religious leader, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Displacement, livelihood issues, economic migration
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs
Full Text:	
<p>Hlaingbwe Township, Township #4 [Hti Lon] and Township #5 [Don Yin]</p> <p>In the areas where I have been [during January and February 2014], I have seen, heard and know that one of the issues that the villagers complain about the most is land confiscation. The people who have confiscated the villagers’ land in the area are the armed actors. The people who have power, such as the village tract leaders and the monks, have also confiscated the villagers’ land. When I entered into these three areas, most of the villagers were suffering from land confiscation. I am going to write down the names of the villages where the land has been confiscated. Tatmadaw [Light Infantry] Battalion (LIB) #338, LIB #339 and LIB #28 are located in Lu Pleh [Hlaingbwe] Township and they have confiscated the villagers’ land, such as paddy fields and plantations. Tatmadaw Light Infantry Division (LID) #22, LIB #202, LIB #203, and an artillery unit are based close to Taung Ka Lay [village], and have also confiscated villagers’ land. When the industrial zone was built up in the eastern part of Taung Ka Lay, people [the Tatmadaw] also confiscated the villagers’ paddy fields and plantations. When the Tatmadaw re-measured [the land] near Meh Baw village, Meh Baw village tract, they also destroyed much of the villagers’ land, their paddy fields and plantations. When the Tatmadaw was building up the dam in Hti Lon village, they also destroyed about 3,000 acres of the villagers’ paddy fields.</p> <p>[Tatmadaw LIB] #203 is based at the entrance to Hti Lon village. [LIB] #203 asked the local Muslim people [to leave the area] and they took all of their land. The place that [LIB] #203 controls is called Ka La Kon. Muslim people are located there. In Kaw Paw village, which is near to the main road, BGF Officer Hpah Nwee, [who is the] Cantonment Area Commander; Officer Win Naing Sein; and their soldiers confiscated much of the villagers’ land, such as paddy fields and plantations. In the western part of Maw Ko village tract, a monk, coordinating with the BGF, measured their land and confiscated a lot of the villagers’ paddy fields and plantations. They also cut down the <i>t’la aw</i> trees which the villagers collect the leaves from [to make thatched shingle] roofing for their houses in these three areas, and they turned the area into a rubber plantation. When I go to these villages, I see that the villagers are still oppressed and they are frightened of them [the monk and BGF forces]. What I hear and see is that they hope the KNU [Karen National Union] will come back and fix things.</p> <p>Most of the people living in these three areas are <i>Sgaw Karen</i> and <i>Pwo Karen</i>. Karen people who live in these areas cannot read and write the Karen language. Most of them can read and write only Burmese.</p>	

When I visited these three areas [Hlaingbwe, Hti Lon and Don Yin townships] I saw that there is a lot of uncultivated land. As a result, armed actors have taken [advantage of] this opportunity and planted rubber trees in the uncultivated paddy fields and land. When I entered into the villages, I saw that the older people were looking after their grandchildren. I asked them where their parents had gone and they replied to me that they had gone to work in Bangkok. They are able to build up their houses because their children are in Bangkok [and send money home]. As they have gone to Bangkok, their uncultivated land has been confiscated. They even have the title for their land but their land has been arbitrarily confiscated. Therefore, I tell you that the villagers who are living in these three areas are oppressed and afraid.

Whenever I go and meet with the villagers, I tell them that [other] people cannot address the problems for us. We have to solve the problems by ourselves. We have to solve [problems] like this. For example, if our own belongings are damaged, we have to note the information in detail and we need to report it to the media. We do not need to feel scared and anxious. We need to have the mind-set of being like a soldier who is fighting in a battle, and if one has been shot [in a battle], one will be dead. In other words, we need to fight to get back our land. We need to fight for our rights by ourselves. In these three areas, I also heard the [villagers] say that no one has come to work here yet or to give them [information about human rights] like me. And the villagers have not seen anyone [else] yet. Therefore, I believe that we need to have more discussion with them. There are only people who are living under the control of the Tatmadaw in these areas. Although they are living under the control of the Tatmadaw, they are Karen people and they are being oppressed [by the Tatmadaw]. Because they are living under the control of the Tatmadaw, they have to work with the Tatmadaw in order for the villages to be peaceful and developed.

As for Township #4 [Hti Lon] and Township #5 [Don Yin], the Tatmadaw LIB #203 is located near the entrance of Hti Lon village. [One unit of] Tatmadaw LID #22 is located in the middle of Shwe Kon village in Hpa-an District. The industrial zone is located in See Hpa Raw village, See Hpa Raw village tract. An artillery battalion is located in the lower part of the industrial zone. The prison is located a little bit to the west of the artillery battalion. LID #22 and LIB #202's Headquarters are located at the entrance of Taung Ka Lay. In the village, there is one hospital and the villagers call it the "villagers' hospital bank" [because the villagers have to pay a lot of money for medical treatment there]. Another building you will see [close to the hospital] is a factory that makes artificial legs. If you pass Taung Ka Lay village and come back to Hpa-an [town], you will see the camp where the families of [LIB] #203 live. If you go past it, you will see a camp for soldiers who have lost their legs, arms and eyes in battles. In Township #4 [Hti Lon] and Township #5 [Don Yin], the soldiers of the Karen Peace Council [KNLA/KNU-PC] are everywhere. Similarly, BGF soldiers are also everywhere. The people [KNLA/KNU-PC] who came back [to Burma] to sign the ceasefire and engage in business activities like *P'Doh*⁵⁸ Aung San are located in-between Hti Lon village and Htee Hpoh Hkler village and they call their camp "husbandry land" [where they raise animals]. Light Infantry Battalion #338, LIB #339 and LIB #28 are in Luh Pleh [Hlaingbwe] Township.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher, Hlaingbwe, Don Yin and Hti Lon townships, Hpa-an District, (Received in April 2014)

⁵⁸ *P'Doh* is a Karen title used when speaking of a member of Karen armed groups.

Source Document #79

KHRG Log #:	14-28-S7
Publishing Information:	“Hpa-an Situation Update: Hti Lon Township, March 2014,” KHRG, September 2014, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/14-28-s7_wb_2.pdf
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Hti Lon Township, Hpa-an District
Actors:	Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Displacement, livelihood issues, environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Other
Full Text:	
<p>I would like to report that the Tatmadaw have constructed a dam near A--- village, Hti Lon village tract, Hti Lon Township [Township #5], Hpa-an District.⁵⁹ Due to the dam, water has flooded the villagers’ paddy fields and plantations, which has impacted their livelihoods. The Tatmadaw soldiers that are situated in A--- village are from LIB [Light Infantry Battalion] #203. The Tatmadaw also constructed a dam in Maw Ko village, impacting the village and the villagers’ paddy fields.</p> <p>The names of the farmers [in Maw Ko village] whose paddy fields have flooded are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) U X--- 2) Saw Y--- 3) Naw Z--- 4) Saw Ba--- 5) Saw De--- 6) Saw Ju--- 7) Saw Mg--- 8) Naw Ma--- 9) Saw Jo--- 10) Saw Li--- 11) Saw Mi--- 12) Saw Ko--- 13) Saw Ta--- 14) Saw Ya--- 15) Naw Su--- 16) Saw La--- 17) Saw Pe--- and 18) Saw He--- <p>The names which I have listed above are the individuals whose land, paddy fields and plantations have been flooded after the Tatmadaw constructed the dam. The names</p>	

⁵⁹ The dam the researcher is referring to is the Yay Boat Dam (also called the Hti Lon Dam), which has affected a number of villages in the area. For more information on this dam, see “[Hpa-an Short Update: Hti Lon Township, March 2014](#),” KHRG, August 2014.

that I have listed here are only those from Maw Ko village. As the water began flooding their land, they tried to speak with the Tatmadaw, but the Tatmadaw did not do anything for them.

The Tatmadaw also constructed a dam in A---village, and these are the names of the villagers whose land was flooded and their paddy fields were destroyed:

- 1) N---
- 2) O---
- 3) P---
- 4) Q---
- 5) R---
- 6) S---
- 7) T---
- 8) U---
- 9) V---
- 10) W---

These villagers are *kaw la thu*, and they are those whose lands were flooded due to the dam constructed by the Tatmadaw. Although they asked for compensation from the Tatmadaw, the Tatmadaw did not listen to them.

Another issue, in A--- village, is that the Tatmadaw confiscated the homes of *kaw la thu*, and asked them to move to another area. The Tatmadaw battalion who confiscated the land is LIB #203. After they confiscated these lands, they installed a sign [on the land] which stated, "*This land belongs to the Tatmadaw. Do not trespass.*" The *kaw la thu* who live near these places had to move, and now live at the corner of their lands and beside the road. The names of the *kaw la thu* whose paddy fields were confiscated are:

- 1) B---
- 2) C---
- 3) D---
- 4) E---
- 5) F---
- 6) G---
- 7) H---
- 8) I---
- 9) J---
- 10) K---
- 11) L---
- 12) M---

[Later, I found out that] these *kaw la thu* are not Muslim, but are actually Buddhist.⁶⁰ When I went to meet with them, they told me, "*We are kaw la thu, but we are not Muslim. However, as our skin is black, the Buddhists and the Burmese discriminate against us. For this reason [our skin color], we, the kaw la thu who live here, have been oppressed in many different ways [by the Tatmadaw]. We cannot go anywhere else; our parents and grandparents were born here, our original birth place is also here, and*

⁶⁰ In this case, the villagers self-identified as *kaw la thu*, and our researcher subsequently assumed they were Muslim. However, upon interviewing them he discovered that while they self-identified as *kaw la thu*, they were in fact, Buddhist. This example highlights the complexity around ethnicity and religion as markers of identity in Kayin state, and as the villager describes, those who are identified as *kaw la thu* face discrimination due to their perceived skin colour, regardless of religious orientation.

we are living here now. If you look at the places that we live, you will see and know the situation [of oppression] that we live in. We do not need to explain anything further to you. Although we try to explain [the situation] to you, we also need to look out for our lives in the future [be aware of our safety]. We are fearful [of the Tatmadaw]. They are taking all of our land and we are being forced to move [to other places]; we are forced to live in the corners [of our fields and beside the road].”

The two villages have to suffer [from the same issue]. One area is in the upper [Eastern] side of Maw Ko village where Karen people live and another area is in A---village where the *kaw la thu* people live.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Hti Lon Township, Hpa-an District, (Received in April 2014)

Source Document #80

KHRG Log #:	14-33-S1
Publishing Information:	“ Mergui-Tavoy Situation Update: Ler Doh Soh Township, May 2014, ” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Ler Doh Soh Township, Mergui-Tavoy District
Actors:	Myanmar government officials, Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Lobbying government officials
Full Text:	
<p>Mergui-Tavoy situation update This situation update is about a few day trip to Mergui-Tavoy [District] by a field director from May 19th until the 26th, [2014]. This situation update will cover the history [and geography] of Mergui-Tavoy and some information about stone mining in Ler Doh Soh Township.</p> <p>Mergui-Tavoy District history There are four townships in Mergui-Tavoy District and they are Ta Naw Th’Ree Township, Ler Doh Soh Township, Ler Muh Lah Township and K’ser Doh Township. From 2012-2013, [the district] expanded [to include] two more townships. They are Htee Moh Pgah region [Township] (also known as Hkaw Ta Kha region) and Lay Nya Boh Pya Township. People in Mergui-Tavoy District do not use the village tract [naming system]. [Instead], they use region names.</p> <p>There are seven regions in Ta Naw Th’Ree Township. The regions are T’Keh region, Kay region, T’Kaw Paw Loo region, M’Noh Roh region, P’Wa region, Paw Leh Taw Nee region and Paw Leh Yoh region. There are two regions [village tracts] in Ler Doh Soh Township: K’Maw Thway region and Tavoy Kee region. There are eight regions [village tracts] in Ler Mu Lah Township. They are P’Law region, Pay Hsah region, Pa Law region, K’Pyaw region, Ma Shaw region, T’Paw region, Htee Moh Pgah Hta Kaw region</p>	

and Htee Moh Pgah Hla Kaw region. There are also three regions [village tracts] in K'Ser Doh Townships and they are Paw Klo region, Kyoh Khay Paw Tro region and Kleh Mu Htee region.

Lead mining

There are two places where people are doing lead or stone mining in Ler Doh Soh Township. One is in Ta Eh City and it is called Kay Da [Mine]. They started this project in 1999 [and it has continued] until 2014. This project is led by Myanmar Ponpinpate Company (MPC). Their contract to work on this lead mine ends this year, 2014, so they requested to extend the contract. On May 9th 2014 they signed [a new] contract allowing [them] to work for five more years. Villagers who are monitoring this situation said that 30% of benefits from this project go to the Myanmar government.

Stone mining at the Ba Wa Pay [Mine]

Stone mining at Ba Wa Pay [Mine] started in 2011 but people do not know which company founded it [the mine]. They deposit stone mining waste into the river (K'Maw Thway River) which has consequences for villagers, such as creating a shortage of water for villagers. This dirty water started flowing from Wa Ku village to Paw The village. Villages such as Wa Ku, Thay Kah Doh, P'Ka Yee, Ya Ma Soo, Tha Yeh Nguh, P'Ka, Meh Hkyaw, Eight Mile, Taw Paw, Ta Leh Taw, P'Lway Shaw, Sha Loh and Paw Teh [all] faced water shortage problems because the water was polluted by the mining project. This water was very dirty so villagers could not use the water. Furthermore, animals also could not drink the water. An [unknown] group came and tested the water conditions and they found that the water was poisoned. Before this, villagers had already sent a complaint to the Myanmar government but villagers did not receive any response from the government.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Ler Doh Soh Township, Mergui-Tavoy District, (Received in June 2014)

Source Document #81

KHRG Log #:	14-34-P1
Publishing Information:	"Dooplaya Photo Notes: Win Yay Township, Received in June 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	KNU, Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs, formal registration
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Dooplaya District in April 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p>	

Photo #: 0011

This photo is of U A---'s rubber plantation, which is next to the road. This road is a detour road. It connects Lwut Shan [village] and Zi Hna Pin [village], Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District. Company #3 [of an unknown Tatmadaw battalion] controls this area.

Photo #: 0012

This photo is a photo of U A---'s rubber plantation which was covered with soil [due to road construction].

Photo #: 0013

This photo is a photo of U A---'s rubber plantation. You will see it [the rubber plantation] if you look past the road. Part of the detour road runs through the lower part of the rubber plantation. The upper part of the [rubber plantation] is covered with soil from the main road [construction].

Photo #: 0016

This is a photo of B--- village head in Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District. His [name] is U C--- and he has six children. His rubber plantation was also covered with soil and damaged [due to the road construction]. The company did not say anything about compensation and the villagers worry about [their land]. He said he has reported about this to the regional leaders. As he is not yet sure whether he will get compensation or not, so he cannot talk about this case [in great detail] with KHRG.

Photo #: 0017

This is a photo of U C---'s rubber plantation.

Photo #: 0018, 0019

This is a photo of U C---'s rubber plantation which has been covered with soil and destroyed.

Photo #: 0020, 0021

This is a photo of the main road which is currently being built. At the present moment, the company has already leveled the land [for the road] and have now left. The villagers asked the KHRG [researcher], "*Who is going to give compensation for the destruction of [our rubber plantation]?*" They said they dared not ask other organisations about this.

Photo #: 0022, 0023

This is a photo of U C---'s land grant.

Photo #: 0024-0026

This photo is a list of the names of villagers whose [land] was destroyed [because of] the road construction in Lwut Shan village, Yin Yay Township, Dooplaya District. There is a total of 32 households [that were affected].

Photo #: 0027, 0028

These two photos are of the list of villagers in B--- village whose paddy fields and plantations were damaged [due to road construction]. As the cliff collapsed, the plantations were destroyed. [The villagers] did not get any compensation. Therefore, I took a photo and I included it with the date.

Photo #: 0031, 0032

This photo is of a warehouse [full] of [machines] which break stone to use for building the road. One of the B--- villagers said that villagers will get compensation for [their destroyed paddy fields and lands] if all of these stones have been sold. The name [of that villager] was not provided.

Photo #: 0035

This photo shows the place [where] construction workers [live during the road construction period]. It is in between Lwut Shan village and Tein Nyin village. As the road has already been repaired, the company [workers] have left.

Photo #: 0036, 0037

This photo is in D--- village, Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District. It shows the coconut trees and the tamarind trees of U E--- that were destroyed. They [the company] did not provide any explanation for this [destruction]. [The villagers] dare not report the incident. They [the Myanmar company] did not allow photos to be taken [at the site]. [The villagers said] that there are a lot of people that we need to be afraid of these days.

Photo #: 0039, 0040

These two photos show the soil [of the road] covering the front of U E---'s son's house. [The house] was meant to [be] destroyed. They [house owner] said not to release his/her name.

Photo #: 0051

This photo shows that a fence next to F--- village, Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District was destroyed. I learnt that [the owner of the plantation] was asked to move [the fence] back.

Photo #: 0056

This photo is a photo of Saw G--- in F--- village. His paddy fields were also destroyed. He said that he does not know about compensation [for the destruction of his paddy field] yet. Therefore, he does not want to discuss the issue in detail.

Photo #: 0053, 0054

These two photos show the destruction of Saw G---'s paddy because of road construction.

Photo #: 0057

This photo shows the construction of the Na Ta La road inside F--- village. The houses and shops which are beside the road were told that they would be destroyed. The villagers asked, "*Will you give us compensation so that we can rebuild* [our houses and shops] *if you destroy* [our houses and shops]?" [The villager said that] they just laughed and did not say anything.

Photo #: 0065, 0066

These two photos show the place where the bridge is going to be built in F--- village. The houses of the villagers also have to be moved.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in June 2014)

Source Document #82

KHRG Log #:	14-34-P2
Publishing Information:	"Dooplaya Photo Notes: Win Yay Township, Received in June 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Myanmar private company, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Some compensation, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Displacement, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Lobbying government officials, official petitions/complaint mechanisms, lobbying KNU/KNLA
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Dooplaya April 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0072 The photo shows the [land] area that the [Myanmar] company has measured. The land [plot] ends at the coconut tree. There are six people in U A---'s family. Currently, he [U A---] lives at the granary.</p> <p>Photo #: 0074 - 0076 This photo shows a villager's temporary home in the Ma Yan Gon area of B--- village, Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District. He stays there as he does not have money to rebuild his house. He is not sure if they are going to compensate [him] or not [for his lost property] so he does not want to provide information about it.</p> <p>Photo #: 0079 This photo shows a widow, Ma C---. She is 52 years old and she lives in D--- village, Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District. She has four children. The [KHRG] field researcher went to [her] to greet and talk [to her], and offered to help [her] as much as he can. She said the road construction cuts across her rubber plantation. She also said it crosses over 200 trees. Her husband could not enjoy [the benefits] of planting these trees because he passed away. She [also] said that a forest fire consumed [some of] her remaining [rubber trees].</p> <p>Photo #: 0085 This photo shows the rubber trees that belong to Ma C--- from D---village. D--- village chairperson said she [Naw C---] repaired the fence with her children as much as she could.</p> <p>Photo #: 0083 This photo shows a house in D--- village. This house has been cut in half [due to road construction]. The D--- village chairperson said they [road constructors] said it is not enough and they have a plan to destroy more [of the houses if necessary].</p>	

Photo #: 0084

This photo shows a house in the A'Pa Lon village relocation area [for people displaced by the] Than Phyu Za Ya Town to Ba Ya Thon Hsu Town road construction.

Photo #: 0086

This photo shows Thit K'Tet village. The villagers are moving back, far from the road. This is a new village and there is no information [about abuses]. The local people said that they [government] provided new land area [for the villagers in compensation for the land that was taken].

Photo #: 0088

This photo shows the road constructors moving soil for road repairing to the front side of Thit K'Tet village. The village head said the village is new and the villagers do not say anything and understand nothing [about the abuses they are facing]. They just live according [to their conditions]

Photo #: 0094

This photo shows Saw E---. He said he used to live in Kyainseikgyi Township but moved to Win Yay [Township] four years ago. He said he bought new land [in Win Yay Township]. For this road construction [project], the regional leaders have already taken photos [of the places that the road will cross]. [When regional leaders came to Saw E---'s house to discuss the project], they [Saw E--- and his wife] were out. There was only their 19 year old daughter at home. The village chairperson and some other leaders came to the house and said that the house needs to move and asked her to sign [a contract]. They said to his daughter, Naw F---, that they would send it [the contract] to Naypyidaw.

Photo #: 0095

This photo shows the road that they [the company] constructed in Than Phyu Za Ya, Ba Ya Thon Hsu and Me Th'Li towns.

Photo #: 0099, 0100

The first photo shows the relocated house area. The other photo shows the rebuilt houses [after moving]. The views in these pictures are from Thit K'te [village], Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District, between Than Phyu Za Yet [Town] and Bu Ya Thon Hsu [Town].

Photo #: 0141, 0105

These two photos show the list of rubber plantations that suffered [damage] from the [construction of the road] in G--- village. The villagers collected the [damaged rubber plantation information] from [road construction] and the local people reported it to their superiors [village leaders]. The villagers said that there has been no reply or decision [on the issue]. The villagers from G--- village said that they also have not heard anything from the regional KNU group.

Photo #: 0106

This photo shows Saw H---'s house that is located in G--- village beside the road from Bu Ya Thon Hsu [Town] to Than Phyu Za Ya [Town], Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District. This photo shows the house that had to be relocated due to the road construction development [project]. They [the company] said not to request anything regarding thatch shingles or sand [for rebuilding houses]. [The villagers said] the problems have, "*Accumulated like a mountain*" [compounded upon each other]. He

[Saw H---] told the researcher not to mention his name [in the report].

Photo #: 0107

This photo shows a villager’s rubber plantation in G--- village. He fenced in the [rubber plantation] with barbed wire. He [villager] said the [road constructors] told him to remove the barbed wire. [Other villagers stated that] they could [remove the barbed wire but the road constructor had not specifically asked them to do so]. [The villager] told them [road constructors] not to flatten the land in his plantation. [In the end] the [project] leader from Man Pyi T’Khun [village] flattened the land [of this particular land owner]. [Since then], the [land owner] omitted as much of the barbed wire as he could and re-fenced the area [in a more resilient way]. They [road constructors] then moved the soil onto [his] rubber plantation.

Photo #: 0108

This photo shows [the] Man Pyi Tan Khun [company’s] sign board that is situated beside I--- villager’s rubber plantation. The school committee [member named] Maung J--- said that the road will pass through where the marks [sign boards] are. They also asked [villagers] to sign [an agreement for the road project]. The [Myanmar] company said they will send them [the contracts] to Naypyidaw. K--- villager wants to know [who] the donors from four countries [are] that support the [Asia] highway road construction from Bu Ya Thon Hsu [town] to Than Phyu Za Yet [town]. [The villager is from] Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District.

Photo #: 0115, 0116

These two photos show N--- villager Saw O---’s [land] grant document and his picture. He received the [land] grant document from his parents as inheritance. Now, it has changed to a new [document]. The Dagon company [workers] then [began to] excavate the soil on his land. When he went [to the company] to ask for compensation they stopped [excavating the soil]. [He is] 65 years old. The area is his land by birth. He lives with [his] five children.

Photo #: 0120, 0121

This photo shows P--- village/village tract in Win Yay Township, Dooplaya [District]. It shows the place where the SPDC used to live. Now, they did not say that they have returned the land to the owner but the owner has taken it back [anyway].

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Win Yay Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in June 2014)

Source Document #83

KHRG Log #:	14-35-P1
Publishing Information:	"Dooplaya Photo Notes: Kyainseikgyi, Win Yay, and Kawkareik townships, Received in June 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure, natural resource extraction
Location:	Kyainseikgyi, Win Yay and Kawkareik townships, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Myanmar government official, Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation promised, no consultation

Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Dooplaya District in May 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 2842 - 2844, 2848 These photos were taken in Ta Hkaa Hkee village, Noh T’Kaw [Kyainseikgyi] Township, Brigade #6 [Dooplaya District]. These photos are photos of a road in Ta Hkaa Hkee village. The villagers did not need to spend [money] to construct this road because other people [unknown] helped them. However, many durian plantations, betel nut plantations and mango plantations were destroyed. The villagers did not complain about anything because they want [the road to be constructed].</p> <p>Photo #: 2770 - 2772, 2779, 2774 These photos were taken in A--- village, Waw Raw [Win Yay] Township, Brigade #6, [where] almost 100 rubber trees of villagers were destroyed because people [company workers] flattened the land to make the drainage [system] straight. They [villagers] are unhappy but they [the company] said that they will give them compensation.</p> <p>Photo #: 2907, 2908 These photos were taken in A’Kyu village, Kaw Ta Ree [Kawkareik] Township, Brigade #6. This [photo] was [taken] when I reached the village [A’Kyu]. The villagers were having a meeting and talking about the burning of hill fields and the fire that went to the fields of other people. [They] discussed giving compensation in this case.</p> <p>Photo #: 2920, 2921 These photos were taken between B--- village and C--- village, Kaw Ta Ree [Kawkareik] Township, Brigade #6. The companies are repairing and constructing a road which is 100 [feet] wide and destroyed the farms of villagers. The owners of the land are very disappointed, but they do not say anything. The people who ploughed the land did not have to pay. This affected many villagers.</p> <p>Photo #: 2922, 2923 These photos were taken beside B--- village, Kaw Ta Ree [Kawkareik] Township, Brigade #6. They [government staff] constructed and extended the road [so that] it covered the drainage [system] of villagers. The owners of the drains are afraid to complain and they [reported their issue] to other people, [not government staff]. No one listened to them. The government is constructing and repairing the roads. Some are good [for the villagers] and some are not good for the villagers.</p> <p>Photo #: 2780, 2781, 2783 These photos were taken in D--- village, Waw Raw [Win Yay] Township, Brigade #6. The MGC company dug stone from the rubber plantations of people [villagers] which destroyed the rubber trees. [They then] took the stones from the rubber plantations. The villagers said that [the company] has to [compensate them for] the stone that they [the company] took.</p>	
Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher, Kawkareik,	

Win Yay and Kyainseikgyi townships, Dooplaya District, (Received in June 2014)

Source Document #84

KHRG Log #:	14-35-S1
Publishing Information:	“Dooplaya Situation Update: Kawkareik, Kyonedoe and Kyainseikgyi townships, March to May 2014,” KHRG, August 2014, www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/14-35-s1_0.pdf
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Hlaingbwe, Don Yin and Hti Lon townships, Hpa-an District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Lobbying government officials
Full Text:	
Civilians’ situation	
<p><i>Kawkareik Township</i></p> <p>I started my trip from Kyeik Doe [town] in Kawkareik Township where I travelled to C--- [village, also in Kawkareik Township]. [C---] village was facing livelihood problems. The Burma government had [recently] constructed roads which went through their [villagers’] mango, rubber and betel nut plantations, as well as through a lot of other [fields with different] kinds of crops. The villagers said “<i>We plant [our crops] and we want to consume them.</i>” The Burma government did not give any compensation to these victims. Regarding farms [near the village], the Burma government also ploughed through those farms [in order to build a new road]. They [also] resurfaced the village road, which caused a lot of problems for the villagers’ work and businesses in many ways. One villager from [the nearby] Kwee Lay area said “<i>Last year there was flooding during the rainy season, which is when we do our farming. This year in the hot season, the Burma government constructed a road [close to our farms]. They filled part of a villager’s ditch in with soil and now the victim has to worry [about increased flooding during this year’s rainy season].</i>” The person in charge of the road construction told him [villager from the Kwee Lay area] “<i>We had a meeting [with Burma government officials] and a leader said ‘you hit, you suffer’ [you will suffer and we cannot do anything about it].</i>” This person who is in charge of construction lives in Meh Ka Tha region. The Burma government constructed the road from D--- village to E--- village. The road cut across people’s property and plantations. As for the upper [eastern] part of the road, it did not cut across a lot of people’s crops. I know because one villager from Kwee Lay told me.</p> <p>On May 4th 2014, I arrived in D--- village, Kawkareik Township. I saw that the villagers were meeting and discussing the villagers’ work [and means of livelihood]. Many victims [who are having problems] with their land came and reported their situations. Some villagers’ [vegetable] plantations were [partially] destroyed due to people burning their hill fields in order to plant [this year’s crops] in the soil. The fire spread to their plantations and consumed their crops [and vegetables]. Altogether 20 plantations were [partially] burnt. If the person who has caused this [is identified and caught], he will</p>	

have to pay some [money as compensation]. [Also], I heard from a D--- elder who said that he faced many problems. He said he had to move around in the rainy season to avoid the flooding. The farms had flooded in the rainy season, causing the paddy to die. [In addition] the price of rubber was low. This year, because the rubber price is low, many people are going to Bangkok [for work].

Kyainseikgyi Township

On April 27th 2014, a village tract leader whose name is A-- from B--- village, Shwe Chaung Son village tract, Three Pagodas town [Kyainseikgyi Township] said, "*Regarding human rights violations, the Burma government constructs roads and this abuses the villagers.*" The Burma government started road construction in December along Ruh Poo, Kyoh Kyaw, Lay Hpa Htaw and Lay Wa Hloh village tracts. In Ruh Poo, it [the road] cuts across one villager's farm, four [non-rubber] plantations, two rubber plantations and [it destroyed] 20 houses for which they did not pay any kyat [money as compensation]. In Lay Hpa Htaw village tract, the road cuts across five [non-rubber] plantations and two rubber plantations, and [it destroyed] five houses. [From there], it then goes down to intersect with the Th'Roh Waw road and cuts across two rubber plantations. It [the road] continues back toward Kya Aay road where it cuts across many rubber plantations, mostly ones which have 1,000 [or more rubber or teak trees].

