

1. Extra-judicial Killing, Summary, and Arbitrary Executions

1.1. Background

Extra-judicial executions violate the right to life, as guaranteed in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: “Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.” Extra-judicial executions are not justifiable killings that the security forces carry out in self-defense; they are not deaths that result from the use of reasonable force in law enforcement; nor are they legally decided death sentence. Extra-judicial executions often result when law enforcement officials use force that is disproportionate to the threat posed, although authorities may claim that such use of force was legitimate.

In Burma, the Tatmadaw (armed force) has unlawfully killed members of ethnic minorities for allegedly supporting the armed ethnic groups. SLORC/SPDC has justified killing civilians under charges of “counter-insurgency” on a regular basis since at least 1986. When troops approach a village, civilians that attempt to flee are often shot to death due to what appears to be a de facto shoot-to-kill policy effecting anyone who runs from the Tatmadaw. Civilians that are suspected of supporting armed ethnic groups may also be summarily killed. The SLORC/SPDC army has engaged in other seemingly random killings in an effort to terrorize villagers into severing their often alleged connections with armed ethnic forces.

To break civilian ties with or support for armed ethnic groups, the SLORC/SPDC army has also begun a program of forced relocations of ethnic civilian villages in rural areas. The SLORC/SPDC sends threatening letters to village leaders that sometimes contain a bullet, chili, and charcoal. These enclosures are interpreted as being symbolic of the future that awaits residents who do not cooperate with the terms of relocation (a bullet represents death, the chili means life will be unpleasant, and the charcoal signifies the burning down of villages). In fact, civilians that have failed to heed the SLORC/SPDC orders to relocate have been subjected to extrajudicial killings.

People have also been shot to death while serving as forced porters for the military, after being arrested, or as a result of clearly disproportionate use of force to prevent people from fleeing security forces. Often villagers are shot to death when the military

merely accuse them of providing ethnic minority groups with food, shelter, and information about the Tatmadaw's movements. Others have been killed for being unable to perform portering duties satisfactorily, or while attempting to escape. During the major offensive against the KNU's 6th and 4th brigade areas in early 1997, the SLORC/SPDC army killed hundreds of civilians.

Many civilians killed by the army offered no resistance and were found to be unarmed, making the army's use of force entirely unjustified. For example, from mid-June to mid-July 1997, at least 400 local people in the areas of Sai Kao, Kaeng Lom, Jeang Kham, and Kho Lam in Kunhing Township, Shan State, were killed by the SLORC/SPDC during its military campaign against the civilian population. Most of them were villagers who had been forcibly moved to relocation sites along the motor roads. The SLORC/SPDC restricts villagers' movements to within relocation sites, allowing them a range of not more than three miles to the north and one mile to the south of the road. As a result, villagers got food for their families at the risk of being shot.

While people caught outside the relocation sites are often massacred, the safety of villagers inside them is not guaranteed. In 1997, The SLORC/SPDC troops have actually fired shells into some relocation sites in Shan State. For example, on February 21, 1997, at about 9:00p.m, two Shan families, including three young children, were blown up by the SLORC/SPDC troops while sheltering near their home at Kho Lam relocation site in Nam Zarng Township, Shan State. A Shan armed ethnic group was responsible for a raid in the area before this incident and the troops retaliated by firing shells into the site.

1.2. Death in Custody

In 1997, the Human Rights Documentation Unit (HRDU) compiled comprehensive lists documenting the numbers of people who had been taken into custody and subsequently died, as well as numbers of those who suffer from ill-health as a result of their detention, a common problem for political prisoners. The Burmese prisons are notorious for their abominable conditions and prisoners receive, at best, inadequate medical attention. The condition of prisons remains extremely harsh. Prisoners lack exercise, mosquito nets, reading material, proper nutrition, medical care, and are frequently subjected to solitary confinement.

U Tin Shwe (Monywa), a former NLD Central Executive Committee Member, died in Insein Prison on June 8, 1997. A founding member of the NLD, U Tin Shwe was arrested in 1990 and was serving his 18-year sentence when he had a heart attack.

After receiving cardiac treatment at Insein Hospital in April, his family asked that authorities allow U Tin Shwe to see outside specialists. The family's request was denied. U Tin Shwe's health continued to deteriorate until he died in custody, at the age of 68. He was the sixth NLD member to die in prison since 1988.

1.3. Massacres in Shan State

The worst development over the past year has been the sharp increase in extrajudicial killings of villagers at relocation areas in Shan State. The SLORC/SPDC troops often kill those trying to return to their former homes for food. In 1997 alone, 664 extrajudicial killings of people from Shan State have been documented. However, this figure only reflects confirmed cases. Since most people are killed out in the jungle, it is impossible to know the real number, which is undoubtedly higher.

After a group of unidentified Shan rebels shot 25 civilian Burmese nationals to death on June 1, 1997, at Pha Larng, Kunhing Township, Shan State, SLORC/SPDC troops stepped up their military campaign against the civilian population. From mid-June to mid-July, they have killed at least 400 people in the areas of Sai Kao, Kaeng Lom, Kaeng Kham, and Kho Lam in Kunhing Township. Most of those murdered were villagers who had been forcibly moved to relocation sites along the motor roads. They were shot to death just for being outside of the relocation site while they were trying to find food. Villagers are not allowed to go farther than three miles north and one mile south of the road. As a result, they risk their lives just getting food.