A villager from F--- village told me about the work they do for their livelihoods. There have been problems as they live close to the riverside. There has always been flooding over their farms in the rainy season, which has caused the river bank to erode. [Recently], they have begun worrying as [due to erosion,] the river bank is coming increasingly close to their houses. They asked the leaders in F--- village to give them land that was closer to the road, but they did not provide them with [any such] land. The F--- village leaders also did not allow the villagers to use the land for cultivation. Instead, those leaders planted a large rubber plantation [on the requested land] and they [F--- villagers] did not have permission [to move there or cultivate that land]. The villager [from F---] reported this [to me].

Kyonedoe Township

On March 13th 2014, in G--- village, Kyonedoe Township, I heard that a villager had been facing problems with his work. He said "[I] *do farming and the paddy is not good. In the rainy season there was flooding and the paddy died. Other people's cows ate my paddy and I reported it to the village head, but he did not care.*" When I went to speak with him on March 23rd 2014, the cows had eaten his small rubber trees. He reported this to the village head, but the village head did not do anything for him. He feels that the village head is biased [against him].

Healthcare

Kyainseikgyi Township

There are hospitals in Meh Pruh village, Ka Kya Htee Khay village and Lay Wah Hloh village. There are many hospitals [in Kyainseikgyi Township]. However, the good hospitals are supported [financially] by the Burma government. Only in Ka Kya Htee Khay village does the hospital not have any support yet [from any actor]. On April 30th 2014, in H--- village, Kyainseikgyi Township, I examined the village situation regarding healthcare. In the village, there is a hospital, which is not supported by the Burma government, nor is it supported by any international organizations. There is no support from either the Burma government or the KNU [Karen National Union]. It is because of

the villagers actively working together on their feet [that the hospital was built]. When I arrived there [H--- village], the villagers told me [about the situation]. There were a lot of problems building this hospital. They did not have enough money to buy medicine. They did not have a water [supply] and needed [to buy and install] water pipes. They wanted to build a better hospital, but they are not [financially] strong enough. The villagers do not know who to report these problems to [the Burma government or the KNU]. They said "*How are our leaders [in the KNU] going to solve [these problems?].*" When I was there, there were many people in the hospital even though they did not have enough medicine. This is because the hospital manager is a good natured person who strives to help anyone who comes to the hospital. Her name is I---.

Kyonedoe Township

On May 2nd 2014, I visited J--- village, Kyonedoe Township. There is a hospital there and the person who is in charge is called K---. He said "*We built a hospital, but we have problems providing salaries for the medics who take care of the patients. [We] also have problems with the water [supply in the hospital], but we do not have electricity problems. However, we do try [to keep the hospital running] for villagers and civilians.*"

Education

When I visited F--- village in Kyainseikgyi Township on April 29th 2014, a villager told me "*We need a female Karen teacher because we do not have any at the school. The children can only speak Burmese. Sometimes, [Karen speaking] visitors come [to our village] and they cannot speak Burmese. So, if the children could speak Karen it would be better. In F--- village, the majority [of the population] is Burmese. So, the children can speak only Burmese. We need Karen teachers to teach them Karen and to make them understand Karen. [The village leaders] reported this to the Kyainseikgyi Township [leaders], but they did not send [a Karen teacher to the village school]. So, the villagers ask 'How are our leaders [in the KNU] going solve this problem' [for us]?"*

Conclusion

In this Situation Update the civilians have reported on the many different issues they face. In most village tracts, they reported that they do not have rights [relating] to work and livelihoods, or to forests and land. The rich people and their leaders [the Tatmadaw] have a right to work and run their own businesses. They [villagers] said "*Because our superiors [KNU leaders] have not given us a set of regulations or effective rules, we do not know how to respond to rich people and their leaders who come and work in our area.*" The other ethnic [group, the Burmese (Tatmadaw)], come into our area [Dooplaya District] and are able to [buy or confiscate] the land in our area. They abuse our rights and we cannot protect ourselves from them effectively. In our brigade [Dooplaya District], in each township, region and village tract the civilians mostly said their biggest weaknesses are that "*We do not have rights [to our land and livelihoods]. Some people have [rights] and some people do not have rights. It is really difficult for them and we cannot do anything [about it].*" As for my personal opinion, as I go from region to region, it is not one hundred percent of the villagers [I speak with who] raise concerns about their rights, but at least two out of three people I speak with do raise their concerns about their rights.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher, Hlaingbwe, Don Yin, and Hti Lo townships, Hpa-an District, (Received in June 2014)

Source Document #85

KHRG Log #:	14-36-P1
Publishing Information:	"Dooplaya Photo Notes: Kawkareik and Kyainseikgyi townships, Received in June 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Livelihoods issues
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Dooplaya District in March 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0112, 0113 Photos 0112 and 0113 were taken on March 11th 2014. [They were taken while] we were explaining UNDRIP [United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous People] to the villagers.</p> <p>Photo #: 0255, 0256, 0258, 0259 Photos 0255, 0256, 0258, and 0259 were taken March 27th 2014. The [Myanmar government's] special project [construction] group #1 of Kawkareik Town, A'san Town, Kyeik Town, Kyeikdon Town and A'Zin Town started to construct the road in 2013. It damaged yards and the plantations of civilians. We do not know if compensation has been paid or not. The road in the photo is from Kawkareik Town to A' Hpa Gyi [Town].</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher, Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in June 2014)</p>	

Source Document #86

KHRG Log #:	14-37-S1
Publishing Information:	"Thaton Situation Update: Hpa-an Township, January to June 2014," KHRG, October 2014, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/14-37-s1.pdf
Project Type:	Agriculture, infrastructure
Location:	Hpa-an Township, Thaton District
Actors:	BGF, Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, some consultation

Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Lobbying KNU/KNLA
Full Text:	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>This Hpa-an Township Situation Update covering January to June 2014 focuses on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The situation regarding the government military; 2. The situation regarding independent organizations; 3. The situation regarding companies, education and health care. <p>The situation regarding the government military</p> <p>The military activity of government soldiers decreased in 2014. There is only [military activity] when their top leaders sometimes come to visit villages; their soldiers take care of their security along the road in the villages [when they come]. I did not see them do anything against human rights. Their battalions change once every three months as usual and their divisions change once a year.</p> <p>The situation regarding the BGF [Border Guard Force]</p> <p>In Hpa-an Township, BGF [Battalion] #1014 which is under the control of the Burmese government came and built a military camp in Hpah Paw village, Weh Pyah village tract on February 4th 2014. The name of the company commander who stays there is Tin Win. In Hpa-an Township, there are three of their army camps, which are Hpah Paw army camp, Law Poo army camp and Meh Poo army camp. There is also the DKBA's [Democratic Karen Benevolent Army] Bo Boh army camp, which is located at the foot of the mountain of Meh See village in Maw Keh Muh [village tract]. There is no BGF military activity. There is only one thing, which is that they wait [at checkpoints] and ask for taxes from people who do cattle trading. The army camp that is in Hpah Paw village takes care of security for a company's rubber plantation and teak tree plantation so that there will be no destruction [caused by animals]. The KNU [Karen National Union] has not given permission for the rubber and teak tree plantations. Therefore, the Shwe Than Lwin Company continues to take protection from the BGF.</p> <p>The situation regarding companies</p> <p>In Hpa-an Township, there are two companies that have entered into the area, which are the Mi Zaing Taung Company and the Soe Naing Phyo Company. The Soe Naing Phyo Company intended to build a cement factory in Meh Ka Raw village. However, they asked the opinion of the local armed group, which is the KNU-KNLA, and the local armed group leaders did not make a decision immediately. On April 12th 2014, a monk from Kya Aye Paw Taw Mu sent an objection letter [to the KNU-KNLA] regarding the building of the cement factory. On April 28th 2014, the township leaders and some [KNU] officers went to Meh Ka Raw village and had a meeting with the villagers. The people who attended that meeting included [U Zaw Min], the Chief Minister of Kayin State and five of his friends [government officials working for him] and [representatives] from the Soe Naing Phyo Company. There were a total of 500 people at the meeting. One person who gave a speech in the meeting was [the Kayin State government] Minister of Transport U Khin Maung Myint. In the meeting, the villagers were asked whether they agreed to the building of the cement factory, and there were no villagers who liked the [project], so they did not agree to it. Since the villagers did not give them permission, the KNU and KNLA leaders did not allow them [to build the cement factory].</p> <p>Mi Zaing Taung Company</p> <p>This company has a plan to build hospitals and primary schools in the mountain</p>	

villages. They asked permission from local village and village tract leaders [affiliated with the KNU] and the local authorities held a meeting on May 15th 2014, [in which the local authorities decided] that they should not give permission. The [KNU] district leader tasked the township leaders with finding specific information about the [project], as to whether the support was coming from NGOs, the government or companies.

The situation regarding independent organization entering into the area

Since the ceasefire, I have seen that many independent NGOs have entered into the village. They are the Nippon Foundation, UNICEF, Save the Children and Switzerland Development Project.⁶¹ As these independent organisations have entered into the villages, it has caused conflicts with local staff who work in healthcare.

The conflict happened with the government staff and KNU staff regarding the healthcare sector because they [NGOs] sent their staff into the villages without letting the local healthcare staff know. They then left after they had treated the patients over one or two days. Therefore, when the local healthcare staff went to treat the patients in the villages where the NGO staff had treated people, they asked some of the patients what kind of medicines the NGO staff had treated them with. Since the patients did not know what kind of medicines they had been treated with, it caused a problem [with the local healthcare staff]. Saw A---, the new township healthcare department administrator said that regarding the NGO healthcare staff entering into the township, there is a policy that the local healthcare department needs to be informed before [any NGO] enters the township. This is because there are already some Back Pack Health Worker Teams in some villages [and government healthcare workers there] who they should coordinate with, so that there would not be any overlap [in the provision of healthcare by NGOs and Back Pack Health Worker Teams]. He also said that when [the NGO] staff went to look after the patients and inject the patients [with medicine], one of the government healthcare staff went and took the syringe and said to the patient: "*Do not inject that medicine! Come and get medicine from me.*" It happened like that and if there are misunderstandings [between NGO and government healthcare staff], problems could happen.

The situation regarding Education

Regarding a problem which happened in the education sector, since the government sent too many of their teachers to mountain villages, some of the local teachers who the Karen Education Department [KED] had already selected became jobless. What is more, it has made the burden on the villagers heavier as they have to provide the food for the government teachers. Another thing is that based on KED needs, they [KED] could not elect the villagers to attend advanced teacher training or the other trainings easily like before. Since the government opened opportunities to apply for jobs, and [since] they will be provided a suitable salary, most villagers went to apply for jobs with them [the government]. As the work on this [the KNU] side is voluntary, we can see and say that the villagers are not interested in working [for the KNU].

This year, the government said that there must be a nursery school in every village in Hpa-an Township. [Villages can be divided into] three types [on the basis of whether or not they have had] nursery schools [before], which are; villages where there has never been a nursery school, villages where there was a nursery school once but the nursery school was destroyed, and villages where there is a nursery school which has never been destroyed. The government [provides] 300,000 kyat (US \$303.03) [of financial]

⁶¹ The researcher did not clarify which organization this refers to.

support to villages where there is a nursery school which was never destroyed, 600,000 kyat (US \$606.06) to villages where there was a nursery school which was destroyed, and 900,000 (US \$909.09) kyat to villages where there has never been a nursery school. This money includes [support] for everything like the school building materials, the food for the students, and toys for students to play with. The nursery schools will not be supported in the coming years. The teachers need to be hired from the village and they [the government] are going to provide salaries for the teachers. Regarding [other] schools, there is free education for primary school and middle school in the villages where their [government] teachers have been sent. However, the villagers have to take responsibility for the teachers' food and [the costs they incur] in travelling back and forth [to attend trainings etc]. As the teachers teach for one month and then always have to attend teacher training for ten days or one month, the students' parents complain [about] the [teachers'] travel costs. Since the students do not have very much time to study even though they go to school [due to the frequent absences of the teachers while they attend training], the villagers want the schools to be self-help schools.

The situation regarding health care

The healthcare situation in Hpa-an Township is fairly good. There haven't been any serious diseases this year; there has only been malaria, diarrhoea, measles and some illnesses that happened to women such as dizziness and blood pressure problems. There are some government clinics in this township but there is nothing [no medicine]. Therefore, some villagers went to attend health training with the KNU, and there are also some villagers who went to attend obstetric training [provided by] the government. Since the training, they have gone back to their villages and bought medicines and they are taking care of patients as well as they can. They ask [the villagers] for the cost of the medicine. When the villagers have serious diseases, they send them to the hospital that is in the town. Going to the hospital in the town costs a lot of money. The villagers who do not have money have to borrow money from others. Some of the villagers could not pay back the money; so they had to go and work in other countries.

Conclusion

The above information is written [on the basis of] what I have seen and heard, and know [through] visiting the township. It is not that I thought [up] the information and wrote it. As for some information, the villager suffered personally and told me and I wrote up the information. Then I wrote it as a situation update.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Hpa-an Township, Thaton District, (Received in July 2014)

Source Document #87

KHRG Log #:	14-45-S1
Publishing Information:	"Thaton Situation Update: Thaton Township, April 2014," KHRG, January 2015, http://www.khr.org/sites/default/files/14-45-s1.pdf
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction, agriculture
Location:	Thaton Township, Thaton District
Actors:	Myanmar private companies
Compensation or	Compensation unknown, some consultation

Consultation:	
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Other
Full Text:	
<p>Location description There are 13 village tracts in Doo Tha Htoo [Thaton] Township. Thaton Township is bordered by Yangon [Region],⁶² Hpa-an main road [highway] and the Bilin River. Ethnic peoples live together in this township. The ethnic groups who live in Thaton Township are S'gaw Karen, Pwo Karen, Taw Thoo, and Burmese, as well as other ethnic groups.</p> <p>Civilian livelihoods The people who live here [Thaton Township] earn their living working in the farms, hill fields, rubber plantations and other plantations and some of them own their own businesses. If I was to analyse the 13 village tracts in these areas, I would say that the villagers are mainly farming to earn their living. Some people [also] left the country to find a job in Thailand or Malaysia.</p> <p>Education We [the villagers] can say that the education in Thaton Township is getting better. [Now], almost all of the [villages in each] village tract in [Thaton Township] have schools. There are some Burmese schools [in Thaton Township]. There are [also] some Karen schools there [Thaton Township] because the villagers built [Karen] schools independently. [Some of] the children have to go to Burmese schools. Burmese schools are very far to walk to by foot. They [students] also encounter floods on their way [to these schools] in the rainy season. The flooding creates problems for children, therefore villagers are building schools in small villages. The schools that were built by villagers, they work jointly with Burmese schools [to allow students to continue their education at Burmese schools]. Teachers are also being transferred by the Burma government [to the schools]. [However, the school year began] but they [government teachers] did not arrive. They [government teachers] arrived to teach very late [in the school year] and because of this it became difficult for students [to fulfil their studies], as well as for parents [caring for the children]. When the school principals go back [to town] to withdraw their salary, they spend one or two weeks [per month in town instead of at the school]. There are two kinds of teachers: teachers from government offices and [teachers from villages]. The villagers give them [teachers from villages] a monthly salary according to [the amount of days they] teach. If they do not come to teach for a day their salary is reduced. They [government teachers] give free textbooks from KG [kindergarten] to grade six but the students have to buy their notebooks.</p> <p>Healthcare We [the community] need more healthcare [professionals] in this area [Thaton Township]. The Burma government built clinics in many places but there are no nurses or medics. There are no people who look after these buildings so some of the buildings were destroyed and some became goat pens. The <i>Kaw Thoo Lei</i> [Karen National Union (KNU)] also cannot build a clinic yet because there is not enough human capital [nurses or medics]. The Backpack [Back Pack Health Workers Team] is the only group visiting each village tract. If the villagers become ill they are treated by nurses in the village, but</p>	

⁶² Yangon Region is an administrative unit of Burma/Myanmar that covers parts of lower Burma/Myanmar, including Yangon.

if they encounter a serious sickness they have to go into Thaton or Bilin town. We [the local community] can say that we need more healthcare in our township.

Tatmadaw activity

This area [Thaton Township] is located on the main road [Hpa-an highway] where many [Tatmadaw] army camps are based, especially in central Thaton Township, [where there are] two army camps. They are P'Nwen Kyah army camp and Wee Raw army camp. From the ceasefire until now, the two army camps have not changed anything, including their activity. They are active like they were before, but there is no fighting.

Business situation

Many rich men [private company owners] came to assess the situation [for development projects] in this area [Thaton Township], but they have not been given permission [for such projects] by the villagers. Therefore, most of the companies had to leave. The Max Myanmar company⁶³ is the only group that is based here. They [Max Myanmar company] came to start rubber plantations in Shwe Yaung Pya village, Shwe Yaung Pya village tract in Thaton Township, Thaton District. The project was started many years [ago]. This project has created a lot of problems for villagers because some villagers have cows and buffalos and the animals have less pasture [land for grazing]. Moreover, there are no pastures for [some] animals. The villagers also have to go very far to get firewood. Now they [Max Myanmar company] have a new policy: in the summer season they make a fire protection line [fire perimeter to protect rubber plantations], and in the rainy season they plant small rubber trees in the fire perimeter. They can plant two rows of rubber [trees] in the fire perimeter. They confiscate some of the villagers' land and community forest each year to make a new fire perimeter.

On April 3rd 2014, Pru Min Tun company and some people who work together with the company came with Thaton Township administrator U Tun Tun Naing to Maw Lay village, Maw Lay village tract, Thaton Township. They came to ask [permission from the villagers] to start a gravel mining project at Maw Lay cliff. They came here [Maw Lay village] [to get] civilians [approval]. They won the vote [received approval] so they decided to begin gravel mining. In reality, before they came seeking the civilians' authorisation they forced the village tract administrator to organize the villagers to [vote] for them in order to [ensure approval]. If they won the vote, the company [agreed to] give each village tract water pipes and electricity and each house 100,000 kyat (US \$97.30). When they held the vote, the people who [voted for the company] were people who have no land and also live very far from [Maw Lay] cliff. Maw Lay village, Noh Htoh Day village and Nen Paw Hta village are the villages which are close to the cliff. The villagers who live very close to the cliff tried as hard as they could to stop the gravel mining project and gathered together to protect the cliff. Therefore, in April 2014, the stone mining project was stopped, but we [the community] are not sure if it will [remain] halted or not [in the future].

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

During 2014, NGOs such as UNICEF [United Nations Children's Fund] and UNCHR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] entered this [Thaton] township. As a part of education [assistance], UNICEF distributed ten notebooks, a pencil and a pen for [each] primary school [student]. A partner of UNHCR, BAJ [Bridge Asia Japan],

⁶³ For further information on Max Myanmar see for example: "[Land confiscation and the business of human rights abuse in Thaton District](#)," KHRG, 2009; and "[Singapore Strymies Myanmar Mogul Zaw Zaw's Bid for Listing](#)," Wall Street Journal, April 29th 2013.

came to distribute water pumps.

Situation Update, written by a KHRG Researcher,
Thaton Township, Thaton District, (Received in July 2014)

Source Document #88

KHRG Log #:	14-46-S2
Publishing Information:	“Toungoo Situation Update: Thandaunggyi Township, July 2014,” KHRG, December 2014, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/14-46-s2.pdf
Project Type:	Militarisation
Location:	Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District
Actors:	Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Unemployment/loss of employment, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Negotiation, lobbying government officials, official petition/complaint mechanism, outreach to CBOs/NGOs
Full Text:	
<p>Land confiscation in Leik Tho sub-township</p> <p>In 2014, the SPDC [State Peace and Development Council] has [so far] confiscated over 250 to 300 acres of land. The villagers in Leik Tho [sub-township], Thit Khwa Taung village and Let Pet A'in village usually work on plantations [for their livelihood]. The crops produced in the region are cardamom, dog fruit, and coffee beans. After the confiscation [of their land], the local people are now unemployed. Because of these issues, the land owners whose lands have been confiscated face problems with their economic and social situations, as well as their livelihoods. The SPDC military government LIB [Light infantry Battalion] #603 has not given compensation to the land owners. The land that they confiscated was over 200 or 300 [acres] and there is also [part of this] land that they have not built buildings [on yet], but they do not allow the land owners to go into the plantation and collect the crops. They [the land owners] made a request to the military officers to [obtain permission] to collect the crops, but they did not allow it. [The Tatmadaw] only allows [local] female police officers to collect crops [or themselves] in [the area under the control of] LIB #603. The land owners signed [an informal document] and reported [sent it] to the regional sub-township office, district parliament and state parliament, but they have not received a reply yet. I interviewed the people whose lands were confiscated from Let Pet A'in village in the evening on March 17th 2014 at the [village] chairpersons' [village head's] house. According to the villagers, if they [the land owners] collect the crops from their plantations without getting permission from the superior officer [and if the soldiers catch them], they [the soldiers] ask them to leave the crops with them and they also say that the land no longer belongs to you [the villager] anymore. [Now], the villagers weave mats and sell them for their livelihoods. They [the villagers] said to help them [resolve this problem] if there are people who are willing to help them.</p> <p>Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher, Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District, (Received in July 2014)</p>	

Source Document #89

KHRG Log #:	14-48-S1
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun Situation Update: Dwe Lo Township, January to June, 2014,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Myanmar private company, KNU, wealthy individuals
Compensation or Consultation:	Some compensation, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Official petitions/complaint mechanisms
Full Text:	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Since gold mining began until now, villagers have had many issues in Dwe Lo Township. This year, from January 1st 2014 to May 2014, the villagers who live on the Bu Lo River bank in Dwe Lo Township faced the most difficulty due to water problems because the water was polluted and there was not enough drinking water. [Villagers] could not drink fresh water and, [although they] went to get water from the mountain side, it was not enough for a day. Due to the fact that the gold mining made the water dirty, the villagers [now] have to go and bathe very far away. [Trying] to dig a water well on the bank of the river proved difficult [as the polluted river water would also get into the well].</p> <p>The gold mining started in Brigade #1 [Thaton District], Bilin Township, Men Pray village tract on Bu Lo River. The Nyaw Htoo company came to mine gold with big boats in the river, [which brought machines to] dig the sand and stone on the river bank. The villagers’ farms and plantation land will be destroyed because of the water being blocked.</p> <p>This year the gold mining is based in the Meh Way area on the Meh Way River. In the beginning, the villagers [tried to] prevent the gold mining by [issuing] a statement but no one respected the villagers’ needs. Now, the gold mining is happening on the Meh Way River. It [destroyed] a lot of plantation land that the villagers wanted to plant so there is no land for them. The villagers did not get good compensation for the plantations that were destroyed.</p> <p>I think that if there was no gold [left in the] river [the mining] would [stop]. [For now], there is no stopping the gold mining.</p> <p>The gold mine will again start with the coming of summer and the villagers will [once again] encounter water problems [with regards to] drinking water and water for bathing. The villagers will go and get water from the well but will not [be able] to get enough for the day. For taking a bath they will dig a well on the river bank but there will not be enough [water] for them to take a bath in April and May. The villagers [will] have to go and get water from very far away for their daily use.</p>	

Not only villagers face problems. Animals such as cows and buffalos also cannot drink fresh water and have a bath. [This gold mining] took place in Dwe Lo Township on the Bu Lo River and occurred from January 1st 2014 to May 2014.

Plantation [destruction]

This year gold mining started in Meh Way village tract, Dwe Lo Township. The Karen [KNU] leader and the Myint Ta Yeik company are working together to mine for gold. They do gold mining [on the] Meh Way River. The villagers' land beside the Meh Way River that they used for crops was destroyed. They [villagers] said that they will not have the [same amount of] food that they had harvested this [past] year. In the coming year they cannot plant crops in the plantation because the plantations have been destroyed. The crops and plantations were both destroyed.

Gold mining

From January 1st to May 2014 gold mining was occurring in Dwe Lo Township. The land and plants were destroyed and villagers did not get enough compensation because some rich land brokers did not give enough money to the land owners. Because of the gold mining, famers in Waw Muh village were [angry and unsatisfied].

The situation is one in which rich land [brokers], such as Pah Htoh, do not come back and give enough [money] to the land owners. Up until now he has [still] not yet given [enough compensation] to the land owners. There are a lot of problems with gold mining. We cannot write [them all down] anymore.

Civilians' livelihoods

The six village tracts [discussed] are Ma Taw village tract, Htee Th'Blu Hta village tract, Ka Ter Htee village tract, Lay Poh Hta village tract, Nah Koh Hta village tract and Meh Thoo village tract. Most of the villagers from these tracts are working in hill fields and on farms. There is no other income for them to buy other things. They just sell the betel nut, betel nut leaves and tea. In Meh Way village tract, Koo Hkoo Hta village tract, Lay Hkaw Htee village tract, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Men Hkyoh village tract and Waw Muh village tract some villagers do earn their livelihood by hill field [farming]. Others go to sift gold [while others] make shops to sell things instead of gold mining. In Dwe Lo area the occupations of villagers include [only these things].

Education

As a part of an education [initiative], all villages in Dwe Lo Township have their own school. The villages that do not have their own school are only small villages. The children who live in small villages go to school in the [bigger] villages that have schools. In order to go to school they have to pay school fees to the teacher [at their school].

On June 10th 2014 the Waw Muh [village] local [KNDO] commander told me that students in A--- school may not be able to go to school this year. On June 9th 2014 the Waw Muh village tract [leader] called a meeting. In this meeting, the *Thra Mu* [school principal] wanted to get one more teacher but Pah Htoh (the one who lied and refused to pay farmers proper compensation) said, "*You cannot get more teachers [because] I am not going to give you an opportunity to get more teachers.*" The principal said, "*If we cannot get more teachers I cannot teach.*" At that point Pah Htoh replied, "*If you cannot teach, do not teach.*" After the meeting the principal left immediately and went back to her home very upset and cried. If the *Thra Mu* does not have a chance to find more teachers the children in B--- [village] cannot go to [A---] school because there is no teacher. This is the view of the local [KNDO] commander.

Healthcare

In Dwe Lo Township there is only one hospital in Ler Htoo Poh village, Men Thoo village tract. If the villagers get sick they go and [get treated] at that hospital. Some villagers live very far from this hospital, so if they get sick they just take themselves to their village nurse who takes care of patients. However, for those medics [village nurses] you have to pay. Sometimes, Back Pack [Health Worker Team (BPHWT)] comes to look after patients in some village tracts and some villages. If the villagers get a critical illness they go to the hospital in town and it costs a lot of money. Some villagers get sick and cannot go to the far away hospital and there is not enough [local] care so they die. The most [frequent] issues [have to do with] eyes, leg joints, and influenza. These are the sicknesses in Dwe Lo areas.

Tatmadaw activity

The Tatmadaw are active in Bu Lo valley and Baw Kyoh valley. In Bu Lo valley, IB #95 is active. In Northern Bu Lo valley is IB #96 and to the west of Bu Lo valley is LID #44 and IB #202. In Baw Kyoh valley the BGF are located between K'Ter Tee and Noh Paw Htee village.

Conclusion

This is the true situation that I am reporting in our area.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District, (Received in July 2014)

Source Document #90

KHRG Log #:	14-50-P1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Photo Notes: Bu Tho Township, Received in July 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Militarisation, infrastructure
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpapun District in April and May of 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0001, 0002, 0004 - 0007 I took these photos in the lower part of A--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District on April 19th 2014. These are photos of Sa Sa Na [MOC] #642 modifying and fencing in their camp. It [the fenced in land] includes half of</p>	

the farm field of a villager. These are the fields that they confiscated.

Photo #: 0008 - 0012

I took these photos in A--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw District on April 29th 2014. The government confiscated this land in 1956-1957 and set-up A--- [village] middle school. They lease the fields that they did not build any buildings on and use it [the fees] to fund the school. U So Myint, the headmaster of A--- [village] middle school went to the land surveyor, U Htain Lin, on March 8th 2014 and asked him to measure the land and to create a land title [for it] so that the land could become the [official] land of the school. He [U Htain Lin] was treated with food and drinks when he came and measured the land.

Photo #: 0030 - 0032

I asked Saw B--- to take these photos for me at the home of the C--- village [head's home] in C--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District on May 3rd 2014. These [pictures show] the village head of C--- [village] and the chief of D--- village tract meeting with Maung E---, the person who is making bricks. He [E---] lives in F--- village, Myo Thit City, Magway Division [Region] but came to make bricks in Hpa-an City in 2009. He met with Officer Htay Aung Kyaw, the GE [General Engineer] of LIB #434, and the officer asked him to come and make bricks in Hpapun city in the fields that LIB #434 had confiscated from villagers. He has to sell all the bricks that he makes to Officer Htay Aung Kyaw. Officer Htay Aung Kyaw would banish him if he knew that he sold bricks to other people.

Photo #: 0302, 0303, 0305, 0307, 0308

I took these photos in Baw Thay Htah village tract, Lu Thaw Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. This was when the USDP came and met with their party's members in Hpapun area #1 in order to increase their membership. There are eight polling stations in Hpapun Town and the Burmese [Tatmadaw] took over six polling stations and left only two for civilians [to control]. They [USDP] know that they will win the 2015 election. The USDP [say they] will work for the villagers to get back the land that was confiscated by the Tatmadaw after the 2015 election. The people will not be able to change Article 59.⁶⁴ This [particular photo] is of the [USDP] meeting with Hpapun high school education administrator, Daw Aye Aye Than, and donating books and sporting material to the students.

Photo #: 0324 - 0326, 0328

I took these photos in Section #3 of G--- town, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw District. The Myanmar government constructed a road starting from Section #3, going to the Roman Catholic Church, [and then] going to Nyaw Htoh Gone. It destroyed three or four palm trees of Saw G---, [a villager] from Section #3, G--- town, but they [road constructors] did not inform the owner. The person who constructed the road said that it is enough if he gets paid. Other things do not concern him.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in July 2014)

Source Document #91

⁶⁴ Article 59 of the 2008 Constitution bars anyone with non-Burmese nationals in their immediate family from becoming president, effectively preventing Aung San Suu Kyi from running for the position.

KHRG Log #:	14-50-S1
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun Situation Update: Bu Tho Township, February to June 2014,” KHRG, December 2014, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/14-50-s1.pdf
Project Type:	Militarisation
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, no consultation
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p>Tatmadaw Activities</p> <p>The Burmese [Tatmadaw] soldiers have modified their battalions and built many buildings for the military in Meh Ka Law village tract, Bu Tho Township from February [2014] until June [2014]. [Tatmadaw] GE [General Engineering Platoon Officer] U Htay Aung Kyaw and LIB [Light Infantry Battalion] #434’s Commander U Kyaw Min Bone [used soil and clay] from the farms that they confiscated from the villagers to make bricks. U D---, a villager from H---, went to the commander of LIB #434 and asked permission to make bricks [for commercial purposes on that land] and he has to pay [LIB #434] 400,000 kyat (US \$402.82) per summer. The commander of LIB #434 said [to the villagers] that he is making bricks in order to fund the battalion.</p> <p>Officer Khin Zaw Tun, the captain of the Burmese [Tatmadaw] Ammunition Platoon #642, repaired and extended the fence of his battalion camp and it included two acres of Saw A---’s field, from U--- village.</p>	
[See hyperlink above for photos]	[See hyperlink above for photos]
<p>The above photos were taken by a KHRG researcher in Cc--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District on May 3rd 2014. These photos show bricks being made on villagers’ land confiscated by the Tatmdaw. LIB #434’s General Engineering Platoon Officer Htay Aung Kyaw gave permission to U D---, from H--- village, to produce bricks on the confiscated fields, on the condition that he sold all of the bricks to him, or lose his privilege if caught selling to anyone else. <i>[Photos: KHRG]</i></p>	

They leased out the farms that they [confiscated back to the villagers], but did not build any buildings on it. Villagers must pay 100 baskets (2,090 kg. or 4,608 lb.) of paddy or 50 baskets (1,045 kg. or 1,843.20 lb.) of paddy, [per year, depending on the size of the farm]. The villagers did not work on it [the confiscated land], because they [Tatmadaw] leased it at very high leasing fees.

[See hyperlink above for photos]

[See hyperlink above for photos]

The above photos were taken by a KHRG researcher in Bb--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District on April 19th 2014. These photos show the modification and extension of Ammunition Platoon #642's camp fence, which resulted in the confiscation of two acres of Saw A---'s farming field. *[Photos: KHRG]*

On May 5th 2014, LIB #431 seized a cow of U Q---, a villager from P--- village, and fined him 100,000 kyat (US \$100.70) saying that they would not allow him to take back the cow if he did not pay the fine. U Q--- had tied his cow at the farm in front of [the camp of] LIB #431. Another cow came and locked horns [fought] with his cow, but when the cows were released they went [over] to the herd of LIB #431 and were captured [by LIB #431]. [On the same day], a military policeman, a subordinate [officer] of the [Tatmadaw] strategic [operations] commander⁶⁵ based in Hpapun Town captured a cow of U L---, a villager from P--- village and also fined him 100,000 kyat. People [LIB #431] will not return back the cow to him if he does not pay the fine. LIB #431 said that the cow had eaten the crops they had planted. [Furthermore, on an unknown date], Burmese [Tatmadaw] soldiers [from] LIB #434 came back from the Salween River to their [Da Kway Kyaw Nyah army] camp. In that evening, the cattle of Eb---villagers went and ate in the yard of LIB [#434] and three of them [cows] died. People called the vet and he examined them and said that it was poison. Later, two other cows were found dead at the place where the three cattle had died.

[In Bu Tho Township], the Burma military [Tatmadaw] built a new road when they transported their soldiers to the frontline. It damaged the farm drainage of villagers and destroyed the villagers' orange trees and lemon trees.

There are eight polling stations in Hpapun area for the 2015 [election]. The Burma

⁶⁵ The strategic operations commander heads the strategic operations command (SOC), usually comprised of three to four battalions and a headquarters for defensive operations.

military [Tatmadaw] took over eight polling stations. The soldiers, their wives and [eligible] children have to vote for the USDP [Union Solidarity and Development Party] according to the order [by the Tatmadaw].

They [Tatmadaw] will not return the land that they confiscated from the villagers [in November 2008]. They [Tatmadaw] asked the village head of R--- village to sign on behalf of [all of] the farm owners [stating] that they agreed [to give the land to the Tatmadaw]. The commander of Ammunition Platoon #642, Commander Yaung Ni, wrote the subject in the consent note by himself on November 11th 2008.

Agreement signatory – November 11th 2008:

We agreed and signed in the following that the fields are confiscated by Ammunition Platoon #642 as Tatmadaw land.

Number-U Paing#/Name	Acres of confiscated
1. U Y---	4.00
2. U J---	4.00
3. U Z---	3.84
4. U X---	4.92
5. U N---	2.44
6. U K---	3.00
7. U T---	3.48
Total	25.68 acres

He [Commander Yaung Ni] wrote down the information step by step then asked U W---, the village head, to sign on behalf of the farm owners in the list and said that it is the agreement of the land owners. Actually, the farms owners did not know anything [about it]. U W--- told me about this information and showed me the document and I copied it down.

Violent abuse

On March 2nd 2014, [Officer Tha Beh from the] BGF [Border Guard Force] punched Saw Aa---, the village head of E--- village, beat a sentry from E--- [village] and punched the village head of F--- [village]. The soldier [of Officer Tha Beh who was standing] behind him shot the village head [from F---] because that village head was going cut him with a knife and the village head's hand was broken [from the gunfire]. That soldier also [accidentally] shot the leg of his commander [Officer Tha Beh]. The villagers had to be afraid of Officer Tha Beh before his leg had been hurt. The fear of the villagers has been reduced after he received this injury, [as he has been transferred to another district].

The situation of the Burma government

There are many development [initiatives] that the Burma government has done for the villagers in Bu Tho Township. There is hydropower, road construction and wells have been dug. Some of this development activity has benefited the villagers, some of these are done to make face [obtain favour from the villagers] and some of these are for making money.

The Burma government installed water pipes in V--- village because the village faced water shortages. [However], they laid the pipe down in the farm of the villagers. The villagers took it [the pipe] out while they were working on their farms because the water cannot flow [drain] easily. Actually U Poe Kyah, from Daw Na Nyaing Chan Yay company, could lay down the pipe outside of the farms. It will cost more if he did it and he will not make any profit, but he just finished the job to get money.

The [Burma/Myanmar] government built an [electric] machine well for O--- village because the village also faced water shortages. They [Burma/Myanmar government] already dug the well, but they have not bought the machine for pumping out the water yet. [So], the villagers do not use it. The leader of Daw Na Nyaing Company said that he could only do it [dig the well without buying the pump] because the [Burma/Myanmar] government only provided [a] very small [amount of] money [for this well]. The [Burma/Myanmar] government provided 400,000 kyat (US \$402.82) to Saw Hpah Lo, a villager from Klaw Day, which is near H--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, to build a drainage [pond]. The [Burma/Myanmar] government gave it to U S---, the [village] administrator, and he only gave 150,000 [kyat] (US \$151.06) to Saw C---. The villagers did not ask for this money [to build a well]. The government gave it [unasked, for only] to make face [obtain favour from villagers].

The Burma government created *Mya Thein Yaung*, [a project] to loan money to poor people. Each village tract received 300,000 kyat (US \$302.11). Regarding the loan, the villagers have to form a committee and then the [Burma/Myanmar] government will give the money to the committee. The people who borrow the money must have two people who guarantee them, otherwise they will not receive the money. The people who can work, [own property or a business], will get more money than people who cannot work, [day to day labourers], who will receive less money. They will have to pay back [all] the money [plus interest] to the [Burma/Myanmar] government once per year and then they can borrow it again [next year]. [Each month] they have to pay 1.5 kyat (US \$0.0015) as interest [per 100 kyat borrowed]. The government will not keep the money, [instead] this money must be used for development projects in rural areas. They [Burma/Myanmar government] have not provided the money yet. Arguments have occurred among the villagers [about how much everyone will receive]. The villagers said that the Burma government is making the villagers fight each other. The [Burma/Myanmar] government said that they will do this to eliminate poverty, but poor people can only borrow the money if they have people to guarantee them and they can only obtain a small amount of money.

The Burma government is doing development projects in Bu Tho Township and they built a bridge in Meh Klaw village tract. The Burma government built a bridge behind H-- - village. [When] they dug the soil [up] it went into the drainage [ditch] of Saw Ma---'s field, a villager from G--- village, but they did not remove the soil [from the ditch]. Now it is the time to scatter [sow] the paddy seed, but he could not do it yet because his drainage is not good. Some farm owners [who also had soil in their ditches] hired people to clean out their drainage [ditches] for them on their own.

The [Burma/Myanmar] government collected census [information] in Bu Tho Township. Before they collected it, they told the villagers to tell the truth otherwise it would affect the villagers' [level of government support]. They provided training for teachers on how to collect the census [information]. They [Burma/Myanmar government] had paid for the cost of food [for the census collectors], but [the collectors asked] the villagers to provide

them with food and the villagers had to pay the cost of food when they came and collected the census [information]. They [census collectors] were also ordered to go from house to house and collect census [data], but instead they would [order] three or four houses to gather in the same place and collect the census [data that way].

Education

The Burma government schools in Bu Tho Township said that the students do not need to pay school fees. Some students did not receive textbooks and most of the students who were late [to register] for school did not receive books. The Burma government schools in Karen National Union (KNU) controlled areas said that they will raise the Burma [national] flag [outside, in front of the school] but the KNU did not accept this. The parents of the students have to hire the teachers by themselves if they want the Karen language to be taught in Burma government schools.

The situation of the KNU

The leaders of the KNU in Bu Tho Township knew that the Burma government will start the *Mya Sein Yaung* [loan] project, which is [a project to] loan money to the villagers. Therefore, they [KNU leaders] met with the villagers at Ea--- school, in Ba--- village to make it not to become a problem for the villagers [regarding who gets how much money].

Other organizational activity

The KCCSC [Karen Communication, Cooperation and Supporting Community] visited Ea--- village, in Meh Klaw village tract. They met with the villagers to enable the Karen people who are scattering around [the world] to join hands together. The Karen Women Organization [KWO] provided packages to pregnant women and mothers with small children. [The Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW)], the health department of the KNU, provided medicine to the villagers in Htee Ta Daw Htah village tract in March [2014]. The KDHW built a hospital in Ba--- village tract for the villagers to be able to come to the hospital on time and get medicine when they feel sick.

The situation of the civilians

In Meh Klaw village tract, the villagers gathered together and held a village tract meeting with unity and elected new village tract leaders. It is time for the villagers to scatter [plant] the paddy [for growing season]. The Burma government did development activity and built a bridge at H--- village. The [moved] soil blocked the drainage of the villager's farms when they ploughed the land. Therefore the village cannot scatter [plant] the paddy seeds yet because they cannot get water [access]. It is time to start working in farms in Meh Klaw village tract. But the villagers cannot start working yet because the legs and hands of buffalos and cattle are affected [with disease].

Conclusion

The incidents [above] in Bu Tho Township from February [2014] to June [2014] involve the situation of Burma [Tatmadaw] soldiers, extortion, violent abuse and destruction of land. The Burma government is doing development projects, loaning money, collecting census [data], preparing for the 2015 election and their purpose is that former soldiers become village tract administrators and follow the orders of the military.

Situation Update, written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in July 2014)

Source Document #92

KHRG Log #:	14-51-P1
Publishing Information:	"Thaton and Hpapun Photo Notes: Bilin, Dwe Lo townships, Received in July 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction, infrastructure
Location:	Bilin Township, Thaton District; Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Outreach to CBOs/NGOs
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Thaton and Hpapun District in May 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 1293, 1294 I took photos 1293 and 1294 on May 7th 2014 in A--- village, Ta Paw village tract, Bilin Township, Doo Tha Htoo [Thaton] District. These are photos of a villager's rubber plantation which was damaged when an [unknown] company came and constructed the road.</p> <p>Photo #: 1299, 1303 I took photos 1299 and 1303 on May 7th 2014 in A--- village, Ta Paw village tract, Bilin Township, Doo Tha Htoo [Thaton] District. These are photos of the rubber plantations of villagers. The company damaged the rubber plantations of villagers when they came and constructed the road but did not pay the villagers [for the damage].</p> <p>Photo #: 1356 I took photo 1356 on May 9th 2014 in Ta Paw village tract, Bilin Township, Doo Tha Htoo [Thaton] District. This is [another] field that was damaged when the company constructed the road.</p> <p>Photo #: 1380 I took photo 1380 on May 27th 2014 outside of Ma Lay Ler village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. This is a photo of the gold mines [operated] by [unknown] companies.</p> <p>Photo #: 1384 I took photo 1384 on May 27th 2014 outside of Ma Lay Ler village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. This is a photo of the cars [that] the company uses for gold mining.</p> <p>Photo #: 1387 I took photo 1387 on May 27th 2014 outside of Ma Lay Ler village, Ma Lay Ler village</p>	

tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. This is a photo of the [KHRG] Field Director when investigating gold mining in the village.

Photo #: 1389

I took photo 1389 on May 27th 2014 outside of Ma Lay Ler village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. This is a photo of a villager panning for gold after the company left.

Photo #: 1390

I took photo 1390 on May 27th 2014 outside of Ma Lay Ler village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. This is a photo of the coordinator of KHRG in Doo Tha Htoo [Thaton] District and the secretary of Ma Lay Ler village tract investigating the gold mining [project].

Photo #: 1391

I took photo 1391 on May 27th 2014 in Ma Lay Ler village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. This is a photo of the place where the workers of the company lived.

Photo #: 1393

I took photo 1393 on May 27th 2014 in Ma Lay Ler village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. This is a photo of the Field Director of KHRG, the coordinator of KHRG in Doo Tha Htoo [Thaton] District and the secretary of Ma Lay Ler villager tract investigating gold mining.

Photo #: 1394, 1395

I took photos 1394 and 1395 on May 27th 2014 in Ma Lay Ler village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. These are photos of the boats of the company which deliver materials [for gold mining].

Photo #:1396

I took photo 1396 on May 27th 2014 in Ma Lay Ler village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. This is a photo of buffalos eating beside the river because the gold mining damaged the pasture [they normally graze on].

Photo #: 1397

I took photo 1397 on May 27th 2014 in Ma Lay Ler village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. This is a photo of some of the people who are doing gold mining who had not left [the mine site] yet when we went there.

Photo #: 1398

I took photo 1398 on May 27th 2014 in Ma Lay Ler village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. This is a photo of the people who are mining as they [use] a machine to take water from the river.

Photo #: 1416

I took photo 1416 on May 29th 2014 in Waw Mu village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. This is a photo of the village head from B--- village. He is telling the villagers that [the company] should have talked [with the villagers] before [starting the project].

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,

Thaton and Hpapun districts, (Received in July 2014)

Source Document #93

KHRG Log #:	14-53-A5-I1
Publishing Information:	" Toungoo Interview: Naw C--- , Received July 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Militarisation
Location:	Htantabin Township, Toungoo District
Actors:	Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Lobbying KNU/KNLA, negotiation
Full Text:	
<p>Ethnicity: Karen Family Statue: Married Occupation: Farmer Position: Villager What is your name?</p> <p>Naw A---</p> <p>Are you married?</p> <p>Yes, I am married.</p> <p>How many children do you have?</p> <p>I have three children.</p> <p>What is the name of your eldest child?</p> <p>Saw B---</p> <p>Where do you live?</p> <p>C--- [village].</p> <p>Is there any school in C--- village?</p> <p>Yes, there is a school.</p> <p>Until what grade?</p> <p>Until grade eight.</p> <p>When did people confiscate your land?</p>	

In 1988.

How many acres of land do you have?

I have 19.75 acres of land.

What crop do you plant on this land?

I grow paddy.

What kind of paddy do you grow?

I grow *Thu Kah Neh* and *Kyaw Hseh* [paddy species].

Where did people confiscate the land?

In C--- village, Htaw Ta Htoo [Htantabin] Township, Taw Oo [Toungoo] District.

Who confiscated the land? The military or business people?

The military.

Which military [unit]?

[Tatmadaw] IB #39.

Where is IB #39 based?

They are based in 4 Mile [Town].

What is their reason for confiscating the land?

They grow paddy. They [also] lease it to people and they take the leasing fees.

Who do they lease the land to?

They lease the land to us and we have to pay them the fees.

How much do you have to pay them?

15 baskets (313.5 kg or 702 lb) [of paddy per year].

Does the land have a title?

We do not own the land officially. Therefore our land title [over the land] has disappeared.

Do [the Tatmadaw] not provide land titles to villagers?

No they do not. They will provide us with military land titles if we are working on the land. They give us a military contract and we have to give them [Tatmadaw] 15 baskets of paddy when the time comes. Then they give us the receipt after we give them the paddy.

Are there any developments taking place in the village now?

There are many developments.

I mean, is there any organisation [that has] come and built a school to support the villagers?

The villagers do some of them [development projects] on their own and some [development activities] are support by other people [the Myanmar government].

What do the other people [Myanmar government] support [fund]?

I do not know. For religious affairs, the villagers built a church on their own. But I do not [know] about the school.

You mean the government built the school?

We got some support from the government and the villagers funded some of it on their own. Do you think we could build the school with only the support of the government?

How many households are there in C--- village?

I do not know because I do not go around [the village]. Maybe there are [censored for security] households.

Are there any cases [of abuse that have] happened after the ceasefire?

No cases [have] occurred.

What do you think about the ceasefire between the KNU and the [Myanmar] government?

I do not know.

Is it good or bad?

It is good.

How is it good?

It is good because we can travel more freely and work more freely. If not it is very difficult to travel.

Is there any organisation [that has] come into the village?

I do not [know] anything about that. I just do my work. Now the Tatmadaw confiscated my land and I want it back. I was alone at the farm whenever they came and disturbed our farming. I was alone at the farm the first time they came and disturbed me and I did not know what to say. I let them meet with the old man. Then the old man told me to call the village head.

Which old man?

The old man that lives in D--- village [KNLA battalion commander].

What is his name?

Bo⁶⁶ E---

What happened after you called the village head?

He [Tatmadaw] met with the village head and the old man. Then the old man told him [Tatmadaw] not to come and disturb us again but he still comes to our farm and disturbs us.

Until now?

For my farm, I met him [Tatmadaw] with the old man so I talked bravely; therefore he told me that he would not disturb me anymore. He came to me after the harvest and I thought that he was coming to ask me for the rental fees, but I complained to him before he asked me and he told me that he would not ask me [for rental fees]. But he asked my other friends, including people from F--- village.

Has he threatened you when you are working on your farm?

He does not come alone. Whenever he comes, he comes with his friends from Ta Pyay village because the people [from that village] want these farms.

Do you know the name of the soldier?

I do not know his name but his rank is three stars [Lieutenant General]. People said that these farms were confiscated by *Thara*⁶⁷ Tin Oo and *Thara* Myint Oo [of the Tatmadaw].

Are they soldiers?

Yes they are. *Thara* Myint Oo still comes. I know him because I went and gave leasing fees to him.

How many times have you given him [leasing fees]?

Every year.

How many times per year?

Once per year. In the beginning they asked for 17 baskets (355.3 kg or 783.36 lb) of paddy per acre of land. Later, I went to the battalion to sign the contract and negotiated with them and it became 15 baskets. At first, my younger brothers and sisters were working on the farm and they had to pay 17 baskets. But I negotiated with them [Tatmadaw] when I worked on the farm and it was reduced to 15 baskets.

Has *Thara* Myint Oo summoned the villagers?

He does not summon the villagers. He only summoned the villagers who will work in the farms. Then we went to him and he asked who would work on the farm. We told him we would work on it because we do not have any other place to work. He does not summon the other villagers. He just summons the farmers who work on his farm [that

⁶⁶ *Bo* is a Burmese title meaning ‘officer’.

⁶⁷ *Thara* (male) or *theramu* (female) is a Karen term used for any teacher, pastor, or any person to whom one wishes to show respect.

he confiscated from the villagers].

How many villagers work on the land?

Three farm owners work on the land and there is a villager [who also] works on the land. It is not his land but he works on it and pays the fees to the military. For us, we are working on it because this is our land and we do not want to give it to other people. These lands were passed down to us from our grandparents.

Where did you go to sign the contract?

At 4 Mile [Town]. [We sign it] once per year before we start working on the farm.

Do the villagers agree with the contract?

They all agree if I say 15 baskets. If I say 13 baskets (271.7 kg or 599.04 lb) everyone would agree with it. If the military [Tatmadaw] says 17 baskets and we do not say anything then the leasing fees would be 17 baskets. We speak [so that we can] give less. There are two kinds of leasing fees. They ask for 15 baskets of paddy for the farms that we are working on and they take eight baskets (167.2 kg 368.64 lb) for the land located by the lake. Actually, they [originally wanted to] take ten baskets (209 kg 460.8 lb) but I argued with them and they reduced it to eight baskets.

How many people do you go with when you go to sign the contract?

Many people go there, including Burmese people. At the time they did not come by themselves. They [Burmese people] asked a man to organise [the event]. That man summoned us and we went together.

What is the name of that person?

He is Burmese and lives in Ta Pyay village.

How long have they [the Tatmadaw] been asking for leasing fees?

They have been asking us for a long time.

Until now?

They came and asked me last year but I refused to give them [the tax] because the old man told me not to be afraid regardless of how [much] they threaten you because the land is yours. Therefore, the villagers from Ta Pyay [village] said that I am a person who is eager to argue. I replied to them that I want [to keep] it because it is my farm. They [Tatmadaw] also want the farm even if it is not theirs. The villagers of Ta Pyay came with the soldier to me and I did not say anything. They asked me to go and sign the contract but I did not go because the land is mine. I told them that I signed the contract in the past but I will not sign it anymore. Then they asked me where my evidence was to speak like this. I told them that I do not have evidence, and [that they could] go to the old man if they wanted to know the situation and solve the problem.

Have they met with the old man?

Yes, they met.

What did they talk about?

They talked about farms. The old man asked them [about the farms]. They [farmers] came with Ta Pyay villagers when they came to the farm, including one Karen. But they did not bring those people [Ta Pyay's villagers] when they came home. I asked them why they only came with three people. Why did they not bring the Ta Pyay villagers? Then they replied that those people are just working on a few acres of land [therefore they did not bring them]. They do not farm. The farms are ours. They told the old man that they came for their farm case [information]. The old man told them where their land is and when they bought it. People went there [the Tatmadaw camp] already and asked for the farm back. People even held a [land returning ceremony]. "*Do not disturb the farmers after you give back the land,*" The old man [said to the Tatmadaw].

Do you want to say anything else?

No.

Thank you very much.

Yes, thank you.

Naw C---, (female), Htantabin Township,
Toungoo District, (Received in July 2014)

Source Document #94

KHRG Log #:	14-54-P1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Photo Notes: Dwe Lo Township, Received in July 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Unknown private company , wealthy individuals, foreign private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Some compensation
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpapun District in March and April of 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]	
Photo #: 0006, 0044	
These photos were taken in A--- village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. It [the land] was destroyed without any compensation. At first, it was promised that it [gold mine] would be [constructed] 45 cubits (~20 m, or 67.5 ft.) [away from the village] but when the gold mine was constructed it reached all the way to the village. Not only the river but also all of the wells [in the village] were destroyed. I took these photos on March 16 th 2014.	

Photo #: 0051, 0056

[These photos are of] Naw B---'s land that was confiscated in A--- village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. She was given compensation which was not equal to the amount of money that she expected. I took these photos on March 16th 2014.

Photo #: 0057, 0061

[These photos were taken] of the primary school in A--- village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. Saw Bleh Say, who came to dig for gold, promised that he would repair the school after he had mined the gold. However, he did not keep his promise. He donated a small amount of money [for repairing the school] and the villagers themselves have had to try and rebuild the school. As they do not have enough timber, they have had to cover it with zinc [sheet metal]. I took these photos on March 16th 2014.

Photo #: 3374, 3382

[These photos were taken] in C--- village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. C--- villager Saw D---'s land was confiscated due to gold mining and he did not get any compensation. I took these photos on March 17th 2014.

Photo #: 3383, 3391

[These photos were taken] in C--- village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. C--- villager Saw D---'s land was confiscated. I took these photos on March 17th 2014.

Photo #: 3413, 3419

[These photos were taken] in C--- village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. C--- villager Saw D---'s land was confiscated because of gold mining. I took these photos on March 17th 2014.

Photo #: 3422, 3435

The land of Saw E--- was confiscated in C--- village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. He was given compensation which was not equal to the amount of money that he expected. I took these photos on March 17th 2014.

Photo #: 3437, 3438

[These photos were taken] in C--- village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. I met and interviewed the C--- villager Saw D--- about how his land was confiscated. I took these photos on March 18th 2014.

Photo # 3439, 3441

[These photos were taken] in C--- village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. I met and interviewed Saw E--- about his land that was confiscated. I took these photos on March 18th 2014.

Photo # 0084, 0086

[These photos were taken] in F--- village, Way Muh village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. [Since] the [Chinese] company came to dig for gold with the ship in the river there has been erosion which has destroyed the land of Saw G---. I met with him and interviewed him. I took these photos on April 5th 2014.

Photo # 0087, 0106-0113, 0118
 [These photos were taken] in F--- village Waw Muh village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. The Chinese company owner Poe Cho came and dug for gold in Bu Lo River. There has been erosion which destroyed Naw G---'s land. I met and interviewed [her]. I took these photos on April 5th 2014

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
 Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District, (Received in July 2014)

Source Document #95

KHRG Log #:	14-54-S1
Publishing Information:	“Hpapun Situation Update: Dwe Lo Township, February and March 2014,” KHRG, October 2014, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/14-54-s1.pdf
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Foreign private company, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p>Introduction During 2014, we have still had human right abuses in Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. The most [serious] human rights violations are land confiscation and [issues related to] gold mining projects.</p> <p>The civilian situation In Mu Traw [Hpapun] District, Dwe Lo Township, most of the civilians are [flat field] famers and hill farmers. The civilians have faced many difficulties because of gold mining projects and their land has been confiscated without any payment. Some of the villagers do not have their own land tittle so their land has been confiscated by the government. Villagers cannot do anything about this. The villagers planted betel nut trees and betel leaf vines on farms and plantations but all their plants were destroyed.</p> <p>Some villagers said that in the future it will not be easy [to sustain] their livelihoods, and moreover their children will also face real difficulties in the future because of the gold mining projects. The villages near these projects have been facing water pollution problems. Their cows and buffalos do not have any pasture and cannot get fresh water so some of them have died. The villagers who live near the river bank are suffering because the land has been destroyed by erosion.</p> <p>For example, in D--- village, Waw Muh village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District, villagers are suffering because a gold mine has been dug in the Buh Loh River. This year the [Chinese] gold mining company started to dig a mine in the second month of 2014 in A--- village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu</p>	

Traw [Hpapun] District at the Mee Th'Roo Poh River. They destroyed the land near to that river and the company workers did not allow the villagers who live near the river to pan for gold. They said that if they wanted to pan for gold to go and ask the head of the company [for permission]. The villagers are not willing to ask the head of the company, therefore they cannot sustain any of their livelihoods from panning gold and this has caused problems, but most of the villagers are hill famers. This is the situation in the areas in which gold mining projects have taken place and destroyed the land and living places of local villagers.

Education

In Mu Traw [Hpapun] District, Dwe Lo Township, most of the children and young people are seeking education as they want to improve their standard of living to bring it more into line with international [standards]. In the areas where gold mining is happening, some parents cannot send their children to school because they don't have sufficient livelihoods [due to the negative impacts of gold mining]. For example, in Mu Traw [Hpapun] District, Dwe Lo Township, Ma Lay Ler village tract, A--- village, each student studying in primary school has to pay 80,000 Kyat (US \$80.56) in school fees so the parents have faced problems sending their children to school. Some parents don't have enough income to send their children to school but some parents who have a good income can send their children to school. And also there are no high schools nearby so some students went to study in the city and some went to study in refugee camps.

Healthcare

Wha Hka clinic is located in Mu Traw [Hpapun] District, Dwe Lo Township. The most difficult [health issue] that the villagers have been facing is malaria. The villagers go to hospital to get medicine when they feel sick, but some villages are not close to the hospital so they go and get medicine from shops. Some villagers cannot buy medicine so they are using traditional medicine and some villagers are going to city hospitals. Some women face breast cancer but they don't know how to protect themselves. Also some are living close to [areas under the mixed control of different armed actors] so there is no one who will come and give health education workshops in the area.

Conclusion

This Mu Traw [Hpapun] District, Dwe Lo Township Situation Update covers the civilian situation, education and healthcare. The villagers expressed their feelings when we went to the field.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District, (Received in July 2014)

Source Document #96

KHRG Log #:	14-56-A2-I1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Interview: U A---, January 2014," KHRG, October 2014, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/14-56-a2-i1_0.pdf
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	BGF
Compensation or	Unknown

Consultation:	
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, violent threats/abuse
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p>Ethnicity: Karen Religion: Buddhist Marital Status: Married Occupation: Logging Position: Villager</p> <p>What is your name?</p> <p>U A---</p> <p>How old are you?</p> <p>51.</p> <p>What is your ethnicity?</p> <p>Karen.</p> <p>Are you married?</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>How many children do you have?</p> <p>5 children.</p> <p>How old is the eldest?</p> <p>27 years.</p> <p>How old is the youngest?</p> <p>The youngest is 17 years old.</p> <p>What is your occupation?</p> <p>I do logging for my livelihood.</p> <p>What is your responsibility [position] in the village?</p> <p>I have no responsibility in the village, but I have responsibility in [my] religion.</p> <p>Where do you live?</p> <p>M--- [village].</p>	

Do you know which village tract M--- village is in?

Htee Tha Daw Htah village tract.

Do you know which township Htee Tha Daw Htah village tract is in?

Bu Tho Township.

Do you know which district Bu Tho Township is in?

I don't know in which district.

Okay, never mind. It is located in Mutraw [Hpapun] District. How many households in M---village are there?

I think there are [censored for security] households.

Can you guess the number of villagers including women, men and children?

I guess there are [censored for security] [villagers].

What religions do the villagers in M--- believe in?

Buddhism.

Are there any villagers whose religion is Christianity?

Yes, we have villagers who worship Christ.

Are there any *kaw la thu* [who live in the village]?

No.

What are the occupations of the villagers?

Villagers are working on farms, hill field farms, cultivations and plantations.

There are many children [in the village]. Do you have schools?

Yes, we have [schools].

How many schools are there?

One school.

Is it a [Burma/Myanmar] government school or a villager [independent] school?

It is a [Burma/Myanmar] government school.

Do the villagers hire the teachers or does the [Burma/Myanmar] government assign the teachers?

The Burmese government assigns them.

How many teachers [are there]?

Three teachers.

What about school fees?

There are no school fees. We only have to pay [annual] registration fees.

How much [are the annual registration fees]?

The higher standards have to pay 4,000 kyat to 5,000 kyat (US \$4.04 or \$5.04) and kindergarten costs 2,000 to 3,000 kyat (US \$2.02 or \$3.03).

Are there any hospitals or clinics [in your village]? Where do the villagers go when they are sick?

Yes we have a clinic, but we have to pay for the medicine.

Is the medic male or female?

Female.

Where is the medic from? Did the [Burma/Myanmar] government assign her or did the villagers assign her?

She is from our village and the [Burma/Myanmar] government assigned her.

Does the [Burma/Myanmar] government pay her salary?

I do not think the [Burma/Myanmar] government pays her. She is a midwife.

Is there any town [hospitals] that villagers go to if the midwife cannot treat the patient?

Ka Ma Maw [town] and Hkaw Taw Bu [town].

How long does it take to go to Hkaw Taw Bu town and Ka Ma Maw town?

It takes 20 minutes by boat.

Is there enough medicine in the clinic?

There is not enough.

How much does it cost if you go and get treatment?

It [can] cost 40,000 (US \$40.36), 50,000 (US \$50.45), 20,000 (US \$20.18) and 30,000 (US \$30.27) [kyat].

Thai currency or Burmese currency?

Burmese currency.

You said that the villagers are working on farms and hill fields, right?

Yes.

How much paddy can a person who is working on a farm save?

The people who have [bigger] farms [or more than one farm] can save more [paddy] and people who have smaller farms can save less.

How much paddy can the people who harvest the most paddy save?

The people who harvest the most paddy can save 300 [big tins, [3,135 kg. or 6,912 lb.]] of paddy or 400 [big tins, [4,180 kg. or 9,216 lb.]] of paddy.

What about people who get very little paddy [to save]?

Yes, there are some people who only harvest 10 big tins [104.5 kg. or 230.4 lb.] of paddy.

Are there any people who cannot save any paddy?

Yes, we have [some people like that].

What about people who are working on hill field farming?

Yes, they can save paddy. Some people can save more and some people save less.

Are there any people who cannot save [any] paddy?

Yes, there are some people who cannot save [any] paddy [when hill farming].

There is only farming and hill field farming? Are there any other jobs?

There are no other jobs. [Some people] grow vegetables [for themselves] and do general work [odd jobs].

What about logging?

Yes, some people are doing logging.

Which river does it [logging] take place close to? [Near] Bo Lo river or Hkoh Lo [Salween] river?

Hkoh Lo river.

Is there any agriculture [conducted] along the banks of the Hkoh Lo river?

Yes, there is.

What kind of agriculture?

People grow long beans, [other types of] beans and watermelon.

Do they grow sugar cane?

Yes.

How many viss (1.6 kg. or 3.52 lb.) of jaggery⁶⁸ can a sugarcane plantation owner sell?

Some people can sell 2,000 viss (3,200 kg. or 7,040 lb.) to 3,000 (4,800 kg. or 10,560 lb.) viss, other people can sell 10,000 viss (16,000 kg. or 35,200 lb.) to 20,000 viss (32,000 kg. or 70,400 lb.).

How much is a viss of jaggery [worth] this year [2014]?

[It is worth] 500 kyat (US \$0.50) at Ka Ma Maw [town]. People [can] sell it for 1,000 kyat (US \$1.00) here [in Ta La Awh Hkoh village] because it is retail, but they sell it for 500 kyat to their regular customers.

How much is one big tin of paddy [worth]?

30,000 kyat (US \$30.27).

How much is a sack of rice [worth]?

15,000 kyat (US \$15.14).

What about [animal] husbandry like rearing buffalos, pigs, cattle and goats?

Yes, we have some people who rear cattle, goats and buffalo.

Is there anyone who rears hundreds of it [animals] for commercial purposes?

No.

What do they [villagers] rear cattle for?

To work [in the fields].

Are there any elephants [used] because some people are logging?

No.

How is logging done?

People use chainsaws for logging and drag the posts [lumber] by buffalo.

Can the villagers log without difficulty?

⁶⁸ Jaggery is concentrated cane sugar.

This year [2014], there were many difficulties and people could not work without difficulty.

Has any armed group been to your village?

The BGF has been [to our village].

What about the KNU [Karen National Union]?

Yes, the KNU has been [to our village].

What about the DKBA [Democratic Karen Benevolent Army]?

No.

What about the [Tatmadaw] soldiers of the Thein Sein government?

They have not been [to our village].

So only the two groups [BGF and KNU] have been to the village?

Yes, only these two groups.

Have these two groups [BGF and KNU] ever met [fought] each other?

They have never met [fought] each other. They [BGF and KNU] contact [inform] each other before they come to our village [or surrounding area, so that they do] not disturb each other.

Can they contact each other?

Yes, they can.

Which group comes into the village the most?

The BGF.

Which group do you have a good relationship with among the BGF and KNU?

The KNU.

Which group do you not have a good relationship with?

The BGF.

How are these two groups different?

I do not know what the difference is, but they [the KNU and BGF] are both [ethnically] Karen and they do not like each other. We can do nothing [about it].

How many soldiers do the KNU come with when they come to the village?

They [usually] come with 10 to 20 soldiers and sometimes 30 [soldiers].

Do they come very often?

No, they come [maybe] once every 10 or 15 days.

What is the attitude of the KNU [soldiers] toward the villagers when they come to the village?

They have a good attitude toward the villagers.

Do they take chickens and vegetables from the villagers when they come?

No.

What about beating, tying [up] and slapping the villagers?

No.

How many soldiers does the BGF come with when they come to the village?

There are about six or seven people [soldiers].

Are they living in the village or are they from outside and come into the village?

They do not live in the village, but they live outside of the village and summon [villagers for meetings or] sentry [duty].

Do they have a camp outside of the village?

No.

Where do they live?

They live here sometimes and there sometimes [always moving].

Are they staying very far away from the village or close to the village?

They stay not very far from the village. They rely [live] at the school and monastery.

Are they living in the monastery?

Sometimes they live in the monastery yard and sometimes they live on the plains [fields].

Who is the officer [in charge] of the BGF [battalion] that lives near the village?

Officer Tha Beh.⁶⁹ People also call him Ta Thoo.

⁶⁹ KHRG has received numerous reports involving human rights abuses committed by BGF Officer Tha Beh, including violent abuse, forced labour, explicit threats and arbitrary arrest and detention. See "[Violent abuse and](#)

Has he ever come into the village?

He comes sometimes.

What is his attitude toward the villagers when he comes to the village and when he summons the villagers?

His attitude toward the civilians is not good. He does not smile and he always brings a stick with him [to hit villagers with].

Did he build a camp to live at [next to your village]?

He has no camp [next to our village].

What do the villagers have to do for him because he has no camp?

The villagers have to split firewood, make bricks and porter wood. The villagers have to do everything for him.

Why do the villagers have to porter wood for him?

Because he [Officer Tha Beh] asks them.

Does he do logging?

Yes.

How do the villagers porter wood for him? By elephant, cattle or buffalo?

Villagers porter [wood] using buffalo, ox-carts and cars, but elephants are not included. People carry it [wood] as well.

People have to porter it [wood] for him every day?

Yes.

How many people have to go [work for Officer Tha Beh] every day?

Over ten people.

Does it include women and children?

Yes, sometimes it includes women and children.

Oh! He asks the children?

[forced labour in Hpapun District, November 2013 – January 2014](#),” KHRG, September 2014; [“Hpapun Incident Report: Forced labour and violent abuse in Bu Tho Township, January 2014](#),” KHRG, August 2014; [“Hpapun Situation Update: Bu Tho Township, November 2013 to February 2014](#),” KHRG, August 2014; and [“Hpapun Situation Update: Bu Tho Township, August to November 2013](#),” KHRG, December 2013.

Yes.

Does he ask old people over 60 years [of age]?

No old people.

How many carts have to go to work [for him] per day?

About six or seven carts per day.

What about cars?

One car.

From which villages does he order the carts and car to work for him?

M--- village, X--- village, Y--- village, Z--- village, D--- village and T--- village.

Does he order any other villages?

No.

Does he pay the villagers [who work for him]?

No, he does not give [any money as compensation].

When did he start asking the villagers?

He started asking before January [2013].

Is he still asking the villagers to work?

Yes.

If the villagers who are working are hungry, does he provide food for them during working time?

He provides food sometimes and sometimes he does not provide [food].

Does he show a good face [smile] to the people who work for him?

No.

Does he [medically] treat the villagers who work for him if they get injured?

No, he does not treat [them].

What do the villagers have to do?

The villagers have to make bricks, do logging and cut bamboo.

How do the villagers make bricks?

The villagers have to smash the soil into powder and then fire it [in a kiln].

What do the villagers have to do with the wood?

The villagers have to split the wood. He confiscates the wood that is split by the villagers, pretends it is his and then sells it.

Do villagers have to log the wood [trees]?

Yes, the villagers have to log the trees, split them, and then carry [transport] it with their own cattle and buffalo.

How do they use the car?

The villagers carry it [lumber] until they [reach the] vehicle road and then transport it with ox-carts and a car.

Where does he [Officer Tha Beh] sell it [the wood]?

He sells it at Ka Ma Maw town and Hkaw Taw Bu town.

How much does he sell a ton of wood for?

He sells a ton [of wood] for 300,000 kyat (US \$302.72).

How many kinds of wood does he produce [process and sell]?

He produces ironwood⁷⁰ and *Hkaw* tree.⁷¹

Does that include teak?

[No], teak is not included.

How much is a ton of ironwood [worth]?

It is [worth] 600,000 [kyat] (US \$605.45).

Thai currency or Burmese currency?

Burmese currency.

Does he [Officer Tha Beh] provide proper payment [wages] to the people who he asks to work for him?

No, he does not pay the people.

⁷⁰ Ironwood is a general term that refers to wood that has a reputation for hardness. It may encompass a large variety of species of tree.

⁷¹ Hkaw tree is a type of hardwood that is often used in Myanmar for constructing buildings.

How does he behave in his relationship with the villagers?

His behaviour is not good.

Does he beat, punch and scold the villagers?

Yes, he beats and scolds the villagers.

Does he beat and scold the villagers when they are logging [for him]?

He does not beat people [during work time] but he does scold [them].

You said that he confiscated people's [villagers'] wood [that they have felled and processed]. Whose wood did he confiscate?

He confiscated the wood of Saw I---, Saw L--- and my wood.

What is your name?

U A---.

Is that all?

Yes, that is all.

How many tons of wood did Officer Tha Beh confiscate from you?

15 tons.

How much is it worth?

It is worth over 4 million kyat (US \$4,036.63).

How much does the wood of Saw I--- worth?

It is worth over 1 million kyat (US \$1,009.08).

Anyone else?

Saw L---'s wood is worth over 1 million kyat.

Why did he [Officer Tha Beh] confiscate your wood?

I do not know why he confiscated the wood. He asked for a tax on the wood and I gave him 300,000 kyat (US \$302.72). He tried to make a problem [with me] after I gave him the 300,000 kyat and he hit me. We did not know anything [about why this happened]. He [just] summoned us [to where he was staying], did not ask any questions and then beat us.

How many times did he hit you?

Two times.

What did he use to hit you?

He beat me with [a] bamboo [stick].

Then?

He hit my son-in-law five times.

What is the name of your son-in-law?

His name is Saw O---

Which part of his [Saw O---'s] body did he hit?

He hit his hip and calf.

What about you?

He hit me once on my hip and once on my hand and then he punched me about five or six times.

Are there any other people he has hit?

He punched Saw E---'s father and one of his teeth was broken.

What is his [father's] name?

Saw F---

One of Saw F---'s teeth was broken because Officer Tha Beh punched him?

Yes.

Did he beat him with a gun?

No, he punched him with his hand.

Anyone else?

[There is] another person from M--- village but I do not know his name.

Did he beat him?

He punched him.

Why did he punch him?

I do not know. He made no mistake, he was forced to serve as a sentry [for the BGF]. Officer Tha Beh wants people to come early [for sentry duty] but he did not, therefore, he punched [him].

Sentry as in a messenger?

Yes, messenger.

People [Officer Tha Beh] punched him because he was late?

Yes, he was late and Officer Tha Beh punched him.

Was he injured?

Yes, he was injured a little bit.

Any other violent abuse that he [Officer Tha Beh] did?

There is no other [violent abuse], but he did scold and threaten people that he would beat them.

When did he punch you?

In January 2014.

Where did he punch you?

He punched me at K--- field.

Is K--- field located near your village?

Yes, it is near.

East or west [of your village]?

East.

East of M--- village?

Yes, east of M--- village.

Can you see it [from M--- village]?

Yes, we can see it.

He [Officer Tha Beh] punched [you] in the morning or in the afternoon?

In the afternoon.

What time?

At 3:00 pm.

Do you know the battalion [number] of Officer Tha Beh?

He is from Officer Maung Chit's⁷² battalion.

Is Officer Maung Chit his battalion commander?

Yes.

What is the religion of Officer Tha Beh?

He believes in Buddhism.

How old is he?

Over 40 years [old].

How many [years old]?

47 years old.

Is he Karen, Shan or Burmese?

He is Karen.

Is there anything else that Officer Tha Beh does in the village?

He is still making trouble, but [there is] no more violent abuse.

I have asked you so many questions, but would you like to say anything else about something I did not ask?

I want to talk about the part of the forest that I bought which is close [to other] people's farms. The village elder [that I bought the forest land from] talked [complained] to Officer Tha Beh [about his abusive behaviour]. He [Officer Tha Beh] then confiscated it [the forest area from me]. Officer Tha Beh told me not to log trees from that forest [area] and that he would shoot me with gun if I log trees from that forest [area]. [If I did log trees], he would tell people to come after me and he said that he would cut off my head in front of the villagers and then take it [my head] around the village.

He said it like that?

Yes, he said it like that. That is all.

Are living in your village [now]?

No, I am not living in my village. I am living in S--- village now.

You do not dare to go back to your village?

⁷² Commander Maung Chit, also referred to as Maw Hsee, is the commander for Tatmadaw Border Guard Force (BGF) Battalion #1014 in Hpapun District. Maung Chit is not to be confused with Maung Chit Thu (typically referred to as Chit Thu), who is a senior level BGF commander overseeing battalions #1017, #1018, #1019 and #1020 in Ko Ko, Hpa-an District.

Yes, I do not dare to go back to my village because I am afraid that he will cut my throat. He has a gun and I have no gun. So I do not dare go [anywhere] near him.

Would you allow me to use this information you gave to me and submit it to the media?

Yes.

Thank you.

U A---, (male, 51), M--- village,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Interviewed in January 2014)

Source Document #97

KHRG Log #:	14-57-S1
Publishing Information:	“Hpa-an Situation Update: Hlaingbwe, Nabu, Paingkyon and Hti Lon townships, May to July 2014,” KHRG, November 2014, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/14-57-s1.pdf
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Hlaingbwe, Nabu, Paingkyon and Hti Lon townships, Hpa-an District
Actors:	Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p>This report [covers events] between May 1st 2014 and July 1st 2014 and presents abuses occurring in Lu Pleh [Hlaingbwe], [Nabu, Paingkyon and Hti Lon] townships, Hpa-an District. There were no serious issues during this reporting period and the situation is as provided below.</p> <p>The Burma government had planned to construct a highway between Lu Pleh [Hlaingbwe town] to Meh T'Waw [village]. But in 2014, they [had] only finished construction reaching to Klaw Ka Tee [village]. The road construction damaged some parts of villagers' farm lands, but they [Burma/Myanmar government] did not give any compensation. When water flooded some flat paddy fields, the owners asked [the company] to dig a water channel, but some paddy fields were destroyed. The company that constructed the road is Chit Lin Myaing Company. This company does logging [in Hlaingbwe Township] too. In 2014, because the military took control in Thailand, the Thai military do not allow any logging exports [from Burma/Myanmar] into Thailand. Therefore, there are many logs waiting [in Hlaingbwe area for export and sale].</p> <p>From May 21st 2014 to May 25th 2014, [all] Burma armed groups [active in the area: Tatmadaw, Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), Border Guard Force (BGF) and Karen National Union-KNLA Peace Council</p>	

(KNU-KNLA PC) gave awareness [information] to the [local] communities that drug consumption and sale would be banned and [must be] stopped in Karen [Kayin] State. The meeting was held in Htoh Kaw Koh village, Htoh Kaw Koh village tract, T'Nay Hsah [Nabu] Township, Hpa-an District. There was one meeting held on May 21st 2014 in Htoh Kaw Koh's monastery and another time [a meeting was] held on May 23rd 2014 in K'Soh's monastery, K'Soh village tract, Ta Kreh [Paingkyon] Township, Hpa-an District. Another meeting was held on May 25th 2014 somewhere in La Nay's monastery, La Nay village tract, Lu Pleh [Hlaingbwe] Township, Hpa-an District. In Lu Pleh [Hlaingbwe] Township, the armed groups held two separate meeting in Lu Pleh [Hlaingbwe] Township, Hpa-an District; one was in T'Moh Ya village, T'Moh Ya village tract and another time in La Nay village.

On June 23rd 2014, after the armed groups met with the [local] community about drug awareness, ethnic armed groups [EAG] such as the KNU, BGF, and Burma government military [Tatmadaw] collaborated and they went and destroyed drugs plants which were kratom trees in Noh K'Mler village tract, Hti Lon Township, Hpa-an district. [They] were grown by one group of Mon ethnic [villagers] who live in In Du [town], Mon State. They came and planted it at the bottom of Noh K'Mler's cliff, Noh K'Mler village tract, [Hti Lon Township]. They arrested one owner and destroyed more than 200 kratom trees.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher, Hlaingbwe, Nabu, Paingkyon and Hti Lon townships, Hpa-an District, (Received in July 2014)

Source Document #98

KHRG Log #:	14-58-S1
Publishing Information:	"Hpa-an Situation Update: Paingkyon Township, July 2014," KHRG, October 2014, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/14-58-s1_0.pdf
Project Type:	Infrastructure, natural resource extraction, militarisation
Location:	Paingkyon and Nabu townships, Hpa-an District
Actors:	BGF, Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	Some compensation, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p>Introduction In the first week of July 2014, I went to the field and I tried to work for KHRG [Karen Human Right Group] as much as I could and I received some of the information on the incidents. Therefore, in order for the above leaders [KHRG staff] to know about the incidents which happened in the field [Hpa-an District], I am going to write them down.</p> <p>Situation in the field I currently see that there are many [different kinds of] organisations which have entered into my region. Some organisations come [for the purpose of conducting] education</p>	

[development]. Some organisations come [for the purpose of conducting] healthcare development. Some organisations come to do road construction and some organisations come for stone mining. Some of the armed actors have confiscated the villagers' lands. These issues cannot yet be resolved.

Main Topics

1. The situation of healthcare
2. The situation of education
3. The situation of the company's road construction
4. BGF [Border Guard Force] confiscated villagers' lands
5. Stone mining company
6. The situation of KNU [Karen National Union]
7. Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army – Peace Council (KNU-KNLA-PC) activities
8. BGF activities
9. Burmese government [Tatmadaw] activities

The situation of healthcare

I see that the Burmese government entered into my region [Hpa-an District] and built clinics in the villages. In Ta Kreh village, Ta Kreh village tract, Paingkyon Township, Hpa-an District, there has been a clinic for a long time, but it does not have enough medicine. The [Burma/Myanmar] government employed some health workers and the government said that they are supporting free [healthcare services] for the villagers. Actually, it is not like that. If a villager goes to the hospital, he/she has to bring his/her own food and has to pay the cost of the medicine. It costs a lot of money for the villagers, especially when the villagers suffer from serious diseases. This is what I have researched and confirmed in the [Burma/Myanmar] government clinics in my region.

Moreover, the Burmese government built clinics in Yay Pu Gyi village, Yay Pu Gyi village tract and Pee Ta Hka village, Pee Ta Hka village tract in Paingkyon Township, Hpa-an District. As I have mentioned, if you go to the clinic you have to pay the cost of the medicine. Sometimes, the nurses treat patients with medicines which are out of date [expired]. I know this information from the villagers who informed me. Therefore, I write about the situation in Paingkyon Township so that the leaders [KHRG staff] will know.

There are also some villages [in Paingkyon Township] where the same problems happen. I have reported [about the situation of healthcare] in only three places [villages] in this report. I will do more research in other places and I will report these incidents in the future.

The situation of education

In my area [Hpa-an District], I see that the villagers are facing difficulty regarding education. The Tatmadaw [Burma/Myanmar] government built a school in Noh Hkwee village, Noh Hkwee village tract, Paingkyon Township, Hpa-an District. ADRA [Adventist Development and Relief Agency] also built schools in Hteh Buh village, Noh Hkwee village tract; Meh Ta Ma village, Yay Pu Gyi village tract; Paw Ler village, Htee Poh Tray village tract; and Kaw Hsaw Mee village, Ya Kay Koh village tract in Paingkon Township, Hpa-an District. It cost 30,000,000 kyat (US \$30,181.09) per school. The Tatmadaw government built up trust with the villagers and the Tatmadaw sent at least five teachers to each school, which are primary schools. Their [Tatmadaw] purpose is that they do not want Karen teachers teaching at school and they also do not want Karen language to be taught at school. Not all of the teachers get a monthly salary.

Some of the teachers teach as day labourers, which is 2,500 kyat (US \$2.51) per day. If it is not a school day [Saturday or Sunday], they do not get money for those days. The villagers also have to take responsibility for when the teachers travel. This is one of the difficult problems that the villagers have to face. As the teachers have to go to the education office in Paingkyon Township once a month [for training], the villagers always have to [pay to] send them. The villagers also have to take care of everything for their food [when they travel for training].

Villagers' strategy

In order for Karen language to be able to be taught at school, the villagers find teachers who have experience teaching the Karen language and they employ them to teach at school. The villagers do not want ethnic Karen teachers to disappear from school. In addition, the villagers report to the [Burma/Myanmar] government teachers that they are going to find a way for the teachers to travel [each month for training]. They are going to ask the village head to borrow motorbikes [from villagers] for them [rather than have villagers pay for their transportation]. If possible they want the [Burma/Myanmar] government teachers to buy their own motorbikes for travelling. I see that some of the government teachers have borrowed money and have bought motorbikes. This is the villagers' strategy which they have implemented.

The situation of the company's road construction

An unknown company has entered into Hpa-an District and they are going to [restart] construction on the Asia Road.⁷³ They started construction from Noh Boh Hap Doh village, Paingkyon Township, which also borders Hti Lon Township, to Nabu Township and it goes to Kawkareik town, [Dooplaya District]. The company started constructing the road in January [2014] until May. Presently, the company has stopped construction on the road as it is the rainy season. When they constructed the road, they destroyed some of the villagers' paddy fields and lands; they did not give any compensation. They constructed the road until early in the rainy season. They have constructed only four miles [so far]. They have 18 more miles of road to construct. [However], I have heard that a new company will come and continue to construct the road in October [2014]. Therefore, I am going to wait until October. If any new company comes to continue constructing the road, I am going to note down [this information] and report back.

BGF soldiers confiscated villagers' land

In the first week of July 2014, BGF Cantonment Area Commander #2, Officer Kya Aye,⁷⁴ came in A--- village and confiscated *kaw la thu* villagers' lands which are next to the road. It [confiscated land] will be about three acres. The villagers kept this field to look after their cattle in. He [Officer Kya Aye] saw that this land was uncultivated and he confiscated it. He measured it into small plots and sold them to the villagers who wanted to buy it for 200,000 kyats (US \$202.21) per plot of land and on which a house can be built. Presently, some villagers buy his land. However, some villagers who are

⁷³ The Asian Highway Network is a United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific-supported project that aims to link 31 countries in Asia across 140,497 kilometres of roadway. In Burma/Myanmar the project has involved land confiscation and forced labour. For more information about the Asian Highway Network, see "[Tollgates upon tollgates: En route with extortion along the Asian Highway](#)," KHRG, October 2009; and "[Development by Decree: The politics of poverty and control in Karen State](#)," KHRG, April 2007.

⁷⁴ KHRG has received numerous reports concerning human rights violations committed by BGF Officer Kya Aye, including killing, forced labour, arbitrary taxation and land confiscation. See "[Human rights violations by BGF Cantonment Area Commander Kya Aye in Paingkyon Township, Hpa-an District, February 2013 to July 2014](#)," KHRG, September 2014.

thoughtful do not buy his land. This is the problem that the villagers in A--- village are presently facing. I am going to follow up with more information about this and report to you in the future.

Stone mining company

An [unknown] company is conducting stone mining at the bottom of the cliff of Paw village, Paw village tract, Paingkyon Township. They have conducted [stone mining] for one year. I had reported this information once [before].⁷⁵ They are presently conducting stone mining. There is a paddy field at the bottom of the cliff. Some [villagers] said the company has already paid compensation for this paddy field, some said the company has not paid the compensation yet. When I questioned the people who are conducting the stone mining, they said their boss [of the company] has not been here yet. The information [that I heard about paying compensation] is not for sure. I also know that the rich people in that region are also included [in conducting stone mining]. I do not know the name of the company.

The situation of KNU

In my region [Hpa-an District], there are two groups of KNU: (1) the township level KNU representatives in Paingkyon Township and (2) KNLA Battalion #19 soldiers. These soldiers patrol in the region and visit civilians, encouraging them to report [to the KNU and local government] if they face any problems in order to protect themselves [from those problems]. They [KNU] will discuss and work together [with the villagers to solve problems] regarding healthcare and education. [Burma/Myanmar] government teachers are not allowed to teach in some KNU schools. They [KNU] discussed this with the villagers, so that the villagers will report [to the KNU if government teachers are in KNU schools]. They [KNU] really do [arbitrarily] ask for tax from the villagers and demand food or [guiding when] travelling, [however] there is no portering [requested]. They [also] do not ask for a tax on cars which [transport] logs for trade or from people who trade cattle.

KNU/KNLA-PC

They do not have military activity [in Hpa-an District]. They try to find more villagers to enroll in their army. It does not matter though, as they do not have enough weapons. It would be good [for them] if they had more soldiers. This is my opinion. They also demand a tax on logging and saw mill [products], dog fruit trees and yam plants, just as the KNU usually demands. They do not want it [the taxation] to disappear. There is no one [from the KNU/KNLA-PC] who goes to organize the civilians [to increase their support]. They demand a tax for trucks which trade logs and from people who trade cattle.

BGF

Although this armed group receives a salary from the Burmese government, they demand a tax on dog fruit trees, yam plants and sawmill [products, just] as the KNU/KNLA-PC [also] demands. There is no one [from the BGF] who goes to organize the civilians [in order to increase their support]. They also demand a tax on trucks which trade logs and from people who trade cattle.

Burmese government

The Burmese government soldiers do not patrol [in my area]. [However], they demand

⁷⁵ See "[Hpa-an Incident Report: Stone mining damages villagers' fields in Paingkyon Township, March 2013](#)," KHRG, August 2014.

a tax from people who trade cattle, people who cross big bridges [in the area], logging trucks and from villagers who are doing business. They also frequently send their soldiers to measure the villagers' lands which do not have land titles yet. This is the situation of the Burmese government and the other armed actors in my area.

Conclusion

The incidents that I report in this Situation Update are true. As I do not have sure information [about the other incidents], I have not reported them yet. Since it is very difficult to travel in the rainy season, I will wait until the dry season and I will try to collect more information.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Paingkyon Township, Hpa-an District, (Received in July 2014)

Source Document #99

KHRG Log #:	14-65-A5-I1
Publishing Information:	“Dooplaya Interview: Maung A---, August 2014,” KHRG, February 2015, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/14-65-a5-i1_0.pdf
Project Type:	Militarisation
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Formal registration, outreach to CBOs/NGOs
Full Text:	
<p>Ethnicity: Karen Religion: Buddhist Marital Status: Married Occupation: Farmer Position: Villager</p> <p>What is your name? My name is Maung A---.</p> <p>How old are you? I am 42 years old.</p> <p>What is your nationality? Karen.</p> <p>What is your religion?</p>	

Buddhism.

Where do you live?

B--- village.

Which township?

Kawkareik Township.

Which district?

Dooplaya District.

Are you still single or married?

I am not single. I have a family.

What do you do?

I am a farmer.

Do you have any responsibility [hold public office in the village]?

No.

Is everything going well with your farming?

No.

Why?

Because the Tatmadaw confiscated my land.

Where is your land located?

It is located in C--- [area].

C--- is in which township?

Kawkareik Township.

Did you purchase it yourself or inherit it?

I inherited it.

How many acres is your land?

Five acres.

How many acres of your land were confiscated?

Over two acres.

What did you plant on your land?

I did not plant anything [this year because my land was confiscated, but] in the past I planted rice.

Do you have a land title?

In the past I had a land title. When the Tatmadaw attacked our village I lost my land title. We do not have any village leader [who is willing] to make land titles for us [now]. I am not finished re-doing my land title yet.

Do you remember the date when they [Tatmadaw] confiscated your land?

No, I do not remember.

Where did they confiscate your land?

They confiscated it in C--- [area].

C--- is based in which village tract?

Kyin Doe village tract.

Which township?

Kawkareik Township.

In which district?

Dooplaya District.

You said the people confiscated your land, so who [exactly] confiscated your land?

[The] Burmese.

Local Burmese or Burma military?

Burma military [Tatmadaw].

Did they have any intention to start a development project [on the land] after they confiscated it?

The development project [they initiated] was the building of houses for KPF [Karen Peace Force] families. *Law gha hsa* [It seems like stars].⁷⁶ Five [people's] lands are [now] full of houses.

They [Tatmadaw] built [houses] for KPF families, so do they [Tatmadaw] come and stay there [in the houses]?

Yes, sometimes they come and stay there because even though they are not the same group they are joined hand in hand [cooperate with each other].

Do you know the name of the people who started the project?

Yes, I know.

Who?

Tatmadaw.

Did they construct it by themselves or ask people to construct it?

They asked [a] company⁷⁷ to build the houses.

Where are they [construction workers] from?

They are from the city and towns.

Do you know their names?

Yes.

Who are they?

The [construction workers] are Thra Thaw Ngway, Myo Aung and Maung Thaw.

Do you know the people who [will] finish the project? Have they finished the project?

No, they have not finished the project yet. They are constructing more buildings.

[So they are] not finished yet?

Yes, [they are] not finished yet. In the summer they repair them [the buildings] or make them better to live [in].

Do you remember the date when they started building the houses?

⁷⁶ *Law gha hsa* is a Karen phrase that translates directly as 'it seems like stars', and is used as a metaphor to describe settings or scenarios in which there are many of a certain thing. In this particular instance, it is referring to the large number of houses that have been built on the villagers' land.

⁷⁷ At the time of publication, KHRG was unable to determine the name or origin of the company mentioned.

No, I do not remember the date.

Have you ever gone and seen them building the houses?

No, I never went because the Burmese [Tatmadaw] are [living] on the land. If we go there they might shoot us because they have guns.

You said the people [Tatmadaw] confiscated your land. Did you hear from the villagers [about the confiscation] or did you see it yourself?

I heard from the people [villagers].

Who told you?

My friends who work on the farm next to my farm, they saw [the Tatmadaw confiscating my land] and told me.

After they told you, did you go and check [on] your land?

No, I did not go and check because there are many Tatmadaw [soldiers there]. I am not willing to go because they have guns. I am a villager so I am not willing to go. We are always afraid because of them [Tatmadaw].

Did you go to check your land after a very long time [had passed]?

Yes, I went and checked my land after a very long time [had passed].

Do you remember the date of your land being confiscated?

No.

What about the year?

Yes, I remember the year.

Which year?

2010.

Which month?

In October.

You said that you do not remember the date?

Yes.

After the people [villagers] informed you [of the confiscation] did you go and check [on your land] or did you [only] go and check after a long time [had passed]?

After a long time I went to look at the land.

What was the situation when you checked on it [your land]?

In the upper part [higher elevation] of the land they built many buildings. In the lower part [of the land] there is not enough water to plant rice and we [the villagers] are [therefore] unable to [work on] our farm. If we go [to the farm] they might shoot us, we are not sure because [the Tatmadaw] were shooting cows and buffalos when they [the livestock] went there [to graze]. They [Tatmadaw] also shot chickens and pigs. In the upper part of the land the quality of the soil is very good for growing rice but they built houses for the KPF [there]. We cannot work on the land. We [the villagers] just live in fear.

[Since] the KPF is also a group of Karen people, you could go and tell [them], 'The Tatmadaw confiscated our land, please help us. We have no land to earn a living [on].' Are you willing to tell them [KPF]?

No, we are not willing to tell them because even though they are not the same group, they cooperate with each other.

Have you submitted this case to them [KPF]?

No, I never submitted this case.

You never submitted it?

Yes, never.

Do you have any other land?

No, I do not have any other land.

You have only that land?

Yes.

For example, if you do not tell them [KPF] and they do not give back your land what will you do for a living?

I cannot do anything.

Now, what do you do?

I do not do anything. I just look after buffalos.

Did any groups [government actors, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) or corporations] come to give information to the villagers before they [Tatmadaw] confiscated the land?

No, we did not see any group come and give information.

After they [Tatmadaw] confiscated your land, [did] they [Tatmadaw] tell you to come prepare a contract and sign it?

No, they never asked me to sign [anything].

Did they give you compensation?

No, they never gave me compensation.

They never gave you [compensation]?

Yes.

They never discussed [the confiscation] with you?

Never.

Did you submit your case to any organisation?

There is no organisation to submit the land case to.

Have you ever discussed the land case amongst the [other] land owners in order to [protect] against the [housing] project?

We never discussed [protecting our land]. We talk about the lands that were confiscated by the Tatmadaw and [about how] we cannot do anything.

Have you ever discussed or submitted this case to the village tract administrators?

No, we are not willing to discuss [this case] with the village tract administrators because they [Tatmadaw] have guns. If they [Tatmadaw] found out [about] our discussion maybe they would defeat [imprison] us. In the meeting, they [Tatmadaw] said that if we submitted this case or discussed it with anyone they [Tatmadaw] would put us in jail. We are afraid of what they said.

Which group held the meeting?

KPF.

Do you remember the date?

No.

Who held the meeting?

Myit Win held the meeting.

What is his position?

He is an officer in the KPF.

Do you protect your land in any way?

There is no way to protect the land. We [villagers] cannot discuss how to protect our land because the Tatmadaw and KPF oppress us. Later on this case was forgotten. We are not able to find a way [to protect our land]. If we find a way they will hit [us], kill [us], and put us in jail. We are not able to do anything so this case was forgotten. They have guns and oppress us. We are simple villagers and we always fear them [Tatmadaw]. [After some time had passed] this case was forgotten.

You said that your land had been confiscated. Did they [KPF] call this meeting to give you compensation [for your confiscated land]?

No, they never gave [compensation] and I was never notified [about the land confiscation].

The people [Tatmadaw] confiscated your land and built buildings [on it]. You did not find a way [to protect your land] and did not submit [a complaint] to any organisation. Will you give your land to them [Tatmadaw] and will you support this project?

We do not support this project.

If you do not support [the project], why did you not find a way to submit a land claim?

We have not found a way [to submit our case]. If we did [submit it] they would put us in jail. I only have a small [piece of] land but they built houses on that land therefore I cannot work on it.

They confiscated your land and built houses [on it], so have you even [protested] against the project?

I think we will submit this case to the KNU [Karen National Union]. I had discussed this with my family but if they [Tatmadaw] knew that we had submitted [a claim] to the KNU they would hit us or do something bad to us. We are worried about that and eventually this case was forgotten.

Have you ever heard of villagers getting back their lands because of media reports?

No, I have never heard [of this].

You have not?

Yes.

Have the people [KNU] who work with the [land registration department] visited your area [to check the land]?

No.

Do you have to pay taxes on your land?

Yes, in the past I have had to pay taxes.

What about now?

I have not had to pay [taxes] for the last four years.

Why is it that you have not needed to pay?

I have not needed to pay because they built houses [on my land] and [therefore] do not collect taxes [anymore].

You said that you have never heard of villagers getting back their lands because of media reports?

Yes.

Now what do you want?

If I get back my land I will be very happy. We heard the people [KHRG community members] were coming and my friends told me that I could report the land case to them. I was very happy when I heard that they would help us report it.

Your friend told you that we [KHRG] would come to help you get back your land?

No, my friend said they [KHRG community members] would help us to report the land case. If they help us to report [the land case] maybe we will get back our lands.

You said that your friend told you that we would help you to get back your land. How did they explain [our role] to you?

He [his friend] said we could come to meet with some of the leaders [KHRG community members] and ask them to help us with the land case. If the leaders help us we will be very happy.

For land cases, if the people [villagers] come to submit [the case] to us we then have to send it to the leaders [KHRG head office]. The leaders [then] arrange everything according to those cases.

If the leaders can arrange this [report the land case] for us we will be very happy.

Do you want to say anything that I have not asked about?

Nothing, I hope the leaders [KHRG] will try their best. If we get back our land we will be so happy.

Do you want to submit anything else?

If I get back my land I can work on [it].

If you don't have anything more to add, thank you very much.

Thank you very much.

Maung A---, (male, 42), B--- village,
Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District, (August 2014)

Source Document #100

KHRG Log #:	14-65-S1
Publishing Information:	“Dooplaya Situation Update: Kawkareik Township, September 2014,” KHRG, November 2014, www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/14-65-s1.pdf
Project Type:	Militarisation
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, BGF, KPF
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Negotiation, lobbying government officials
Full Text:	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>The following is a Situation Update covering events from September 2nd to September 29th 2014 in Kyeh Doh [area] in Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District. Starting in 2010, the Burmese [Tatmadaw] GE [General Engineering platoon] from Battalion #257, under the command of MOC [Military Operations Command] #19 Major General Tun Nay Lin, confiscated farms from A--- villagers in Kyeh Doh area. Because of this, some villagers do not have farms [to earn] their livelihoods on. This is the real situation that has happened in our area. The names of the villagers who have lost farms are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. D--- 2. U H--- 3. R--- 4. K--- 5. Saw J--- <p>Beginning in November 2010, the Tatmadaw [started] confiscating the land of villagers and they built houses on that land for the army [soldiers'] families to live on. Then, they [the Tatmadaw] built 62 buildings for the KPF [Karen Peace Force] and BGF [Border Guard Force], but they will continue building [on the confiscated land]. The villagers lost their farms and land for [earning] their livelihoods. They [the villagers] complained to the [A---] village head [about this]. The village head received the complaints and went to meet [Tatmadaw Major] General [Tun Nay Lin] in the city.⁷⁸ He [the village head] did not dare to say anything about the land confiscation when he met with the [Tatmadaw] general and he could not report anything to the land owners. The KPF and BGF gathered the farm owners and told them not to complain about the land confiscation, otherwise they will put them in jail. They are threatening the owners and because of this the owners are afraid to complain.</p>	

⁷⁸ It is unclear which city the researcher is referring to in this instance. Neither the date nor exact location of the meeting was included in the submitted report.

Conclusion

As I am a KHRG researcher I see that because of the many armed groups [in the area] it impacts the civilians' rights. Already around 20 acres of land have been confiscated by the Tatmadaw and because of the threats the civilians cannot do anything. This Situation Update is true.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in September 2014)

Source Document #101

KHRG Log #:	14-70-P1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Photo Notes: Bu Tho Township, Received in October 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Militarisation,
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Papun District
Actors:	Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Unknown
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpapun District from July to September 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0055 I took this photo on July 21st 2014. It was taken in Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw (Hpapun) District. I took it in front of LIB #434's farm. They [the battalion] made bricks on the farm for the Tatmadaw to rebuild their battalion building. It is on the land that they confiscated from villagers. This land has been destroyed.</p> <p>Photo #: 0058 - 0060 I went to take these photos in Meh Klaw village tract on July 21st 2014 in Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District in front of Tatmadaw LIB #343. This land was taken from villagers. After [the Tatmadaw] confiscated this land they rented it to people but they charged very high prices so nobody could rent those farms. They just stayed empty.</p> <p>Photo #: 0067 - 0070 I went to take these photos in A--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. I took them in front of LIB #434's [base] on the land that [they had] confiscated from villagers. They confiscated [the land] but they could not do [anything with it]. Later, they [began by] renting it to people, but now if the people work on this land they do not pay any fees, they [LIB #434] just ask the people to help them</p>	

[on their farm]. U B--- is one [villager] who works on that land.

Photo #: 0078 - 0080

I went to take these photos on August 4th 2014 in Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District. I took them at the bottom of C--- Mountain where Tatmadaw LIB #340 confiscated the villagers land and rented it to a Muslim. This Muslim's name is U D---. [The Tatmadaw] said to him that if the people come to ask [about the land], he had to tell them the land is worked by the Tatmadaw.

Photo #: 0028 - 0031

On September 12th 2014 I went to take these photos in Meh Klaw [village] tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District, in E--- village at U F---'s house. This is the letter that was created by the Tatmadaw. In this letter [the Tatmadaw] recorded the land that had been confiscated by the Tatmadaw and that should be given back to the land owners. They created an announcement notice to let other people know about it [the returning of land]. This notice was sent by a friend of U F--- from Ka Ma Maung [town], [Hpapun District]. However, this announcement notice has not yet reached Hpapun [Town].

Photo #: 0032 - 0036

On September 12th 2014 I went to take these photos in Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District, in E--- village at U F---'s house. This is the notice that the Tatmadaw military sent to the villagers that said, "We [the Tatmadaw] [will] *not return your land that we have confiscated.*" In order [to inform the villagers] they created this letter. After they created the letter they called a meeting to talk together with landowners but some owners did not know [about the meeting]. The owners who entered the meeting came back to the village and said that the Tatmadaw did not return their land because they have [built] a military camp on it. [The owners said they] did not want to get back [their land]: "*If we give back [the land] we will harm our country's dignity.*" This was said by the Hpapun District administrator.

Photo #: 0080 - 0083

On September 22nd 2014 I went to take these photos in Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District at the bottom of G--- village. In this village Sa Sa Na [MOC] #642 confiscated the land of villagers. After that they [Tatmadaw] did not work on those farms. The farms just stayed empty. On August 17th 2014 the Tatmadaw commander [Bo Mu] and one of his generals, LIB #340's battalion captain and a [officer] under his command, and one of IB #19 generals came to survey these places as future grave[yards].

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in October 2014)

Source Document #102

KHRG Log #:	14-70-S1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Situation Update: Bu Tho Township, June to October 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Militarisation
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District

Actors:	Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, violent threats/abuse
VA Strategies:	Lobbying government officials
Full Text:	
<p>Introduction From June untill October, events in Bu Tho Township have included forced labour, development [projects], killing, [preparations for] 2015 projects and NGO activities in the villages. The Tatmadaw, Myanmar government, and a lot of NGOs are present [in Bu Tho Township].</p> <p>Tatmadaw military situation From June 1st to October, Bu Tho Township's Tatmadaw situation was characterised by land confiscation. The land was confiscated in Meh Klaw [village] tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw (Hpapun) District. It was confiscated by LIB #434. This battalion [did not] work on those lands. Instead, they rented the land that they had confiscated from villagers but asked for too high [of a] fee. Villagers could not [afford] this so the land just stayed empty.</p> <p>The location of Tatmadaw LIB #434's camp is in Meh Klaw village tract Mu Traw [Hpapun] District, Bu Tho Township between A--- [village] and B--- [village]. LIB #434 improved their battalion operation base and built bricks in front of their battalion on the land that they had confiscated from villagers. Most of the lands are damaged.</p> <p>In summer [fresh] water was very scarce. Therefore, Tatmadaw LIB #434 took the water by pump machine from Pgeh Loh River, crossing a villager's plantation [in the process], which the Tatmadaw then confiscated. They took water and sent it to their battalion.</p> <p>The villagers' farms were confiscated by Tatmadaw LIB #434 and again they [the Tatmadaw] rented that land to the villagers for very high prices. Because of this the villagers could not work on their land anymore. Now they [the Tatmadaw] do not rent it anymore. If the villagers want to work on that land they [Tatmadaw] just ask them to help them on their farm. U C--- is a B--- villager. He does not have a job so he went to work [on these farms].</p> <p>The leaders of another battalion [LIB #340] were not allowed to rent the land that [they had] confiscated from villagers so they rented it to a Muslim and told him, <i>"If people ask you, tell them it is military confiscated land."</i></p> <p>The military camp in Hpapun area is [on] confiscated villagers' land. The villagers now know that they [Tatmadaw] are not going to return the land to the owners. They [Tatmadaw] gave an announcement notice to the villagers and called a meeting [in which they were informed that their land would not be returned]. However, most of the land owners did not know about the meeting.</p> <p>The military camp in Hpapun [will establish a cemetery] and looked for land on August 17th 2014 [for this purpose]. The land that they rezoned [for this purpose] was Saw D---</p>	

's land that had already been confiscated. It is in front of MOC #642. On August 17th 2014 the people who were going to search the land for a cemetery were: Bo Mu and his 2nd Lieutenant; LIB #340 Captain Bo Gyi and his 2nd Lieutenant Thra Aoh Tah; and IB #19's general. As a part of the ceasefire, the combatants agreed that you were not allowed to cross over areas that had been rezoned [as enemy territory]. [Tatmadaw] could travel up until the boundary that the KNU delineated but the IB crossed over the [newly marked boundary] time after time. On September 12th 2014 the Tatmadaw again crossed the new boundary and went to stay in U Thoo Hta [area] and [so] the KNU shot at them. [Tatmadaw] Lance Corporal Myon Aung Lin was shot by the KNU and he died but his gun was not taken [by the KNU].

Burmese government situation

From June 1st to October 1st the Myanmar government conducted trainings with farmers and [held] youth forums in Bu Tho Township areas.

In order to win the vote in 2015 the USDP organisation officer [began a] campaign to persuade the people [to support them].

The Myanmar Government asked the people to clear the grass [as part of] the road repairs.

The government's Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) conducted trainings for future trainers on "public technical party operations."

In Hpapun area the land that was confiscated by the Tatmadaw was ordered to be returned by higher leadership at the township or executive command level. 60 acres were ordered returned to land owners. This order letter reached Men Th'Roh administrator U Win Shay.

On September 18th 2014 the Myanmar government allowed the people to teach Karen language in Karen State, so in Baw Ta [village] school they are starting to teach in Karen language.

KNU situation

On September 17th 2014 the KNU health department brought health workers to look after and check on malaria [patients]. They [also] held a meeting.

The Burmese military crossed the new boundary marked by the KNU time and time again. So, on September 12th 2014, the KNU military shot at [Tatmadaw] Infantry Battalion #19.

NGO situation

[Some] NGOs are organisations that take care of old people. [One such NGO] came and set up in Baw Ta village.

NGOs such as KCCSC [Karen Communication Cooperation and Supporting Community] came to conduct a meeting in Baw Ta village in order to set up a cooperative for [collecting] donations of rice.

Each NGO came to be based in the area and set up an organisation, so the head villager called a meeting to discuss how much villagers understand about the activities of NGOs.

Civilian situation

In Bu Tho Township, the paddy leaves are almost falling for those villagers who work on farms for their livelihoods.

The villagers have gathered together and dug the road for easy traveling.

[As mentioned above], the Myanmar government [now allows] the opportunity to teach the Karen language. The parents of students are very happy to let their children learn the mother language, so they gathered together with teachers and had an opening ceremony for teaching Karen language.

Conclusion

From June 1st to October 1st, the Tatmadaw military situation, Myanmar government situation, KNU situation, NGO situation, civilian situation, and education situation are as have been described above.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in October 2014)

Source Document #103

KHRG Log #:	14-83-P1
Publishing Information:	"Dooplaya Photo Notes: Kawkareik Township, Received in November 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Other
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Dooplaya District in October 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0523 - 0525 Photos #0523, #0524 and #0525 were taken in Kaw T'Ree [Kawkareik] Township between A--- and B--- villages on October 7th 2014. It [road construction] is a problem for villagers. The villagers receive no benefit from the road construction. They [villagers] are spending money on road construction. They have to travel to earn their livelihoods, but [during] rainy season the road is destroyed. The hand tractors cannot travel because of mud on the road. [In addition], if the villagers cross to B--- village they have to pay a 2,000 kyat (US \$1.95) tax to the Karen Peace Force (KPF) and 1,000 kyat (US \$0.97) to the Tatmadaw. This is a human rights violation against villagers, [hindering</p>	

their ability] to earn a livelihood.

Photo #: 0510 - 0515

These photos were taken in Dooplaya District, Kaw T'Ree [Kawkareik] Township in C--- village on October 1st 2014. I saw a paddy farm on the road side [that had] become a sesame plantation. It became a plantation because of the government constructing a road. During road construction, they [the government] destroyed the water channel [irrigation system] and there is no longer enough water for a paddy farm. The villagers have to buy more rice because the paddy farm became a sesame plantation.

The owner [of the paddy fields] peacefully grew the rice on the land before the road was constructed. More recently, [the farmer] could not grow rice because there was no bund⁷⁹ left on the farm. Instead of [paddy], they [now] grow sesame. They [the government] are constructing the road through the center of the farm so the owner has to grow sesame [right] beside the road. If we look at this another way, [the villagers] had rights, [now they] have no rights.

Photo #: 0749 - 0754

These photos were taken in Dooplaya District, Kaw T'Ree [Kawkareik] Township on October 13th 2014. In D--- village, one of the villager's fields was destroyed during road construction. It [the road] flattened the centre of the farm. On both sides of the road you can no longer plant rice. If we look at this situation, [we can see] how much the rights of villagers were abused, [something] our leaders [KNU] knew [about]. The land that you can see was destroyed by flood water. It is very close to a villager's farm. The villager sowed the sesame seeds [in the farm] which was [later] flooded by water. The villager again planted beans but they did not grow well. Some of our villagers have to carry on like this [and earn their living in this way].

Photo #: 0731, 0730, 0727, 0726, 0724

These photos were taken in Dooplaya District, Kaw T'Ree [Kawkareik] Township in E--- village on October 12th 2014. The villagers have encountered many things that make earning their living difficult. A company came to construct a road [in this area]. Its construction creates benefits for villagers, but on the other hand some of the farms which [are nearby the road] used to produce 100 baskets (2090 kg. or 4608 ib.) of paddy but [now] can produce only 50 baskets (1045 kg. or 2304 ib.) of paddy. Even though the company constructed the road, the villagers had to invest [in the project]. They should construct [a bridge] to cross the river. The road [bridge] was destroyed by the rain during the rainy season so the villagers had to build [the bridge] themselves with wooden [planks]. That small bridge [is] more useful for [villagers] in comparison to the Myat Kan Tha's company's road [bridge].

Photo #: 2002, 2003

These photos were taken in Dooplaya District, Kaw T'Ree [Kawkareik] Township in F--- village on October 3rd 2014. A villager spoke to me in former village head U G---'s house. He told me that the company that had constructed the road had [also] destroyed the villagers' land.

Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher,

⁷⁹ The bund is a ridge or boundary built of earth around plots or sub-plots of paddy fields to assist in water management and irrigation of the fields. In this case, the bund was destroyed and/or altered by the construction of the road, which meant that paddy could no longer be grown on these fields.

Kawkareik Township, Dooطلا District, (Received in November 2014)

Source Document #104

KHRG Log #:	14-85-P2
Publishing Information:	" Thaton Photo Notes: Bilin Township, Received in November 2014, " KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Militarisation, natural resource extraction
Location:	Bilin Township, Thaton District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, wealthy individuals
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues, displacement, environmental destruction
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Thaton District in March and October of 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0384, 0385 I took these two photos on October 24th 2014 in A--- village, P'ya Raw village tract, Bilin Township, Doo Tha Htoo [Thaton] District. I also took Uncle B---'s photo as well and I interviewed him because he is a section leader and the Myanmar military [Tatmadaw] stay in his village. [The Tatmadaw have] chased off home owners [in the village] so those who have lost their property come and stay on his [B---'s] property for many years. This has caused problems for their agriculturally based livelihoods.</p> <p>Photo #: 0316 - 0319 The photos that I took on March 7th 2014 were [taken] in eastern Buh Loh Kloh [region] nearby C--- village, May Pray Hkee village tract in Bilin Township. The photos are of the gold mining industrial [project]. This gold mine is still running now. Villagers said that it is very difficult for them to work and live because this gold mining [project] destroyed a lot of villagers' [land]. [In addition], the pits where they mined for gold were not refilled after mining [finished].</p> <p>Photo #: 1010, 1011, 1312 - 1314 This collection of photos I took on March 7th 2014. They are of the gold mine in Bu Lo River region in a part of C--- village, May Pray Hkee village tract, Bilin Township that is run by Maung Maung Yi with his boat. Mining for gold with the big boats like this [caused] the local villagers' land to be flooded. Due to the sand and stone [deposited on the land], even the [next] generation will not be able to do agriculture [on the land].</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher, Bilin Township, Thaton District, (Received in November 2014)</p>	

Source Document #105

KHRG Log #:	14-88-P1
Publishing Information:	"Nyaunglebin Photo Notes: Kyaukkyi Township, Received in November 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Other, infrastructure
Location:	Kyaukkyi Township, Nyaunglebin District
Actors:	KNU, foreign NGO/CBO
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation unknown, consultation
Consequences:	Unknown
VA Strategies:	Negotiation, lobbying KNU/KNLA
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Nyaunglebin District in September and October of 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0096 - 0106 I took these photos on September 14th 2014 in between Ler Doh Town and A--- village beside the road [that connects the two places]. This land was distributed by the KNU to improve the [villagers'] livelihoods and to protect [them] from land confiscation by rich people and the [Myanmar] military government. Villagers received five acres of land per household.</p> <p>Photo #: 0001 - 0030 On October 18th 2014 the KNU, Norwegian government (Norwegian Embassy staff) and NVE (Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate) staff came and assessed the [possibility] of building a dam. They asked about the rules that workers would have to follow if the dam was going to be built. [They also discussed the] advantages and disadvantages of building the dam. [In order to get this type of] information, they came and met with CBOs and asked villagers questions.</p> <p>Photo #: 0031, 0032 On October 17th 2014 villagers came to believe that the KNU and Norwegian [government] are going to build the dam. Villagers are against the dam.</p> <p>Photo #: 7969 - 8060 On October 18th 2014 the KNU and Norwegian [representatives] held a meeting and discussed [the situation] with villagers. The villagers are against the dam and expressed their desires and opinions clearly.</p>	

Photo Notes written by a KHR Researcher,
Kyaukkyi Township, Nyaunglebin District, (Received in November 2014)

Source Document #106

KHRG Log #:	14-90-S1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Situation Update: Bu Tho Township, October 2014," KHRG, February 2015, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/14-90-s1_0.pdf
Project Type:	Militarisation
Location:	Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, Myanmar government officials
Compensation or Consultation:	Some compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Lobbying KNU/KNLA, negotiation, outreach to CBOs/NGOs, lobbying government officials
Full Text:	
<p>I hear every day that government [officials] arbitrarily confiscate [land] if they need it in many different areas across Myanmar. This is according to the 2012 Land Management Policy.⁸⁰ Land confiscation still happens in many different places in Myanmar and in many townships in Karen [Kayin] state. The lands are arbitrarily confiscated by Hpapun District's Land Registration and Management Department (LRMD) and the Land Administrative Department (LAD) which is [administrated by] President U Thein Sein's staff. They [LRMD and the Land Administrative Department] then gave it [the lands] to the battalions that are under Southeast Command Headquarters which are LIB #340, #341, #434 and #642. These lands were confiscated before the discussion concerning the ceasefire and now the lands have been indefinitely confiscated following the KNU [Karen Nation Union] and [Burma/Myanmar] government ceasefire agreement.</p> <p>An obvious example occurred in A--- village, Ka Taing Ti village tract. Operations Commander (G3) Zaw Myo Tin, who operates in A--- military camp, illegally bought six acres of land with 1,000,000 kyat (US \$974.95) from Saw B--- from A--- village. When he fenced the land he had bought, he fenced more than the six acres he bought, estimated to be sixty acres. He therefore forcibly confiscated the land around his [bought] land without letting the land owners know. The surrounding land owners</p>	

⁸⁰ The perpetrators of these abuses may have been claiming authority under one of the Burma/Myanmar government laws that allows rights to land to be transferred from villagers to private entities. The Wasteland Instructions Law (1991) enabled both domestic and foreign investment in large-scale commercial enterprises through transfer of use rights to designated "wasteland" (or "vacant, fallow and virgin land"). This practice was recently reaffirmed by the Vacant, Fallow, Virgin Land Law (2012). As development has increased in southeastern Burma/Myanmar since the signing of the government-KNU ceasefire in January 2012, KHRG has received an increasing number of complaints of confiscation of "uncultivated land" or "wasteland." For KHRG documentation of land confiscation arising from development projects, see: *Losing Ground: Land conflicts and collective action in eastern Myanmar*, KHRG, March 2013. For summary and analysis of the legal and policy framework relating to land management in Burma/Myanmar, see: *Legal Review of Recently Enacted Farmland Law and Vacant Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law*, Food Security Group - Land Core Group, November 2012.

therefore also lost their land. The land owners reported it to the resident KNU [Karen National Union] representative. Following these reports, he [Operations Commander (G3) Zaw Myo Tin] returned land to Saw C--- [whose confiscated land was nearby Saw B---'s]. [However], he forcibly asked him [Saw C---] to redeem his land for 2,500,000 kyat (US \$2,434.88). Since Saw C--- was afraid of him, he paid as requested. Now, Saw C--- is in trouble, as he is in debt for 2,500,000 kyat.

The land owners gathered together and reported to the Burmese Parliament representative U Saing Than Naing to try and stop their land being forcibly confiscated. However, there has been no response yet. The land owners then made further reports to the KNU. The KNU helped [some of] them [land owners] to get the opportunity to work on their own land.

I heard from a villager from D--- village, Saw E---, a member of the Land Management Committee in D--- village, Meh Ka Law village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw [Hpapun] District, that LIB #434 returned the lands to about five or six land owners in F-- village, Mel village tract, Bu Tho Township. As the land owners have been given their land back they are free to work on it without hindrance.

Some of the farmers who have had their land confiscated, approached a member of Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG) to ask about ways to get their land back. The KHRG member suggested some options. Acquiring the recommendation letter from the village tract land management leader to work on paddy fields which have been confiscated [by the Tatmadaw] is very difficult. This is because the village tract leader is very afraid to ask the Tatmadaw [soldiers for permission] in order to write the recommendation for the farmers whose land was confiscated. Some of the land owners whose lands were confiscated have to pay money [to the Burma/Myanmar government] to work on their land [because they do not have the signed permission form]. In order to apply for the Form 7 [which gives them permission to work on their land], they first need the recommendation letter from the village tract leader [who needs permission from the Tatmadaw]. The land owners also need a recommendation letter from the chairman of the Land Management Committee. [In Bu Tho Township], the village tract leader and the chairman of the Land Management Committee at the village tract level is the same person. Therefore, it is very difficult for a farmer to get this recommendation letter [as the village tract leader/chairman is too afraid]. The farmers who do not have the Form 7 do not get compensation for the land or compensation for their crops. There is a high possibility that the villagers' land will be confiscated indefinitely.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, (Received in October 2014)

Source Document #107

KHRG Log #:	14-92-S1
Publishing Information:	"Thaton Situation Update: Bilin Township, August to October 2014," KHRG, April 2015, http://www.khrg.org/sites/default/files/14-92-s1_wb_2.pdf
Project Type:	Militarisation, natural resource extraction
Location:	Bilin Township, Thaton District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, KNU, Myanmar private company

Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Negotiation
Full Text:	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>I am going to report about some townships and the situation of the villages that are in the area [Bilin Township] where I have been located from August 1st to October 31st 2014. The situation of the [Tatmadaw] military, the KNU [Karen National Union], development projects, and of NGOs [non-governmental organisations] is stated below.</p> <p>The situation of the villagers in the area</p> <p>I am going to report about the livelihoods, healthcare, education and the relationships of the villages that live in the area.</p> <p>The livelihoods of the villagers</p> <p>Most of the villagers' livelihoods consist of working on hill and paddy fields. It is the time [of the year] for them to start ploughing and planting the paddy. A month after the initial planting of the paddy is when it should start to grow. Lay Kay villagers said that since there was an abnormal amount of rain outside the rainy season, the snails ate their paddies, some paddy plants died and some did not grow well. On October 24th 2014 and onward, it was time for harvesting, however since they did not get much paddy, the villagers face difficulties. Some of the villagers have planted rubber trees, however they have heard that the market price of rubber has decreased, which causes them difficulty. Some of them have gone to Bangkok to work. There are now few youths in our area. Some of the youths who go to work in Bangkok can send money to their parents and some of them cannot.</p> <p>Healthcare in the area</p> <p>In terms of the healthcare sector, as it is the beginning of the rainy season and the weather has changed, [some of the villagers are suffering from] colds and fevers. They go to treat [their conditions] in the clinic which was set up [in the village] by the KNU. The health workers at the clinic stay in the clinic. The KNU give pre and post-natal training to midwives who come from many different villages. Villagers generally give birth in the village. In Yoh Klah village, the Burmese government set up a clinic for the villagers but the government health worker who is going to take care of the villagers does not want to live amongst the Karen people. I heard from the villagers that she said that if she is given the responsibility of injecting vaccines [for the villagers], she will come and inject the vaccine and then she will return to her village. In Lay Kay village, the villagers said that if they have disease, they have to go to Burmese [Tatmadaw] soldier health workers because the Burmese [Tatmadaw] army camp is close by, whereas the KNU clinic is very far. There is a Burmese [Tatmadaw] military clinic in the village. Although they do not ask the villagers to pay for the medicines [as it is free for the villagers], the villagers do not want to go [to the Tatmadaw military clinic]. As the KNU cannot come to set up a clinic in the village, they [villagers] have no choice and they have to go to the Burmese [Tatmadaw] military health workers. The villagers said that when we go to their clinic, they do not ask us to pay for the medicine, but if they do not have the medicine [that we need], we have to buy [the medicine] outside [of the camp]. They never have enough medicine in their clinic.</p>	

Education in the area

In terms of the education sector, I can see now that it has improved a little bit since the situation is getting a little bit better. I see that high schools are being set up and most of the nursery school teachers are from women organisations, the village, or Karen Baptist missionaries. Since there are more nursery schools, I heard that the villagers said that our children are able to go to school. The mothers are able to help their husbands at home more. The Burmese government primary schools are in Yo Klah village, Htee Hpah Doh Hta village, Lay Kay village and the villages that go down [lead] into the town. I see that [when the children] finish their primary school, they have to go and stay in other villages [to continue their education]. When they finish four standards [grade five] which is primary school, they have to take a government examination from the Burmese government school or KNU high school. However, if they take the government examination from a KNU school, it is difficult for them to get a recommendation for a school transfer when they move to another government school. If the students from the hill land area [mountainous areas] go to take the examination in the Burmese government school, it is very far. They therefore have to take the examination at the KNU government high school [in order to continue their education]. Most of the students go to the KNU high school because they are ordinary people [without much money]. Now, as Karen Baptist missionary teachers are around to help the villagers, they [the villagers] are able to send their children to school as the schooling is free, whereas before they had to pay. There are, however, also many children who have not gone to school yet.

The situation of the Burmese government military

In terms of the Burmese [Tatmadaw] military, I see that in Lay Kay village they are repairing their army camp to make it better. During this year's repairs, the villagers said that they [the soldiers] have cut down the villagers' trees, bamboo, and thatches [trees that villagers use to make thatching for their roofs]. As it was too late when the villagers saw [them cutting down their trees, bamboo and thatches], they could not do anything about it. I heard, however, that some villagers said that when they cut down the bamboo it is not only for [repairing] their camp. After they cut down the bamboo, they split it into pieces [secretly] so that no one knows that they [the soldiers] are selling them. After they split the bamboo, they sell them in the town. The villagers and the village head have complained to them, but they have just gone and cut down [the bamboo] in other places. The name of the column commander of the current Burmese [Tatmadaw] soldier group who are staying in Yoh Klah village is Thu Rein. The villagers said that [he] always goes to a house which is outside of the village to drink alcohol every night. I do not know what kind of plan he has. The name of their corporal⁸¹ is Kyaw Hsan. He travels to every village in the area. The villagers said that he asks for money from the people who trade in the black market. Moreover, he asks permission from his column commander to go to Kwee Lay village which is near to the [KNU] township office and he does not ask permission from the KNU leader. He asks permission from his captain and if his captain gives him permission, he goes. If his captain does not give him permission, he will not go. The villagers said that since he travels like that [without the permission of the KNU and to wherever he wants], they worry that there will be fighting [between the KNU and Tatmadaw]. The group of soldiers who travel like this in Yoh Klah village is Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) #4 (Kyaikto Township) which is under the control of Light Infantry Division (LID) #44.

The situation of the KNU

⁸¹ A Corporal commands one section. A section is a basic unit and is comprised of 10-11 men.

In terms of the KNU, in Ka Wa Hta and Htee Maw Hkee villages, I heard some villagers saying that the KNU and some bosses [rich people] are trading logs. If we look in terms of the side of the Burmese soldiers, the villagers said that as the Burmese soldiers who stay in Yoh Klah village have gone to other places, the villagers are worried that fighting will happen between KNU soldiers and Burmese soldiers [if they meet].

The situation of NGOs that are conducting development projects

[see hyperlink above for photo]

This photo was taken on October 24th 2014 in Thaton District, Bilin Township, P'ya Raw village tract in Lay Kay village by a KHRG community member. The photo shows villagers attending a three day healthcare training workshop in Lay Kay village given by Kyaw Swa Ko Ko Oo from UNHCR. There are 15 trainees attending the workshop. [Photo: KHRG]

In terms of NGOs, on October 23rd 2014, I arrived at Noh Ka Neh village and I saw an NGO conducting a development project [constructing a school] in Noh Ka Neh village. They met with the [Noh Ka Neh] village head and village elders on October 23rd 2014. The name of the organisation is SDC⁸²[Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation] and the name of the person who came to look for the place and met and interviewed the village member in charge is Saw Min Naung.

On November 25th 2014, I arrived at Lay Kay village and I saw that United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has come regarding the healthcare in the village. They gave [healthcare] training for three days and had a limit of 15 trainees.

Each of the trainees is given 2,000 kyat (US \$1.95) per day. The name of the trainer is Kyaw Swa Ko Ko Oo. Then I came back to Kyoh Weh village and I met and interviewed with the village head and some village elders. They [village head and village elders] said that the people from the NGO [SDC] who were conducting the development project said "Tell us the most important [thing] in your village and it will be solved for you." Kyoh Weh villagers requested a school but they were given a water supply. In terms of the water supply, the villagers wanted them to dig the wells at the center of the village, but they dug the well [for the villagers] near the river. This organisation arrived on April 19th 2014. [On] April 20th 2014, they built two water restoring houses⁸³ and dug a well. The villagers were not satisfied with this.

The information that I mention above is my opinion and my understanding of what the villagers have told.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Bilin Township, Thaton District, (Received in November 2014)

Source Document #108

KHRG Log #: 14-93-P2

⁸² The researcher does not write the completed acronym of the organisation which should be SADC.

⁸³ A water restoring house is a small structure containing a water pump.

Publishing Information:	"Dooplaya Photo Notes: Kawkareik Township, Received in November 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Tatmadaw, Myanmar private company
Compensation or Consultation:	No compensation, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Unknown
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p><i>[These photo notes are drawn from a longer document providing details for photographs taken in Hpapun District in September 2014. The other notes were not relevant to land confiscation in Myanmar since December 2012 and have been omitted for brevity.]</i></p> <p>Photo #: 0537 This photo [was taken on] September 17th 2014. It depicts the road that [is being] constructed between A--- and B--- villages in Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District. Villagers said that they were going to travel the old road but now it [new road] is constructed out across the field. Some villagers said that there was no compensation. It was constructed by Thoo Lei company and General Yan Naing is the person responsible for it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Photo Notes written by a KHRG Researcher, Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District, (Received in November 2014)</p>	

Source Document #109

KHRG Log #:	14-97-S1
Publishing Information:	"Hpapun Situation Update: Dwe Lo Township, May to November 2014," KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District
Actors:	Wealthy individuals, KNU
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation, no consultation
Consequences:	Environmental destruction, health issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p>Tatmadaw activity From May 5th to November 5th 2014, Tamadaw activities have [been] no different [than they have been in the past]. In our township, in Boo Loh Kloh valley, the Tatmadaw are based in A--- [village], B--- [village], C--- [village] and D--- [village]. Tatmadaw troops</p>	

rotate every four months. When they are patrolling they go to KNU limited control areas and patrol these areas as well. Fighting never happens. They [Tatmadaw] have no army camp recruitments and have not reduced it [their camp]. [They] still have the same [army camps as they did] in the past. At this time I cannot write if it is an IB or LIB at each place, I just [know that it is] Tatmadaw.

Forced labour

From May 5th to November 5th 2014 [there was] no forced labour or forced demands. If the Tatmadaw military needed leafs or bamboo ties⁸⁴ for building [they did] not demand [them from] us. For building, if [they] need bamboo ties and leafs [they] ask the head villager to find [the materials] for them and buy them, [and they] pay money [the same way] the villagers [would]. With regards to forced labour, the Tatmadaw are not forcing villagers to [work as] porters. They carry [their supplies] for themselves.

Civilian livelihoods

From [the beginning of] 2014 until now, civilians in our township are mostly [earning their] livelihoods from farming, hill field [cultivation], and sesame plantations. Since [the beginning of] 2014 the situation [is] getting better and the civilians are [earning] more. In the past [before the ceasefire], [some] plantations the people did not cultivate [and] [some] farms of the people could not be worked on. [However], this year the civilians farm all [these farms and] plantations. In the past, [the] DKBA was activate on the farms [and] plantations, [which became] desolate. Now [villagers] cut down the trees and clear the grass on the land in order to farm it.

Some villagers [are earning their] livelihood from cutting bamboo to sell [and] some sift for gold as well. The civilians [are earning their livelihood] from cutting bamboo to sell [and] sifting for gold because [they] have no property, [such as] a plantation or farm.

Education

Since [the beginning of] 2014, education has gotten better in our township. In the past, [some] villages had no school. Now [they are] establishing a school. The children [who are old enough] can all go to school [in their own village now].

If we look in our township, education is getting better. I am so happy [to see the better situation]. In the past, in some villages the children wanted to go to school [but they] had no school [in their village]. But this year, the villages which had no schools [are establishing] schools and their children can go to school. [Therefore] the children's parents are so happy.

Healthcare

In our township, the healthcare [we have] is one clinic in Ler Htoo Poh [village], Meh Thoo village tract. Some civilians, if [they are not] feeling well and live very far [from the clinic], cannot make it to that clinic. The [other] villages [and] village tracts have no clinic. There is [just one] township clinic [and it is] located in Ler Htoo Poh [village]. [In] some villages, the children go to study medicine and [then come back] to look after patients [in their own village]. Some *Tharas* [teachers] who look after the patients after they are treated have asked for money for medicine. For the people who have money, if they get a serious disease and go to a hospital in the towns it costs a lot of money.

In our township area civilians mostly suffer from health issues [such as] malaria, stroke,

⁸⁴ Bamboo ties are thin splints of bamboo that are used as a stiff rope to secure or 'tie' things together.

[and] bird flu. [Those are] the most serious diseases. Some [people] suffering from serious issues [such as a] stroke cannot get treatment and become paralysed.

Gold mining

From 2009 to 2014 gold mining did not stop in the Dwe Lo Township area. I have done research to understand this gold mining [issue]. If we look back at [the reason for gold mining] it is not due to a mistake by the [KNU] leaders. The [KNU] leaders stay in their own areas. The [powerful] civilians who live in town and in our township are very good at convincing [the leaders to allow them to gold mine] so the leaders gave them permission. After they [KNU] did this [gave permission], the civilians who suffer [are the ones] that are not good at speaking and have no power. They are suffering due to contaminated water [and] a lack of access to fresh water. If I look back at this [situation] it is not the fault of the leaders. The leaders are trying their best to manage [the gold mining]. If I look back at the gold mining [issue], although some villagers said that their lands had been destroyed, they were compensated enough for the land that had been destroyed. If I look at this, [to me] it cannot [be seen as] an abuse of their rights. With regards to gold mining, [the issue] is not the leaders, it is between the civilians.

Conclusion

At this time I am sending this report to document the above [issues]. As I see it, civilians told me [about the issues] and I report them.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District, (Received in November 2014)

Source Document # 110

KHRG Log #:	15-3-A1-I1
Publishing Information:	“Hpa-an Interview: U A---, November 2014,” KHRG, May 2015, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/15-3-a1-i1_1.pdf
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Paingkyon Township, Hpa-an District
Actors:	KNLA/KNU-PC
Compensation or Consultation:	N/A
Consequences:	Violent threats/abuse
VA Strategies:	Other
Full Text:	
<p>Ethnicity: Karen Religion: Buddhist Marital Status: Married Occupation: Cultivation Position: Villager</p> <p>What is your name?</p> <p>My name is U A---.</p>	

How old are you?

I am 49 years old.

Where do you live?

I live in B--- village.

B--- [village] is based in which village tract?

It is based in Ta Kreh village tract.

Please can you be more specific?

Thay Maw Koo village tract.⁸⁵

Which township?

Ta Kreh [Paingkyon] Township.

Good! Do you have family?

Yes I do.

How many children do you have?

I have three children.

What is the age of your oldest child?

My oldest child is 12 years old.

What is the age of your youngest child?

My youngest child is two years old.

What do you do for living?

I work on cultivation.

What do the people call your village?

They call it B--- village.

What do the people in B--- village do for their living?

They mostly work in cultivation.

⁸⁵ The interviewee states two village tracts because the first time he provided the wrong one.

Do you have any problems with your work?

There is not a big problem, just a little one.

In the village is there anything which has hurt a villager or caused an incident?

Yes, there was an incident.

What was the incident?

On October 8th [2014] we celebrated Ka Htein festival.⁸⁶ We have a pagoda and we respect our religion. On October 9th a monk was arrested.

Who arrested the monk?

The military.

Which group of military?

KPC [KNLA/KNU-PC] military group.

How many members of the KPC are there in that group [which arrested the monk]? Have you heard about this?

I don't know about that because I have never been a soldier.

Yes, true, you have never been a soldier. I meant when the people came to arrest the monk how many people did you think were coming?

Five people.

Was it day time or night time?

It was in the morning at 9:30 am.

Do you know their commander's name?

Their commander's name is Ta Wah.

What is his position?

His position is a company commander.

He is a company commander?

Yes.

⁸⁶ The Ka Htein festival is an annual Buddhist festival, whereby villagers donate robes and money to their local monastery.

What is his company's [name]?

I am not sure about this.

Do you know his battalion commander?

His battalion commander's name is Naw Pay.

Now, where does his battalion commander live?

He lives in Ka Rer Poo.

Why do you call it Ka Rer Poo?

In Karen we call it Ka Rer Poo.

Is there any other name?

Meh La Ka Rer Poo.

Meh La Ka Rer Poo, OK. How many armed groups are there in Ka Rer Poo?

I am not certain.

Which armed group usually lives there?

Puh Yay Noo is the leader [of the KNLA/KNU-PC based in this area].

What is the name of Puh Yay Noo's group?

We call them the KPC [KNLA/KNU-PC].

OK, thanks. You said the person who arrested the monk is Company Commander Ta Wah, so why did he arrest the monk? What is reason behind this? Can you tell me?

In the past they wanted to do logging in a garden. The monk did not let him do the logging. I think he [Company Commander Ta Wah] does not like the monk.

Why he does not like the monk?

He does not like the monk because he did not allow him to do the logging.

What kind of trees did he ask for to do the logging?

T'la aw trees.

Where are the *t'la aw* trees?

They are in B--- village.

Where are the *t'la aw* trees based?

They are based in the monastery garden.

Are they only based in that area or are they located in wild areas?

They [the trees] are only in the monastery garden.

Are there any *t'la aw* trees in the four or five acres surrounding the monastery?

There are no *t'la aw* trees in the surrounding area, only in the garden.

You said, in the monastery garden there are *t'la aw* trees which are protected by the monk so what do you think is the purpose of the monk [preventing the trees from being logged]?

The purpose of [this specific] monk is to build the monastery and to protect the *t'la aw* trees so villagers who do not have enough leaves for their roofs can use them.

Say everything that you know. We are discussing like we normally speak. Don't be shy or afraid of anything. Now we will go back to Company Commander Ta Wah who arrested the monk following a logging incident that the monk prevented. What about other things? Did any other conflict occur between them?

I do not know about that.

After they arrested the monk do you know where they held him?

They brought the monk to the place where he [Company Commander Ta Wah] lives.

Do they live in a hut or an army camp?

Army camp.

Do you think there are many people in their camp?

There are not many people.

I asked [about] only soldiers [how many are in the camp]. You said there are not many soldiers?

Yes, there are not many soldiers.

Is it based near the road? Can travellers see the army camp when they walk on the road or is it far from the road?

They live on Meh La road, a junction which is split from Meh La road to Ka Nuh Hta,

and the road from Meh La Ka Rer Poo to Ka Teh.

Starting from Meh La Ka Rer Poo and travelling to B--- village, how long will it take to walk on foot?

If you go by foot I think it will take one hour.

You said one hour away, so it is very far? After they brought the monk to their place [army camp] what did they continuously do to the monk?

After they brought the monk to the army camp they went to Ka Nuh Hta road. They went one furlong away and hit and burnt his back and then killed him.

They directly⁸⁷ killed him?

Yes, they directly killed him.

Did someone see what they did?

No one saw what they did. There were only the five soldiers there.

After the monk was dead what did they do [with the corpse]?

After he died they buried him.

We will repeat a little bit starting from when they arrested him. After that [his arrest] they went back to the army camp and killed the monk. How did they get there [to the camp]?

They travelled by car.

When they went to kill him did they go by car?

Yes they did.

Good, after that you said they hit the monk and burnt his back and killed him, so how did you know [that he was beaten and burnt]?

I knew because they poured oil on his robes. The monk had no robes on his back [when we recovered the corpse].⁸⁸

You told me you saw with your eyes; how did you see this?

I saw he was wearing his robes when he was going out.

⁸⁷ By 'directly' the researcher is trying to determine if the interviewee believes it was the intention of the soldiers to kill the monk after they had beaten him.

⁸⁸ When the monk was arrested he was wearing robes. They poured oil on his robes and set him alight. When the villagers reclaimed his body his robes had been burnt away.

Did you witness the attack?

I was with him only for half of the way.

Where did they arrest the monk?

I went with him half way. When he got in the car I was not with him anymore. I was with him in the monastery garden but outside of the monastery I was not with him.

Have you seen where they buried him?

Yes. How did I see? I saw because one of the arresting soldiers showed us.

One of his soldiers wanted to show you so then you got to see the corpse?

Yes.

After they buried the corpse did they continue to do something?

No, they did not. We went to take him out [from his grave] and then did a memory worship program for him in the monastery.

Why did you take him out?

[He] is our monk. They should not keep him in the forest. We knew they already killed him so we asked him [the arresting soldier] to show us [where they buried him] and we dug him up. We brought back his corpse to the monastery. We gave him a bath and had a memory worship program.

You removed the corpse?

Yes, the whole village went to remove his corpse.

The whole village went?

Yes, the whole village. A monk, C---, also went.

I understand much more clearly. It seems like the people burnt his back and hit him to death. You said his back was burnt with fire so did you see his injuries?

Yes, I saw his injuries.

Which part was badly affected when they hit him?

We could not touch his head and temples because they were so badly injured. There is a lot of evidence to prove he was beaten.

Did anyone take photos?

Yes, many people took photos. I have a video with me.

What about photos?

There are some photos on people's phones.

How many days did you wait before you went to remove his corpse?

We waited only one day before removing his corpse.

You brought the corpse back to the monastery then you buried him?

No, we did not bury him. We cremated his corpse.

We can say [the monk who was killed] was a senior monk. After he passed away what did you do about Company Commander Ta Wah? Are you able to do anything with this case? Because Ta Wah did commit murder. What did the villagers do? Did you submit a complaint to someone?

We submitted [the case] to their [Company Commander Ta Wah's] leaders.

You submitted it to their leader?

Yes, we submitted it to their leaders.

Do you think their leaders will do something to them?

The leaders have not let us know if they are going to do something so we do not know anything.

If you do not know please say you do not know. You are able to submit a killing case to their leaders. What will the leaders do [with that case] you do not know?

We do not know.

Another thing we talked about is the monk passing away. The monastery has been left behind so can you find another monk to replace him?

We have not found anyone yet. We should wait for the order from monk C---. We must find someone, but monk C--- has not said anything yet so we cannot start looking for anyone yet.

You told me about the senior monk, do you know his name?

Yes his name is Ku Tha La.

He is a senior monk?

Yes.

Where did he live?

He lived in Htee Klay village.

Htee Klay is located in which township?

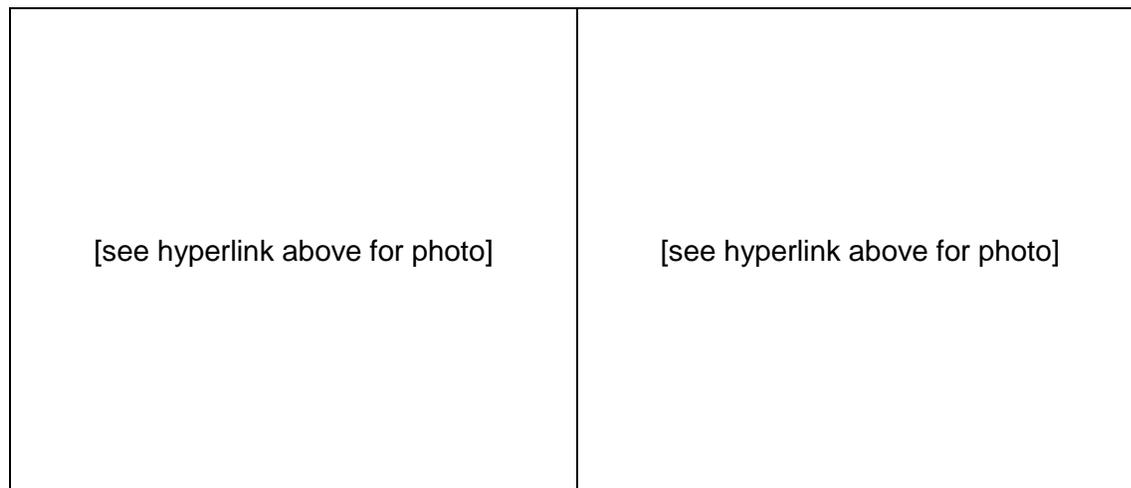
Kaw T'Ree [Kawkareik] Township.

I do not mind if you do not know. I think it should be based in T'Nay Hsa [Nabu] Township. I am also guessing that because Htee Klay is located there. OK, you told me about an incident occurring and I understood much better. Would you like to say anything that I have not questioned you about? If you want to say you can say to me.

I do not know other information. I know only what I have told you.

The information that you have, you have told me. I do not know anything; I asked you what I knew and you answered with the information that you have. I mean you and I talked and you gave me some detailed information. I want to say thank you. All your family will be safe from sickness and troubles. Thank you very much.

Thank you.



The above photos were taken in B--- village, Thay Maw Koo village tract, *Paingkyon* Township, Hpa-an District by a Karen Office of Relief and Development (KORD) researcher. The photo on the left shows the monastery compound and the *t'la aw* trees in the background. The photo on the right shows the exhumed body of the senior monk who had been arrested, beaten, set on fire and buried by five KNU/KNLA-PC soldiers for denying them the right to log *t'la aw* trees in the monastery's garden.
[Photos: KORD]

U A---, (male, 49), B--- village,
Paingkyon Township, Hpa-an District, (Interviewed in November 2014)

KHRG Log #:	14-40-S1
Publishing Information:	“ Toungoo Situation Update: Thandaunggyi Township, April to June 2014, ” KHRG, December 2014, http://www.khrq.org/sites/default/files/14-40-s1_0.pdf
Project Type:	Militarisation
Location:	Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District
Actors:	Tatmadaw
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p>Intro</p> <p>In Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District, there are ongoing issues with farmland confiscation for military use. There are also [livelihood] problems with the civilians. The [information in this] report was collected between April and June [2014] and concerns the situation civilians face in regard to education, healthcare, social and livelihoods issues.</p> <p>Education</p> <p>In A--- village, Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District, there is a government sub-middle school and there are 140 students and 11 teachers. There are some [school age] children who are not able to go to school. [Often] it is too far to travel in order to continue with high school after completing middle school. They have to go to the nearest town to continue their schooling. Some children stop going to school and some children cannot go to school and have to quit school as their parents cannot afford to send them to school. In the 2014-2015 academic year, the Burma government said they provided 1,000 kyat (US \$0.97) to [each] student, but the female school teacher [in A--- village], Naw Mel George, cut it out [did not pay] by saying that she paid out [that money] for the [school] books' transportation cost. The [Burma/Myanmar] government said it is free to learn [at school]. They [Burma/Myanmar government] send school teachers [to the school] and moreover this year they distributed the text books freely, but they did not build the house for the teachers [to live in]. The villagers had to collect money, 3,000 kyat (US \$2.90) from each house [in the village], to support [building] the housing for the teachers [to stay in]. There are 128 houses in the village and they had to build the house for the teachers by themselves.</p> <p>In Shwe Nyaung Bin village, Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District, there are 140 houses. There is a school in the village and it operates as a sub-middle school. There are 200 students in the school and over ten school teachers. The students from the 2012 to 2014 academic year had the opportunity to study freely [with no school fees], but the kindergarten students parent's had to buy them a chair [to use at school]. Within this year [2014] one set of parents had many weaknesses [setbacks] in earning their livelihood. Their three children are studying in primary school and the school's female head-mistress asked them “<i>Do you want to take the [3,000 kyat] support money [from the Burma/Myanmar government] for your three children?</i>” They [students' parents] replied “Yes”. The teacher said that “<i>After you take the [support] money, 3,000 [kyat],</i></p>	

you have to pay 5,000 [kyat] (US \$4.84) for the school fundraising fee and school repairing fee.” The student’s parents did not take the money and as they do not have 2,000 [kyat] (US \$1.93) more to pay for the school [fundraising and repair fee], they are having problems with that.

In Thandaunggyi Township, Leik Tho sub-township,⁸⁹ Lay Law Way village, there are over 50 students and four teachers in the primary school. Some teachers are from other territories [village tracts or towns] so we have to provide housing for them. The teachers from other territories go home once a month and stay for one week every time they go home. Sometimes they have to go to teacher meetings [held by the Burma/Myanmar government], so the students have less time to learn [from the teachers]. Because of these issues, the students are not happy at school and spend more time with outsiders [older, non-student friends] and they are not happy in school as they have strong relationships with outsiders and they have lost the will to study or they quit school.

In Thandaunggyi Township, A--- village, three NRC [Norwegian Refugee Council] staff gather the children who cannot afford to go to school and they teach them two days a week. They try in this way, but [the students] are still unqualified [behind their peers].

Healthcare

In Toungoo District, Thandaunggyi Township area, there is the civilian Number Two hospital and the Bu Yin Naung military hospital. There are no clinics in [most] village tracts in that township [Thandaunggyi, however] for village tracts that are situated close to the road, they [Burma/Myanmar government] built a clinic for them. There are some mid-wives who come to the local areas [remote villages], but they do not come into Maung Nwe Gyi village tract, Kon Taing village tract, Leik Pya Gyi village tract and Leik Pya Ka Lay village tract areas. They [mid-wives] do not vaccinate [the children] in a timely fashion.

In some villages, there is a clinic, but there is no medicine and it is a difficult and problematic to treat the patients [when they come to the clinic]. Because of this, the duty medics [from the government] buy the medicines personally and treat the patients. There are also some medics who cannot afford to buy medicine to treat the patients. In some villages, they treat the patients [despite the fact that they have no formal training] and it causes unexpected additional problems.

On June 4th 2014, in Toungoo District, Thandaunggyi Township, a pregnant woman in Meh Thin Hka Gyi village [became sick]. She did not take any pre-natal medicine and she had never taken [pre-natal] vitamins [during her pregnancy] or when she was sick. There is no clinic, hospital or medics [mid-wives] to treat her so they [a local villager] treated her [in Meh Thin Hka Gyi village] to the best of their abilities and there was a shocking [adverse reaction] with the injection. There was no medicine to stop that [reaction]. The woman was pregnant and because of the [wrong] injection, sores began appearing in her mouth and she was taken on a two day trip to the hospital. When she arrived at the hospital [the staff] asked the medics about the woman’s situation and they [medics] knew the woman situation [and told them]. They [hospital staff] said she [the medic] can take [legal] action against the person who treated her [the pregnant woman]. After, they [medics] said that they [the hospital staff] did not treat the patient, even though the patient was in the hospital for a week. The patient had to comeback

⁸⁹ A sub-township is an administrative unit comprised of several village tracts, which in turn are comprised of 5 to 20 villages in a local area.

without having medical treatment from the hospital [as she could not afford to pay for treatment].

On May 29th 2014, in Toungoo District, Thandaunggyi Township, a villager from A--- village delivered her baby. There were mid-wives appointed by the [Burma/Myanmar] government, but they were never in the village. She had to deliver the baby with a hired [non-formally trained] midwife. Because she delivered the baby with a hired mid-wife, it took so long that her placenta did not come out and the hired mid-wife [had to] cut her placenta out with scissors. The blood ran without stopping and she died. If there were mid-wives [from the Burma/Myanmar government] and medicine, we could have saved the pregnant woman.

Some patients who are doing well [in business] and who have dignity [wealth] go to Bu Yin Naung military hospital for their medical treatment. The Bu Yin Naung military hospital has expertise in surgery and they have plenty of different medicines. For Thandaunggyi town hospital and Thandaung Myo Thit hospital, there are medics there for healthcare, but there are no medicines [in the hospital]. Some medics in the hospital buy medicines and do medical treatment for the patients, but it has become a business [for the medics] at the expenses of the patients, so that it is difficult for the people who are not in good health to go to the hospital [for medical treatment]. The civilians from the local side [Karen villages] requested that the [Burma/Myanmar] government set up a clinic in the villages for healthcare, but the government did nothing with the request and they [villagers] are facing problems.

They [Burma/Myanmar government] should do work that benefits the local people instead of supporting unnecessary work [that does not benefit villagers]. If they do it that way, it will lift up the social standards of the local people.

Social problems in Toungoo District

In Thandaunggyi town, Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District, the [Tatmadaw] Bu Yin Naung military camp came and opened [a base in] the town. In the town there is the military for the security [of the army base] and there are other troops from different military departments. Some of the military officers from different areas [around Burma/Myanmar] are familiar with the local people and there are some unnecessary problems that happen between military officers and the villagers. Recently, in A--- village near Thandaunggyi town, an unknown deserter⁹⁰ from Tatmadaw Military Operations Command (MOC) #1, Light Infantry Division (LID) #506, Taunggyi troop, attempted to rape a woman from A--- village who was coming back alone to the village from buying things from Thandaunggyi town. But when she tried to push away the deserter her clothes were torn off and she had to face him with shyness [shame]. She did not want to face this situation, but as long as the government troops [Tatmadaw] are in the area [village], there will always be something to worry about.

Livelihoods

In Toungoo District, Thandaunggyi Township area, most people do plantation [work for their livelihoods]. In Toungoo District, Thandaunggyi Township, A--- village, in the plantation between Nan Khyein Khwin village and Shwe Nyaung Bin village, [Tatmadaw] Bu Yin Naung troop from [Thandaunggyi] town did a heavy weapons target

⁹⁰ In a previously published report the perpetrator is identified as Tun Thein from Light Infantry Battalion #506. For more information on this incident see "[Toungoo Incident Report: Sexual assault in Thandaunggyi Township, December 2013](#)," KHRG, May 2014.

exercise for military training and it was very difficult for [the villagers] to conduct livelihood activity on the plantation. On that land [the villagers] had been working since their ancestors' time. Since 2000, it was confiscated as military land.

In Toungoo District, in ten villages in Thandaunggyi Township there is a Mya Sein Yaung company project called Reducing Poverty. For that project they will provide 30,000,000 [kyat] (US \$29,041.62) for each village. They gathered ten villages and explained about the money that will be provided to the villages [for this project]. The village representatives attended the meeting and when they explained it to the villagers they were happy and they expected for it [to happen]. The reason why they accepted [this support] was because this year [2014] the plantations produced fewer products. During this year, because of the natural disaster [strong] winds, the plants that the local people mostly rely on [for their livelihoods], such as cardamom trees, fell down on the ground and were damaged.

Mya Sein Yaung Company project provided support [money] to the local villages. For the villages that accept the support, some village representatives prioritize [the money] to their relatives and friends and they threaten the local people in many kind of ways [if they complain]. The amount of money that will be sent is 30,000,000 kyat and there are over 160 houses in the village. Most people in Shwe Nyaung Bin village do odd-jobs and the committees said if they [villagers] want to request money from the committees that provide money, they [villagers] have to pawn something for it. They prioritize [the money] to those who have a good income. For the interest, they charge 50 pya (US \$0.0004) for 1 kyat (US \$0.0009). It is difficult for the people who do not have money. It is difficult for them to go on with their livelihoods if they do not borrow money and they are facing many kinds of difficulties. The government proclaimed it "Reducing Poverty", but nothing has changed for the poor.

In this year [2014], the [amount of] crops produced is less [than normal] and the crop [output] is low. For dog fruit, the villagers sell 2,500 (US \$2.42) or 3,000 kyat (US \$2.90) for one big tin of dog fruit. And if a person spends time picking and cracking the dog fruit all day they can make only one or two big tins of dog fruit. The price of goods is high and the livelihoods for the families are not going well.

The price of the goods is high and this year [2014] for the workers their daily income is 2,500 to 3,000 kyat. The current goods' price is based on the income of local government officers. For the plantation workers and rubber tapping workers they have problems. One pound of rubber is [worth] 500 kyat (US \$0.48) and is never sufficient for the family livelihoods. Because day labour work is unavailable [difficult to find], it is unavoidable to work on rubber plantations for a family's [livelihood].

Perspective and opinion

In Thandaunggyi Township, some development projects that the government does benefit the people, and some projects do not benefit the people. If the government effectively handles the hospitals, clinics and education that benefit the people, there will be benefits for the civilians.

Land Confiscation

There has been land confiscation from local people for the purpose of unnecessary things like government buildings and land for the military. They also use [the land] for military target practice and they confiscated over 5,000 acres of land from the local people in Thandaunggyi Township area. It includes the local people's plantations and it

is difficult to solve their livelihoods problems. My statement [opinion] is if they returned the confiscated land [from the civilians] to the civilians, it can be helpful for the [civilians to be able to work for their livelihoods].

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District, (Received in July 2014)

Source Document #112

KHRG Log #:	14-46-S1
Publishing Information:	“Toungoo Situation Update: Thandaunggyi Township, March 2014,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Infrastructure
Location:	Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District
Actors:	Unknown
Compensation or Consultation:	Compensation promised, consultation unknown
Consequences:	Unknown
VA Strategies:	Unknown
Full Text:	
<p>I went together with a KNU column⁹¹ and met with the villagers.</p> <p>Column Commander Saw Kon Aung, Deputy Column Commander Saw He Ka Lay, [other individual censored for security reasons] and the villagers introduced [themselves to] each other in A--- village, Ka Saw Law Ka Waw [village tract], Thandaunggyi Township. We [then] discussed [Myanmar government] censorship and taxation with the local villagers. The KNU column [then] took a rest at the rubber plantation. On the evening of March 27th 2014, they [KNU column] found an [electro] fishing machine in a hut on the rubber plantation. According to [the head] of the animal husbandry and fishery [department], the KNU found the electrofishing machine. I met with A--- villagers in the evening of [March] 26th. I arrived at B--- village, Ka Saw Law Ka Waw [village tract], Thandaunggyi Township on March 27th 2014. I met with B--- villagers in the evening. The soldiers from the KNU introduced themselves [to the villagers], the administrator from B--- village introduced himself to the villagers, and Saw Da Hta explained the five principles [of animal husbandry and fishing practices to the villagers]. P'Doh Aung Ko Lat [also] explained about animal husbandry and fishery [practices]. He [then] discussed [the issue] with the villagers. I questioned Saw C---, who is 44 years old and the township leader, about road construction in D--- village, Thandaunggyi [Township]. I [also] took a photo of a list of [villagers] to be paid compensation for [the destruction caused by the] road construction. We met with the villagers in D--- [village] in the evening and we introduced [ourselves to] each other. The column commander Saw Kon Aung explained about the protected community forest in the village. On March 30th 2014, Column Commander Kon Aung and Naw Thida Htun [met with the] Karen Woman Empowerment Group and discussed [Karen women's issues] in E--- village, Thandaunggyi Township. The elders of the community in E--- village banned the selling</p>	

⁹¹ Combination of companies assembled for operations, usually 100-300 soldiers fighting strength.

of alcohol in the village and they [KNU representatives] could not warn U Nay Lin and U Min Oo [about it], who were selling the alcohol.

On March 30th 2014, I arrived at F--- village, Thandaunggyi Township. We met with the villagers and Major Tun Ke from KNU gave a speech. The villagers said that they do not have rights. We arrived at G--- village on March 31st 2014 and [then] we went back to Leik Tho [Town] by the taxi.

Situation Update written by a KHRG Researcher,
Thandaunggyi Township, Toungoo District, (Received in July 2014)

Source Document #113

KHRG Log #:	14-7-V1
Publishing Information:	“Dooplaya Interview: Naw A---, November 2014,” KHRG, (first publication)
Project Type:	Natural resource extraction
Location:	Kyonedoe Township, Dooplaya District
Actors:	Unknown
Compensation or Consultation:	Unknown
Consequences:	Livelihood issues
VA Strategies:	Other
Full Text:	
<p>Now look, they take so much of other people’s property. They are not human, they are animal dogs. [These] animal dogs, I wanted to kill all of them as soon as I saw my paddy field. Yes, now look at our ancestors’ land that has been given to us, it is all being destroyed. They do business and get money. For us we have to sacrifice, suffer, and we get nothing out of it. How much can they bully us? What is human? We are equally human, yet they do not know whether other people will be hurt or suffer. They just care about their profits and are satisfied if they get money, not caring about other people’s suffering and destruction. It is not human, it is animal.</p> <p>If [they are] human they should not continue like this. Other [people’s] property may be damaged and [they just] let it be damaged, they are not concerned [about it]. These kinds of humans, they do not live long. They destroy our paddy field that we are working on by mining and scattering stones on the paddy field. Is that their ancestor’s paddy field? When we complain, none of them admit [their involvement]. What [are these] animal dogs? If they were human they would not act like this. Before there were no stones in the field, now look: A lot of stones in the field. What kind of people are they? Even I complained and no one responded. This is also my older brother’s [land]. They [mine workers] came and dropped stones [on our field]. This is my older brother’s paddy field. Even we went and told them but it does not work. They scatter the stones too much and they do not care even if you complain... <i>[unintelligible audio]</i> ... On this side there are no plants, just a vehicle road. In the paddy field we plant vegetables and paddy; [now] all are destroyed. They just laugh at me when I complain to them. They do not care about what I am saying. They can do whatever they want with a package of their money, but for us, with only our voices, what can we do? They can sell the stone</p>	

for around 100,000 kyat (US \$91.49) for one truck. But for us we can only sell a bag of rice for 1,000 (US \$0.91) or 2,000 (US \$1.82) kyat. They can do things with money that we cannot do. Now the water trench has been blocked.

Naw A--- (female), D--- village,
Kyonedoe Township, Dooplaya District, (Interviewed in February 2014)



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Please insert information regarding land confiscation reported by villagers into this form. The objective is to report evidence of land confiscation to the Karen National Union, Myanmar government, organisations active on the issue of land rights in Myanmar, and the international community. According to the guidelines, KHRG field researchers should collect as much evidence as possible.

1. Land owner and usage

Name of land owner	Through what means do they own the land? (Inherited, bought, borrowed, etc.)	How much land has been confiscated?	What is planted on the land?	Does the owner have a land grant? (If yes, Please take a photograph)
Saw A---	Inherited	Half an acre	Farmland	Yes (but has been lost)

2. Land confiscation

- The exact date of land confiscation: *May 20th 2012*
- The location of the confiscated land (village, village tract, township, district): *B--- village, K'Ter Ti village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District*
- Land confiscators (e.g. armed groups, Myanmar government, wealthy individuals, etc.): *Myanmar government*

3. Project type

- Type of business or development project (e.g. gold mining, dam construction, rubber plantation, etc.): *Camp construction by BGF Battalion #1013*

- Project organiser/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Project implementer/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Start date: *May 10th 2012*
- End date: *Nearly finished but not completed yet*

4. Consultation

1. When did villagers hear about the land confiscation - what was the exact date, and how did they find out about it?
 - *The villagers have known about the land confiscation since May 20th 2012. They heard [about it] from the farm owner.*
2. Did any groups come to give information to the villagers? If yes, who attended the meeting/discussion?
 - *Hpapun District Governor U Shwe is the one who came to inform the villagers. The villagers who went to the meeting are Saw C---, Saw D---, Saw E---, and Saw G---.*
3. Did the villagers have to sign any agreements? If yes, please take a photo of the agreement form.
 - *The villagers had to agree because Hteh Ner Ser convinced the villagers that he is (a peace representative) from KNU headquarters. The villagers mistakenly signed the agreement. We [later] found out he is actually a follower of General Htain Maung.*

5. Compensation

1. Did villagers receive compensation for the land that was confiscated? If yes, what compensation did they receive? Were the villagers informed that they were to be given compensation?
 - *They were compensated with the amount of 400,000 kyat (US \$365.97).*

2. Did the land confiscators provide the amount of compensation they had promised? If not, what did villagers do when they did not receive the compensation they had been promised? Were the villagers satisfied with the compensation?
 - *They [the land confiscators] gave the same amount as they promised. They ordered the villagers to say that they are satisfied with the compensation. Since we mistakenly signed the agreement, we cannot do anything.*

6. Village agency/collective action

1. Did villagers agree or disagree with the development project? If they agreed with the project, please explain how they supported it, and why.
 - *The villagers disagreed with this project, and did not support it.*
2. Did villagers resist the project? If so, please explain how villagers resisted the project, and why.
 - *The villagers could not protest the project because they had already mistakenly signed the agreement.*
3. What type of strategies, either individual or collective, did villagers employ to resist the project? (E.g. submitting complaint letters, forming committees, conducting demonstrations, etc.) Please explain clearly in detail (including the time and place).
 - *The villagers tried to appeal [the agreement] and reported the information to the responsible [KNU] leaders, and we tried to report about it as much as we could.*
4. How did villagers try to protect their land? What kinds of strategies did they use?
 - *We could not do anything; we only tried to report it.*
5. Did the villagers get back their lands because of villager action or media reports? If yes, please explain the events in detail.
 - *The villagers tried, but they could not get their land back; they could only give the information [to relevant stakeholders].*

Source Document #2b



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

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1. Land owner and usage

Name of land owner	Through what means do they own the land? (Inherited, bought, borrowed, etc.)	How much land has been confiscated?	What is planted on the land?	Does the owner have a land grant? (If yes, Please take a photograph)
U A---	Inherited	Ten Acres	Farmland	No

2. Land confiscation

- The exact date of land confiscation: *May20th 2012*
- The location of the confiscated land (village, village tract, township, district): *B--- village, K'Ter Ti village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District*
- Land confiscators (e.g. armed groups, Myanmar government, wealthy individuals, etc.): *Myanmar government*

3. Project type

- Type of business or development project (e.g. gold mining, dam construction, rubber plantation, etc.): *Camp construction by BGF Battalion #1013*

- Project organiser/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Project implementer/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Start date: *May 10th 2012*
- End date: *Nearly finished but not completed yet*

4. Consultation

1. When did villagers hear about the land confiscation - what was the exact date, and how did they find out about it?

- *The Villagers have known about the land confiscation since May 20th 2012.*

2. Did any groups come to give information to the villagers? If yes, who attended the meeting/discussion?

- *Hpapun District Governor U Shwe is the one who came and informed the villagers. The villagers who went to the meeting are Saw D---, Saw C---, Saw D---, and Saw E---.*

3. Did the villagers have to sign any agreements? If yes, please take a photo of the agreement form.

- *The villagers had to agree. Hteh Ner Ser convinced the villagers that he is (a peace representative) from KNU headquarters, so the villagers mistakenly signed the agreement. Actually, we found out [later] that he is a follower [soldier] of General Htain Maung.*

5. Compensation

1. Did villagers receive compensation for the land that was confiscated? If yes, what compensation did they receive? Were the villagers informed that they were to be given compensation?

- *They compensated U A--- for two acres of farmland with 900,000 Kyats (US \$823.42); one acre amounted to 450,000 kyats (US \$411.71).*

2. Did the land confiscators provide the amount of compensation they had promised? If not, what did villagers do when they did not receive the compensation they had been promised? Were the villagers satisfied with the compensation?
 - *They [land confiscators] said they would give the same amount [of compensation] that the villagers asked for. They ordered the villagers to say that they were satisfied with the compensation. We cannot do anything as we mistakenly signed the agreement.*

6. Village agency/collective action

1. Did villagers agree or disagree with the development project? If they agreed with the project, please explain how they supported it, and why.
 - *The villagers disagreed with this [project], and we did not support the project.*
2. Did villagers resist the project? If so, please explain how villagers resisted the project, and why.
 - *The villagers could not resist the project because they had already mistakenly signed the agreement.*
3. What type of strategies, either individual or collective, did villagers employ to resist the project? (E.g. submitting complaint letters, forming committees, conducting demonstrations, etc.) Please explain clearly in detail (including the time and place).
 - *The villagers tried to appeal and report the information to the appropriate leaders.⁹² We gave this information to the [KHRG] researcher to report about it.*
4. How did villagers try to protect their land? What kinds of strategies did they use?
 - *One way [they tried to protect their land] was reporting about what had happened.*
5. Did the villagers get back their lands because of villager action or media reports? If yes, please explain the events in detail.
 - *They villagers did not get back the land, as the government had constructed the buildings already.*

⁹² KHRG was unable to determine which group this was in reference to, either the Tatmadaw or the KNU.

Source Document #3b



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

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1. Land owner and usage

Name of land owner	Through what means do they own the land? (Inherited, bought, borrowed, etc.)	How much land has been confiscated?	What is planted on the land?	Does the owner have a land grant? (If yes, Please take a photograph)
Saw A---	Inherited	Four acres	Rubber trees	No

2. Land confiscation

- The exact date of land confiscation: *May 20th 2012*
- The location of the confiscated land (village, village tract, township, district): *B--- [village], K'Ter Ti village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District*
- Land confiscators (e.g. armed groups, Myanmar government, wealthy individuals, etc.): *Myanmar government*

3. Project type

- Type of business or development project (e.g. gold mining, dam construction, rubber plantation, etc.): *Camp construction by BGF Battalion #1013*

- Project organiser/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Project implementer/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Start date: *May 10th 2012*
- End date: *Nearly finished but not completed yet*

4. Consultation

1. When did villagers hear about the land confiscation - what was the exact date, and how did they find out about it?
 - *The villagers have known about the land confiscation since May 20th 2012. The villagers heard about it from the farm owners.*
2. Did any groups come to give information to the villagers? If yes, who attended the meeting/discussion?
 - *Hpapun District Governor U Shwe is the one who came to inform the villagers. The villagers who went to the meeting are Saw C---, Saw D---, Saw E---, and Saw A---.*
3. Did the villagers have to sign any agreements? If yes, please take a photo of the agreement form.
 - *The villagers had to agree. Hteh Ner Ser convinced the villagers that he is from KNU headquarters, so they mistakenly signed the agreement.*

5. Compensation

1. Did villagers receive compensation for the land that was confiscated? If yes, what compensation did they receive? Were the villagers informed that they were to be given compensation?
 - *They [land confiscators] did compensate for four acres of the rubber plantation (trees ready for tapping) for 800,000 kyat (US \$731.92) each (totaling 32,000,000 kyat (US \$2,927.72) for four acres).*

2. Did the land confiscators provide the amount of compensation they had promised? If not, what did villagers do when they did not receive the compensation they had been promised? Were the villagers satisfied with the compensation?

- *The villagers were not satisfied with the compensation but they cannot do anything.*

6. Village agency/collective action

1. Did villagers agree or disagree with the development project? If they agreed with the project, please explain how they supported it, and why.

- *The villagers disagreed with this project too.*

2. Did villagers resist the project? If so, please explain how villagers resisted the project, and why.

- *The villagers tried to resist against this project and they also hoped [that] the leaders would solve the issues for them.*

3. What type of strategies, either individual or collective, did villagers employ to resist the project? (E.g. submitting complaint letters, forming committees, conducting demonstrations, etc.) Please explain clearly in detail (including the time and place).

- *The villagers tried to report the information to anyone who comes [to the village] and they always tried to send the information to the appropriate people.*

4. How did villagers try to protect their land? What kinds of strategies did they use?

- *The villagers covet their inherited land but they cannot do anything.*

5. Did the villagers get back their lands because of villager action or media reports? If yes, please explain the events in detail.

- *The villagers tried to report about the confiscations. Even though a total of 135 acres of land were confiscated, only 35 acres were compensated for.*

Source Document #4b



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

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1. Land owner and usage

Name of land owner	Through what means do they own the land? (Inherited, bought, borrowed, etc.)	How much land has been confiscated?	What is planted on the land?	Does the owner have a land grant? (If yes, Please take a photograph)
Saw A---	Bought	Seven and a half acres	Mango and Cashew nuts	No

2. Land confiscation

- The exact date of land confiscation: *May 20th 2012*
- The location of the confiscated land (village, village tract, township, district): *B---* [village], *K'Ter Ti village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District*
- Land confiscators (e.g. armed groups, Myanmar government, wealthy individuals, etc.): *Myanmar government*

3. Project type

- Type of business or development project (e.g. gold mining, dam construction, rubber plantation, etc.): *Camp construction by BGF Battalion #1013*

- Project organiser/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Project implementer/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Start date: *May 10th 2012*
- End date: *Nearly finished but not completed yet*

4. Consultation

1. When did villagers hear about the land confiscation - what was the exact date, and how did they find out about it?
 - *The villagers have known about the land confiscation since May 20th 2012. The villagers heard about it from the farm owners.*
2. Did any groups come to give information to the villagers? If yes, who attended the meeting/discussion?
 - *Hpapun District Governor U Shwe is the one who came to inform the villagers. The villagers who went to the meeting are Saw C---, Saw D---, Saw E---, and Saw A---.*
3. Did the villagers have to sign any agreements? If yes, please take a photo of the agreement form.
 - *The villagers have to agree because Hteh Ner Ser convinced the villagers that he is from KNU headquarters so they mistakenly signed the agreement.*

5. Compensation

1. Did villagers receive compensation for the land that was confiscated? If yes, what compensation did they receive? Were the villagers informed that they were to be given compensation?
 - *Saw A---'s land is seven and half acres so he got 1,700,000 kyats (US \$1,555.35) for compensation.*
2. Did the land confiscators provide the amount of compensation they had promised? If not, what did villagers do when they did not receive the compensation they had been promised? Were the villagers satisfied with the compensation?

- *Some villagers were not satisfied with the compensation but they cannot do anything.*

6. Village agency/collective action

1. Did villagers agree or disagree with the development project? If they agreed with the project, please explain how they supported it, and why.
 - *The villagers disagreed with this project but they cannot do anything.*
2. Did villagers resist the project? If so, please explain how villagers resisted the project, and why.
 - *The villagers tried to resist this project and they also hoped the leaders would solve the issues for them.*
3. What type of strategies, either individual or collective, did villagers employ to resist the project? (E.g. submitting complaint letters, forming committees, conducting demonstrations, etc.) Please explain clearly in detail (including the time and place).
 - *They tried to report the information to anyone who came [to the village] and they always tried to send the information to the appropriate people.*
4. How did villagers try to protect their land? What kinds of strategies did they use?
 - *They villagers covet their inherited land but they cannot do anything.*
5. Did the villagers get back their lands because of villager action or media reports? If yes, please explain the events in detail.
 - *The villagers tried to report about the confiscations. Out of a total of 135 acres of land that were confiscated, only 35 acres were compensated for.*

Source Document #5b



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

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1. Land owner and usage

Name of land owner	Through what means do they own the land? (Inherited, bought, borrowed, etc.)	How much land has been confiscated?	What is planted on the land?	Does the owner have a land grant? (If yes, Please take a photograph)
U A---	Inherited	Five acres	Rubber trees	No

2. Land confiscation

- The exact date of land confiscation: *May 20th 2012*
- The location of the confiscated land (village, village tract, township, district): *B--- [village], K'Ter Ti village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District*
- Land confiscators (e.g. armed groups, Myanmar government, wealthy individuals, etc.): *Myanmar government*

3. Project type

- Type of business or development project (e.g. gold mining, dam construction, rubber plantation, etc.): *Camp construction by BGF Battalion #1013*

- Project organiser/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Project implementer/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Start date: *May 10 2012*
- End date: *Nearly finished but not completed yet*

4. Consultation

1. When did villagers hear about the land confiscation - what was the exact date, and how did they find out about it?
 - *The villagers have known about the land confiscation since May 20th 2012. The villagers heard about it from the farm owners.*
2. Did any groups come to give information to the villagers? If yes, who attended the meeting/discussion?
 - *Hpapun District Governor U Shwe is the one who came to inform the villagers. The villagers who went to the meeting are Saw C---, Saw D---, Saw E---, and Saw F---.*
3. Did the villagers have to sign any agreements? If yes, please take a photo of the agreement form.
 - *The villagers had to agree because Hteh Ner Ser convinced the villagers that he is from KNU headquarters. The villagers mistakenly signed the agreement.*

5. Compensation

1. Did villagers receive compensation for the land that was confiscated? If yes, what compensation did they receive? Were the villagers informed that they were to be given compensation?
 - *U A---'s land is five acres and he was compensated 800,000 kyats (US \$731.92) for each acre (a total of 4,000,000 kyats (US \$3,659.60) for all five acres).*

2. Did the land confiscators provide the amount of compensation they had promised? If not, what did villagers do when they did not receive the compensation they had been promised? Were the villagers satisfied with the compensation?

- *Some villagers were not satisfied with the compensation but they could not do anything.*

6. Village agency/collective action

1. Did villagers agree or disagree with the development project? If they agreed with the project, please explain how they supported it, and why.

- *The villagers disagreed with this project too.*

2. Did villagers resist the project? If so, please explain how villagers resisted the project, and why.

- *The villagers tried to resist this project and they also hoped the leaders will solve the issues for them.*

3. What type of strategies, either individual or collective, did villagers employ to resist the project? (E.g. submitting complaint letters, forming committees, conducting demonstrations, etc.) Please explain clearly in detail (including the time and place).

- *The villagers tried to report the information to anyone who came [to the village], and they always tried to send the information to the appropriate people.*

4. How did villagers try to protect their land? What kinds of strategies did they use?

- *The villagers covet their inherited land but they cannot do anything.*

5. Did the villagers get back their lands because of villager action or media reports? If yes, please explain the events in detail.

- *The villagers tried to report about the confiscations. A total of 135 acres of lands were confiscated and only 35 acres were compensated for.*

Source Document #6b



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Please insert information regarding land confiscation reported by villagers into this form. The objective is to report evidence of land confiscation to the Karen National Union, Myanmar government, organisations active on the issue of land rights in Myanmar, and the international community. According to the guidelines, KHRG field researchers should collect as much evidence as possible.

1. Land owner and usage

Name of land owner	Through what means do they own the land? (Inherited, bought, borrowed, etc.)	How much land has been confiscated?	What is planted on the land?	Does the owner have a land grant? (If yes, Please take a photograph)
U A---	Bought	Ten acres	Farmland	No

2. Land confiscation

- The exact date of land confiscation: *May 20th 2012*
- The location of the confiscated land (village, village tract, township, district): *B---* [village], *K'Ter Ti village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District*
- Land confiscators (e.g. armed groups, Myanmar government, wealthy individuals, etc.): *Myanmar government*

3. Project type

- Type of business or development project (e.g. gold mining, dam construction, rubber plantation, etc.): *Camp construction by BGF Battalion #1013*

- Project organiser/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Project implementer/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Start date: *May 10th 2012*
- End date: *Nearly finished but not completed yet*

4. Consultation

1. When did villagers hear about the land confiscation - what was the exact date, and how did they find out about it?
 - *The villagers have known about the land confiscation since May 20th 2012. The villagers heard about it from the farm owners.*
2. Did any groups come to give information to the villagers? If yes, who attended the meeting/discussion?
 - *Hpapun District Governor U Shwe is the one who came to inform the villagers. The villagers who went to the meeting are Saw C---, Saw D---, Saw E---, and Saw F---.*
3. Did the villagers have to sign any agreements? If yes, please take a photo of the agreement form.
 - *The villagers had to agree. Hteh Ner Ser convinced the villagers that he is from KNU headquarters so the villagers mistakenly signed the agreement.*

5. Compensation

1. Did villagers receive compensation for the land that was confiscated? If yes, what compensation did they receive? Were the villagers informed that they were to be given compensation?
 - *U A---'s land [that was confiscated] was ten acres but he was only compensated for two acres, 450,000 kyat (US \$411.71) for each acre (a total of 900,000 kyats (US \$823.42) for two acres).*
2. Did the land confiscators provide the amount of compensation they had promised? If not, what did villagers do when they did not receive the compensation they had been promised? Were the villagers satisfied with the compensation?
 - *Some villagers were not satisfied with the compensation but they cannot do anything.*

6. Village agency/collective action

1. Did villagers agree or disagree with the development project? If they agreed with the project, please explain how they supported it, and why.
 - *The villagers disagreed with this project but they cannot do anything.*

2. Did villagers resist the project? If so, please explain how villagers resisted the project, and why.
 - *They villagers tried to resist this project and they also hoped the leaders will solve the issues for them.*

3. What type of strategies, either individual or collective, did villagers employ to resist the project? (E.g. submitting complaint letters, forming committees, conducting demonstrations, etc.) Please explain clearly in detail (including the time and place).
 - *The villagers tried to report the information to anyone who came [to the village], and they always try to send the information to the appropriate people.*

4. How did villagers try to protect their land? What kinds of strategies did they use?
 - *The villagers covet their inherited land but they cannot do anything.*

5. Did the villagers get back their lands because of villager action or media reports? If yes, please explain the events in detail.
 - *The villagers tried to report about the confiscations. Even though a total of 135 acres of lands were confiscated, only 35 acres were compensated for.*

Source Document #7b



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Please insert information regarding land confiscation reported by villagers into this form. The objective is to report evidence of land confiscation to the Karen National Union, Myanmar government, organisations active on the issue of land rights in Myanmar, and the international community. According to the guidelines, KHRG field researchers should collect as much evidence as possible.

1. Land owner and usage

Name of land owner	Through what means do they own the land? (Inherited, bought, borrowed, etc.)	How much land has been confiscated?	What is planted on the land?	Does the owner have a land grant? (If yes, Please take a photograph)
Saw A---	Inherited	Nine acres	Farmland	Yes but was confiscated with the land.

2. Land confiscation

- The exact date of land confiscation: *May 20th 2012*
- The location of the confiscated land (village, village tract, township, district): *B--- [village], K'Ter Ti village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District*
- Land confiscators (e.g. armed groups, Myanmar government, wealthy individuals, etc.): *Myanmar government*

3. Project type

- Type of business or development project (e.g. gold mining, dam construction, rubber plantation, etc.): *Camp construction by BGF Battalion #1013*

- Project organiser/ company: *Green Hill Company*
- Project implementer/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Start date: *May 10th 2012*
- End date: *Nearly finished but not completed yet*

4. Consultation

1. When did villagers hear about the land confiscation - what was the exact date, and how did they find out about it?
 - *The villagers have known about the land confiscation since May 20th 2012. The villagers heard about it from the farm owners.*
2. Did any groups come to give information to the villagers? If yes, who attended the meeting/discussion?
 - *Hpapun District Governor U Shwe is the one who came to inform the villagers and the villager who went to the meeting are Saw C---, Saw D---, Saw E---, and Saw F---.*
3. Did the villagers have to sign any agreements? If yes, please take a photo of the agreement form.
 - *The villagers have to agree. Hteh Ner Ser convinced the villagers that he is from KNU headquarters, so they mistakenly signed the agreement.*

5. Compensation

1. Did villagers receive compensation for the land that was confiscated? If yes, what compensation did they receive? Were the villagers informed that they were to be given compensation?
 - *Saw A--- was only compensated 405,000 kyat (US \$370.54) for each acre. They did not give the 405,000 kyat at once, they paid him in three installments.*

2. Did the land confiscators provide the amount of compensation they had promised? If not, what did villagers do when they did not receive the compensation they had been promised? Were the villagers satisfied with the compensation?
 - *They gave only what they promised and the villagers had to be satisfied with the compensation. We cannot do anything as we have signed the agreement.*

6. Village agency/collective action

1. Did villagers agree or disagree with the development project? If they agreed with the project, please explain how they supported it, and why.
 - *The villagers disagreed with and did not support this project.*
2. Did villagers resist the project? If so, please explain how villagers resisted the project, and why.
 - *N/A*
3. What type of strategies, either individual or collective, did villagers employ to resist the project? (E.g. submitting complaint letters, forming committees, conducting demonstrations, etc.) Please explain clearly in detail (including the time and place).
 - *They villagers tried to report that they are against this project.*
4. How did villagers try to protect their land? What kinds of strategies did they use?
 - *We can protect ourselves by reporting about this project.*
5. Did the villagers get back their lands because of villager action or media reports? If yes, please explain the events in detail.
 - *The villagers reported [the case] but they did not get their land back yet.*

Source Document #8b



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Please insert information regarding land confiscation reported by villagers into this form. The objective is to report evidence of land confiscation to the Karen National Union, Myanmar government, organisations active on the issue of land rights in Myanmar, and the international community. According to the guidelines, KHRG field researchers should collect as much evidence as possible.

1. Land owner and usage

Name of land owner	Through what means do they own the land? (Inherited, bought, borrowed, etc.)	How much land has been confiscated?	What is planted on the land?	Does the owner have a land grant?(If yes, Please take a photograph)
Daw A---	Bought	Five acres	Rubber Plantation	Yes but was confiscated with

2. Land confiscation

- The exact date of land confiscation: *May 20th 2012*
- The location of the confiscated land (village, village tract, township, district): *B---* [village], *K'Ter Ti village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District*
- Land confiscators (e.g. armed groups, Myanmar government, wealthy individuals, etc.): *Myanmar government*

3. Project type

- Type of business or development project (e.g. gold mining, dam construction, rubber plantation, etc.): *Camp construction by BGF Battalion #1013*

- Project organiser/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Project implementer/company: *Green Hill Company*
- Start date: *May 10th 2012*
- End date: *Nearly finished but not completed yet*

4. Consultation

1. When did villagers hear about the land confiscation - what was the exact date, and how did they find out about it?
 - *The villagers have known about the land confiscation since May 20th 2012. The villagers heard about it from the farm owners.*
2. Did any groups come to give information to the villagers? If yes, who attended the meeting/discussion?
 - *Hpapun District Governor U Shwe is the one who came to inform the villagers and the villagers who went to the meeting are Saw C---, Saw D---, Saw E---, and Saw F----.*
3. Did the villagers have to sign any agreements? If yes, please take a photo of the agreement form.
 - *N/A*

5. Compensation

1. Did villagers receive compensation for the land that was confiscated? If yes, what compensation did they receive? Were the villagers informed that they were to be given compensation?
 - *Daw A--- was only compensated 2,250,000 kyat (US \$2,058.55) for five acres; 450,000 kyats (US \$411.71) per acre.*
2. Did the land confiscators provide the amount of compensation they had promised? If not, what did villagers do when they did not receive the compensation they had been promised? Were the villagers satisfied with the compensation?

- *They gave only what they promised and the villagers had to be satisfied with the compensation. We cannot do anything as we have signed the agreement.*

6. Village agency/collective action

1. Did villagers agree or disagree with the development project? If they agreed with the project, please explain how they supported it, and why.
 - *The villagers disagreed with and did not support this project.*
2. Did villagers resist the project? If so, please explain how villagers resisted the project, and why.
 - *We cannot resist anything as we have already signed the agreement.*
3. What type of strategies, either individual or collective, did villagers employ to resist the project? (E.g. submitting complaint letters, forming committees, conducting demonstrations, etc.) Please explain clearly in detail (including the time and place).
 - *The villagers tried to report that they are against this project.*
4. How did villagers try to protect their land? What kinds of strategies did they use?
 - *We can only protect ourselves by reporting about this project.*
5. Did the villagers get back their lands because of villager action or media reports? If yes, please explain the events in detail.
 - *The villagers reported to the [KHRG] researcher and reported to the leaders but they have not yet received their land back.*

Source Document #9b



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Please insert information regarding land confiscation reported by villagers into this form. The objective is to report evidence of land confiscation to the Karen National Union, Myanmar government, organisations active on the issue of land rights in Myanmar, and the international community. According to the guidelines, KHRG field researchers should collect as much evidence as possible.

1. Land owner and usage

Name of land owner	Through what means do they own the land? (Inherited, bought, borrowed, etc.)	How much land has been confiscated?	What is planted on the land?	Does the owner have a land grant?(If yes, Please take a photograph)
Maung A---	Inherited	1.41 acres (not confiscated yet)	Rice	N/A

2. Land confiscation

- The exact date of land confiscation: *2011*
- The location of the confiscated land (village, village tract, township, district): *B--- village, Chaung Hna Khwa village tract, Konedoe Township, Dooplaya District. The name of the field is C--- [field].*
- Land confiscators (e.g. armed groups, Myanmar government, wealthy individuals, etc.): *Private business men (no confiscation yet)*

3. Project type

- Type of business or development project (e.g. gold mining, dam construction, rubber plantation, etc.): *Mining the rock and sale*

[of] the stone

- Project organiser/company: *U Thu Daw (aka) Tin Moe Aung - private [corporate actor]*
- Project implementer/company : *U Thu Daw (aka) Tin Moe Aung*
- Start date: *2011*
- End date: *Unknown*

4. Consultation

1. When did villagers hear about the land confiscation - what was the exact date, and how did they find out about it?
 - *The businessman U Thu Daw (aka) Tin Moe Aung lives in Mu Don Township and he has Hindu heritage but believes in Buddhism. In the past, he came to B--- village and went to deify, repair, and meditate in At Hta Yan cave that is near the village. Now, he has returned and wears white clothes and [has] become a deacon. He hits the stone that is at the bottom of the hill and constructs a road. Moreover, as he is presently stone mining [in the area], big and small stones [have been] moved into the paddy fields and the paddy fields have been destroyed. The [drainage] channels also became narrower. It has already been three years [since this occurrence]. This is what the owner of the paddy field has said.*
2. Did any groups come to give information to the villagers? If yes, who attended the meeting/discussion?
 - *There were no groups who gave information to the villagers in the past. This year, the plots of the paddy field were destroyed and the channels [have] become narrower. As the villagers cannot stand to hear the noise of the mining, the villagers complained to the abbot since it is near to a monastery. The villagers said [they have] reported not only to the KNU but also to the [Myanmar] government.*
3. Did the villagers have to sign any agreements? If yes, please take a photo of the agreement form.
 - *The villagers have already submitted documents not to continue to mine and produce the stones. I have taken a photo.*

5. Compensation

1. Did villagers receive compensation for the land that was confiscated? If yes, what compensation did they receive? Were the villagers informed that they were to be given compensation?
 - *At first, because of [the] mining, in order to [pay for the] collection of the small and big stones which moved onto the paddy field, each paddy field [owner] was paid 200,000 kyat (US \$182.98) [in] compensation. The owner of the paddy field hired people [to clear the stones]. However, there is no one who wants to collect [the stones and] they are [therefore] now mining again and leaving [the stones in the paddy field].*

2. Did the land confiscators provide the amount of compensation they had promised? If not, what did villagers do when they did not receive the compensation they had been promised? Were the villagers satisfied with the compensation?
 - *Although the owners of the paddy fields were given 200,000 kyat as compensation, there is no balance [they are entitled to more] and they are not satisfied. It is best if there is no stone mining. They [stone miners] claim to collect [and] repair the big or small stones that [are] moved onto their [drainage] channels and the paddy fields.*

6. Village agency/collective action

1. Did villagers agree or disagree with the development project? If they agreed with the project, please explain how they supported it, and why.
 - *The villagers do not support the idea of the big rock in At Ta Yan⁹³ being mined or stones produced and sold. The villagers depend and deify this big rock as the symbol of the village (philosophy) regarding the beauty of nature. Once a year, when all 12 of the villages near and far celebrate the festival, they give donations. The villagers have to suffer due to the sound of the mining and smell of the mine powder. If they [mine] this big rock, the water will heat up [in the process] it will dry [up] and all of the paddy fields which are at the bottom of the hill will be destroyed. Therefore, the villagers do not support this [project].*

⁹³ At Ta Yan is the name of the place where the rock that is being mined

2. Did villagers resist the project? If so, please explain how villagers resisted the project, and why.
 - *The villagers and the abbots are against the project. There are not only ancient pagodas on the Nin Kwin hill and images of the Buddha in the cave, but there are also many monkeys. The monkeys have to run to the monk's rest house when [they are] mining the rock. Some of the monkeys have to carry their babies and resettle there. If they did not have this huge rock, the water that is near and around here [the village] would be dry, would get hot, and the paddy fields would [be] destroyed. We also worry that we will suffer from the abnormal weather problems; we [are] against this [project].*

3. What type of strategies, either individual or collective, did villagers employ to resist the project? (E.g. submitting complaint letters, forming committees, conducting demonstrations, etc.) Please explain clearly in detail (including the time and place).
 - *In the project of mining this rock, it is not only one villager, it is the whole village, including the monks, who [are] against it. There [was a] submission of a complaint letter but there is no committee group. The first time [they submitted a complaint letter], there was a problem between the village administrator and the paddy field and rock owner. [This issue] has not been [resolved] yet. The second time a complaint letter [was submitted] was on November 9th 2013. The KNU and all of its administrators, including the monk, explained to all of the owners of the paddy fields at the Ma Yan Kon monastery on November 26th, 2013 [that they would try to solve the issues]. They decided that all of the stone mines which they have been mining [are] no [longer] allow to be mined. The next day, on December 1st 2013, I do not know what happened. I heard the sound of the mining to the south of the At Ta Yan rock.*

4. How did villagers try to protect their land? What kinds of strategies did they use?
 - *There is no other way for the owner of the paddy fields to protect [their land]. All of the groups use only the complaint letters to protect [their land]. They cannot use the other ways to protect [their land]. They said this and they also asked for help.*

5. Did the villagers get back their lands because of villager action or media reports? If yes, please explain the events in detail.
 - *They said that they did not get anything and [do not] know anything yet.*

Source Document #10b



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

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1. Land owner and usage

Name of land owner	Through what means do they own the land? (Inherited, bought, borrowed, etc.)	How much land has been confiscated?	What is planted on the land?	Does the owner have a land grant?(If yes, Please take a photograph)
U A--- and U B---	Inherited	~ 8 acres	Rice	Yes

2. Land confiscation

- The exact date of land confiscation: *1985*
- The location of the confiscated land (village, village tract, township, district): *C--- village, Ma Yan Kon village tract, Kyonedoe Township.*
- Land confiscators (e.g. armed groups, Myanmar government, wealthy individuals, etc.): *Myanmar government, Party Council.*⁹⁴

3. Project type

- Type of business or development project (e.g. gold mining, dam construction, rubber plantation, etc.): *Building a school*

⁹⁴ KHRG does not have information concerning which party this is referring to.

- Project organiser/company: *U Kyaw Nyein, who is the school headmaster; U Ngwe Aung, who is the chairman of the village council party*
- Project implementer/company : *It is still ongoing, it has not [been] finished yet [inapplicable answer]*
- Start date: *1985*
- End date: *Some of the school has been built and some has not been built yet. It is still ongoing.*

4. Consultation

1. When did villagers hear about the land confiscation - what was the exact date, and how did they find out about it?
 - *The villager who is the owner of the paddy field knows his land was confiscated in 1985. There is not only the army base camp in the village, but also the chairman of the party council. The school headmaster and the chairman of the party council have reported to the education administrator of Kawkaeik [that] the area [will be used] as school land. [The school headmaster said] it is not your [the farmer's] land anymore. It is the land of the government. When the government confiscates [the land], they [the farmers] do not dare to complain. The owner did not dare to complain to any groups.*
2. Did any groups come to give information to the villagers? If yes, who attended the meeting/discussion?
 - *I see that there were no responsible groups who came to give information and suggestions. I have already reported once to the office of Kawkaeik Township. Nevertheless, the township administrator asked [me] to sign [a document concerning land issue] resolution. As the resolution [agreement offered by the] Township administrator is not fair, I did not sign. I just stay like that.*
3. Did the villagers have to sign any agreements? If yes, please take a photo of the agreement form.
 - *The owner of the paddy field said that the Township administrator asked him to sign [the land issue resolution document]. However, as it was unfair land confiscation, there is no need to sign.*

4. Compensation

1. Did villagers receive compensation for the land that was confiscated? If yes, what compensation did they receive? Were the villagers informed that they were to be given compensation?

- *They did not get any compensation for the land [that] was confiscated.*

2. Did the land confiscators provide the amount of compensation they had promised? If not, what did villagers do when they did not receive the compensation they had been promised? Were the villagers satisfied with the compensation?

- *The owner of the land said that they did not get any compensation.*

5. Village agency/collective action

1. Did villagers agree or disagree with the development project? If they agreed with the project, please explain how they supported it, and why.

- *I support the action of building the school, the football ground, volleyball ground, and building the playground after confiscating the land. However, right now I do not support the school headmaster lending [renting] the rest of the land.*

2. Did villagers resist the project? If so, please explain how villagers resisted the project, and why.

- *Some of the villagers do not [protest] against this land confiscation. Only the owners of the land whose land was confiscated [protested] against it. Why [did] they [protest] against [it]? There is only this paddy field. Half of the paddy field was confiscated and there is not enough rice for the family to eat; they are suffering from food shortages. They do not have another paddy field. They do not have any forest to work on. They [villagers] have to lend [their paddy fields] to others [to] work on [when] their [other villagers'] paddy fields [are confiscated]. Therefore, they [protest] against [the confiscation of] this paddy field.*

3. What type of strategies, either individual or collective, did villagers employ to resist the project? (E.g. submitting complaint letters, forming committees, conducting demonstrations, etc.) Please explain clearly in detail (Including time and place).

- *There [has been] nothing like villagers gathering, demonstrating, report or founding committees. Although the owner of the*

paddy field whose land was confiscated has reported [it], there is nothing happening. Now, [the villagers] had planned to report the [land issues] to [the] KNU land department administrator in Kyonedoe Township. [In the] last two years, Maung D---, Kawkareik's township administrator, has reported it [the land issues to the KNU land department administrators]. There was nothing happening. I then also reported to the upper house.⁹⁵ I have not heard anything yet. U Ba Win, Mi Ga Lon's school headmaster, is presently giving one basket of paddy seed [to the villagers] and expects five baskets of paddy in return. When the confiscation of this paddy field was reported to the office of Kawkareik Township, Form 105 [land title], was not given to the owner. It is said people cannot get it.

4. How did villagers try to protect their land? What kinds of strategies did they use?

- *It is said that the villagers and the owners of the paddy fields do not have other ways to protect [their land] since the government group has confiscated [it].*

5. Did the villagers get back their lands because of villager action or media reports? If yes, please explain the events in detail.

- *The villagers, the owners of the paddy fields and the other organisations are gathering and broadcasting the news, [as well as] writing news and articles. They might get it [their land back]; they might not get it [their land back]. We cannot say exactly. The owners of the paddy field cannot get compensation for their land which was confiscated. It is reported that some of the rest of the land which is outside of the fence of the school's compound has also [been] confiscated.*

⁹⁵ Amyotha Hluttaw – Parliament in Naypyitaw.



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Please insert information regarding land confiscation reported by villagers into this form. The objective is to report evidence of land confiscation to the Karen National Union, Myanmar government, organisations active on the issue of land rights in Myanmar, and the international community. According to the guidelines, KHRG field researchers should collect as much evidence as possible.

1. Land owner and usage

Name of land owner	Through what means do they own the land? (Inherited, bought, borrowed, etc.)	How much land has been confiscated?	What is planted on the land?	Does the owner have a land grant? (If yes, Please take a photograph)
Saw A---	Inherited	Five acres	Betel nut, mango, jack fruit, marian, pomelo, palm and betel nut leaf trees.	No

2. Land confiscation

- The exact date of land confiscation: *February 15th 2013*
- The location of the confiscated land (village, village tract, township, district): *B--- village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District*
- Land confiscators (e.g. armed groups, Myanmar government, wealthy individuals, etc.): *Business people*

3. Project type

- Type of business or development project (e.g. gold mining, dam construction, rubber plantation, etc.): *Gold mining*
- Project organiser/company: *Mya Pu Company*
- Project implementer/company: *Saw Bleh Say*

- Start date: *February 15th 2013*
- End date: *Unknown*

4. Consultation

1. When did villagers hear about the land confiscation - what was the exact date, and how did they find out about it?
 - [The villager] *does not know about it* [that his land was confiscated]. *At first, they said that they are going to do testing* [digging for gold on his land]. *If they can get gold* [from his land], *they said that they are going to pay money for the land. They did not tell me anything* [about] *how they are going to conduct* [this project].
2. Did any groups come to give information to the villagers? If yes, who attended the meeting/discussion?
 - *No, there is no one who gave us information. People came and brought their machines at the same time. People came and set up* [their machines] *and work. We cannot say anything.*
3. Did the villagers have to sign any agreements? If yes, please take a photo of the agreement form.
 - *No.*

5. Compensation

1. Did villagers receive compensation for the land that was confiscated? If yes, what compensation did they receive? Were the villagers informed that they were to be given compensation?
 - *No.*
2. Did the land confiscators provide the amount of compensation they had promised? If not, what did villagers do when they did not receive the compensation they had been promised? Were the villagers satisfied with the compensation?

- *There is no compensation. The villagers were not consulted about anything by the people who came and dug for the gold. They said that it is the land of government. The land owners do not feel happy but they cannot do anything.*

6. Village agency/collective action

1. Did villagers agree or disagree with the development project? If they agreed with the project, please explain how they supported it, and why.
 - *They do not agree and [do not] support it.*
2. Did villagers resist the project? If so, please explain how villagers resisted the project, and why.
 - *They do not agree with it.*
3. What type of strategies, either individual or collective, did villagers employ to resist the project? (E.g. submitting complaint letters, forming committees, conducting demonstrations, etc.) Please explain clearly in detail (including the time and place).
 - *No.*
4. How did villagers try to protect their land? What kinds of strategies did they use?
 - *The villagers do not know how to protect their land.*
5. Did the villagers get back their lands because of villager action or media reports? If yes, please explain the events in detail.
 - *No.*

Source Document #12b



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Please insert information regarding land confiscation reported by villagers into this form. The objective is to report evidence of land confiscation to the Karen National Union, Myanmar government, organisations active on the issue of land rights in Myanmar, and the international community. According to the guidelines, KHRG field researchers should collect as much evidence as possible.

1. Land owner and usage

Name of land owner	Through what means do they own the land? (Inherited, bought, borrowed, etc.)	How much land has been confiscated?	What is planted on the land?	Does the owner have a land grant? (If yes, Please take a photograph)
Naw A---	Bought	Two acres	Betel nut, dog fruit, tea, banana, pineapple, jack fruit, lemon, <i>ta kweh</i> trees and bushes.	No

2. Land confiscation

- The exact date of land confiscation: *February 1st 2014*
- The location of the confiscated land (village, village tract, township, district): *B--- village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District*
- Land confiscators (e.g. armed groups, Myanmar government, wealthy individuals, etc.): *Business people*

3. Project type

- Type of business or development project (e.g. gold mining, dam construction, rubber plantation, etc.): *Gold mining*
- Project organiser/company: *Saw Bleh Say and Ko Saing Kyi (Shwegyin)*

- Project implementer/company: *Saw Bleh Say and Ko Saing Kyi (Shwegyin)*
- Start date: *February 1st 2014*
- End date: *February 31st 2014*

4. Consultation

1. When did villagers hear about the land confiscation - what was the exact date, and how did they find out about it?
 - *The villagers do not know when the gold mining is [going to be] conducted. After they [business people] entered and conducted [the gold mining], they informed the villagers that they [the villagers] are [going to have to] relocate. When they arrived they also bought their machines. They came and took measurements [on my land] and told me that it will be about two acres of the land [that they are going to take]. Then they ask me to move and build my hut at the upper part of the land. I do not know [why they asked me to move out of my hut]. I do as they asked [of] me.*
2. Did any groups come to give information to the villagers? If yes, who attended the meeting/discussion?
 - *They have not given any information [to the villagers]. They conducted it [gold mining] as soon as they arrived. I asked the village head but he does not know anything about it. If we want to meet with them [the people who came and conducted the gold mining], we have to go and meet with them.*
3. Did the villagers have to sign any agreements? If yes, please take a photo of the agreement form.
 - *No. We do [not] have [a] land title yet. We asked the people [village head] [to make a land title for us] and [the] people [village head] said that they are going to make [one] for us. [However], people have already [taken] ours [our land] [and we do not have a signed land title] so it is too late for [us] to sign [an agreement].*

5. Compensation

1. Did villagers receive compensation for the land that was confiscated? If yes, what compensation did they receive? Were the villagers informed that they were to be given compensation?
 - *There is no compensation for the land [that] was confiscated. There is also no compensation. They told me, "If you are talkative [if you complain], you will not receive any money." So I dare not talk [complain].*

2. Did the land confiscators provide the amount of compensation they had promised? If not, what did villagers do when they did not receive the compensation they had been promised? Were the villagers satisfied with the compensation?
 - *The compensation which is given for the land is not equal to [the] amount of money that I expected. I did not do anything. Since I was not given the full amount of money that I had set as the price [I would sell for], I am not satisfied. At first I was told that I would be given four million kyat (US \$3,659.65) but I was given only three million four hundred thousand kyat.*

6. Village agency/collective action

1. Did villagers agree or disagree with the development project? If they agreed with the project, please explain how they supported it, and why.
 - *They do not agree or support the gold mining project.*

2. Did villagers resist the project? If so, please explain how villagers resisted the project, and why.
 - *The villagers do not [protest] against the project in any way.*

3. What type of strategies, either individual or collective, did villagers employ to resist the project? (E.g. submitting complaint letters, forming committees, conducting demonstrations, etc.) Please explain clearly in detail (including the time and place).
 - *No.*

4. How did villagers try to protect their land? What kinds of strategies did they use?

- *The villagers do not know the ways to protect their own land.*
5. Did the villagers get back their lands because of villager action or media reports? If yes, please explain the events in detail..
- *No.*

Source Document 13b



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Please insert information regarding land confiscation reported by villagers into this form. The objective is to report evidence of land confiscation to the Karen National Union, Myanmar government, organisations active on the issue of land rights in Myanmar, and the international community. According to the guidelines, KHRG field researchers should collect as much evidence as possible.

1. Land owner and usage

Name of land owner	Through what means do they own the land? (Inherited, bought, borrowed, etc.)	How much land has been confiscated?	What is planted on the land?	Does the owner have a land grant? (If yes, Please take a photograph)
Saw A---	Inherited	Seven acres	Betel nut, palm, jack fruit, coconut, betel nut leaf trees.	Yes

2. Land confiscation

- The exact date of land confiscation: *March 4th 2014*
- The location of the confiscated land (village, village tract, township, district): *B--- village, Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District*
- Land confiscators (e.g. armed groups, Myanmar government, wealthy individuals, etc.): *Business people*

3. Project type

- Type of business or development project (e.g. gold mining, dam construction, rubber plantation, etc.): *Gold mining*
- Project organiser/company: *Bleh Say*

- Project implementer/company: *Bleh Say*
- Start date: *March 4th 2014*
- End date: *Unknown*

4. Consultation

1. When did villagers hear about the land confiscation - what was the exact date, and how did they find out about it?
 - *The villagers did not know that they [business people] were going to come and conduct [gold mining]. They [villagers] did not know anything. As soon as they [business people] arrived, they started conducting it [gold mining]. They asked [for] our land titles and we gave them to them.*
2. Did any groups come to give information to the villagers? If yes, who attended the meeting/discussion?
 - *The people responsible did not give any information to the villagers. They [villagers] did not hear anything [about] people coming to conduct the project. They did not call for a meeting.*
3. Did the villagers have to sign any agreements? If yes, please take a photo of the agreement form.
 - *The villagers do not have to sign any agreements. They [business people] did not even let us know anything when they were halfway through the project.*

5. Compensation

1. Did villagers receive compensation for the land that was confiscated? If yes, what compensation did they receive? Were the villagers informed that they were to be given compensation?
 - *I was [told I would be] given two million kyat (US \$1,829.82) as compensation for my seven acres of land. However, I was given only one million kyat (US \$914.90). At first, I was promised that I would be given two million kyat per acre. Nevertheless, they did not pay me [the] full [amount]. Instead, we had to give him [business man] our land titles. He said that he would give [the land*

title] *back to me when he finished his work. Now, they [still] have not given it to me yet. He also has not paid [me] all of the compensation yet.*

2. Did the land confiscators provide the amount of compensation they had promised? If not, what did villagers do when they did not receive the compensation they had been promised? Were the villagers satisfied with the compensation?
 - *In terms of compensation, at first I was promised that I would be given two million kyat per acre. However, since I was given only two million kyat for seven acres of the land I do not feel satisfied. I cannot do anything. I just have to forget about it. I also cannot use the land in the future [after they have conducted gold mining].*

6. Village agency/collective action

1. Did villagers agree or disagree with the development project? If they agreed with the project, please explain how they supported it, and why.
 - *[Villagers] do not agree with the project anymore. He [Bleh Say] did not let me know anything when he came to conduct [gold mining]. The villagers also cannot say [speak out] about anything anymore [even if they wanted to]. We knew it [that we could not speak out] since he had [already] started [gold mining]. What can I do, as I am a villager? People always told me that the land is the governments land. I have to say like that [without complaining] even though I do not agree [with their project].*
2. Did villagers resist the project? If so, please explain how villagers resisted the project, and why.
 - *The villagers do not dare to [protest] against the gold mining project. Since I was told that the upper officer had already given permission [to conduct the gold mining], I dare not say anything as I am a villager.*
3. What type of strategies, either individual or collective, did villagers employ to resist the project? (E.g. submitting complaint letters, forming committees, conducting demonstrations, etc.) Please explain clearly in detail (including the time and place).
 - *No.*

4. How did villagers try to protect their land? What kinds of strategies did they use?
 - *I do not know any of the ways to protect my land. Since people came to conduct [gold mining] and people said that it is the land of the government, we do not do anything. Although we have our land with the land titles, people take our land titles and work on our land [anyway]. I thought that if I had a land title, people would not dare to work on my land. [However], people dare to take our land even when we have a land title. People also take our land if we do not have a land title. There is no difference. Regarding the land, we have to pay the fee for the land regularly. I cannot do anything to protect my land.*

5. Did the villagers get back their lands because of villager action or media reports? If yes, please explain the events in detail.
 - *No. I do not see who is going to come and take this information. People also never come and interview [us to get] this information.*