Extrajudicial killing in Shan State includes a double massacre committed by the SLORC/SPDC on June 16, 1997. On that day, two groups of villagers that had been relocated to the town of Kun Hing were permitted to return to their former villages to collect rice. They left in two separate convoys of ox carts. On the way back, both groups were stopped on by the SLORC/SPDC troops and were massacred.

In the first assault, thirty villagers who had been forcibly relocated to Kunhing town, returned to their old village of Wan Sar Lar in Kaeng Lom village tract, Shan State, to retrieve food and other supplies. Coming back, they met SLORC/SPDC troops at a waterfall called Tard Pha Ho. The villagers were assembled in a long line of bullock carts. Although the SLORC/SPDC had issued passes for rice retrieval in the first place, the villagers showed their passes and ID cards in vain. The troops forced them to squat in a line and shot them. In all, 27 were murdered. The SLORC/SPDC proceeded to set fire to the ox carts and their contents, pushing them into the water as they burned. Then they slaughtered the oxen for meat. Only three people

escaped with their lives to tell others.

On the same day, twenty-nine villagers were killed returning from Sai Khao village, Kaeng Lham village tract, Kunhing Township, Shan State, where they had collected rice. When they were discovered by the SLORC/SPDC troops, they were detained for the evening, tied up, and then shot to death near a forest north of Sai Khao village.

On July 11, 1997, SSA members coming by car from Murngpaeng and Kaengtung through Kunhing looked along the road that branched off from the main road to Kaeng Lom and saw the corpses of 26 villagers. The bodies were lined up with the heads cut off and placed beside them. On July 12, 1997, another 17 corpses were seen along the road between Kaeng Lom and Kaeng Tawng, aligned in the same manner.

1.4. List of Incidents

- 1.4.1. In the first week of February, 1997, six privates from SLORC LIB. 273, deserted the army and fled to the Thai border. However, all of them were captured by SLORC soldiers and executed near Eindayaza village, Tenasserim Division. (*Source: ABSDF*)
- 1.4.2. On February 12, 1997, at about 9:00 p.m, two Shan families were blasted to death in a dugout by SLORC troops at Kho Lam relocation site, Namzarng township. On that evening, some SURA (Shan United Revolutionary Army) members had come into the site, shot a few times at the police station and left. Hearing the gunfire, SLORC troops assumed the rebels were still in the village and fired many mortar shells. During the shelling, two families — altogether eight people — had gone into a dugout hole close to their houses to hide. The SLORC dropped a bomb into the dugout and instantly killed them all. They were (1) Ka Ling, 47 (2) Ai Pi, 4 (3) Za Ling Ta, 28 (4) Nang Nu, 28 (5) Nang Myint, 7 and (6) Nang Zang, 5. Other twos -- Nai Leng, 35 and Ai Lu, 15 -- were wounded. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.3. On February 21, 1997, SLORC Commander of IB. 35, Lieutenant-Colonel Kyaw Zwa, forced Maung Htun Nwe, age 73, headman of Section 20, Taungoo town, to accompany him to the front line as a guide. On February 23, when Maung Htun Nwe could no longer walk, the Commander beat him to death at a village called Klaw Mee Der. (*Source: KIC*)

- 1.4.4.** On March 9, 1997, SLORC troops fired 79-mm mortar shells into the village of Kun Hong, Laikha township, Shan State, killing Nang Seng and Loong Zum as well as wounding three others. Earlier that day, SPDC troops from Laikha forced the villagers to move. However, five of the villagers had to spend the night in the village because of the shortage of carts in which to carry them. Patrolling troops had fired mortar shells into the village when they heard a dog barking. (*Source: UN report*)
- 1.4.5.** On March 17, 1997, Hussain Johar, 26 years old son of Anu Mia, from Kanbyin village of Buthidaung township, Arakan State, was arrested by some SLORC soldiers from 10-mile headquarters for unknown reason. He was brutally tortured and killed. (*Source: RSO*)
- 1.4.6.** On March 29, 1997, SLORC troops from Kho Lam, Shan State, under the command of Maj-Gen. Khin Maung, arrested a villager named Sai Phit, 35, of Nawng Kwai village, Hai Lai village tract, Namzarng township, Shan State at his house. He was tied up with rope and taken to a place near a white bridge in the village. He was later beaten there while being interrogated and finally shot dead. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.7.** On March 30, 1997, three villagers of Sarm Kyawng village, Hai Lai village tract, Namzarng township, Shan State, were shot dead by SLORC troops while fishing on the bank of Nam Mawng stream, not very far from Kho Lam. They were Sai Mart, 28; Saw Nan Ti, 26; and another unknown villager (*Source: SHRF*).
- 1.4.8.** On April 3, 1997, villagers from Hai Lai village, Namzarng township, Shan State were killed while serving as porters at the SLORC Division 55. They were Ai Mark, 30, (2) Pan Zig Ta, 24, and (3) Ai Ti, 25. They were seized for porters while they were fishing and were beaten to death near Wan Sai Khao. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.9.** On April 4, 1997, SLORC troops under the Division 55 killed the following civilians. (1) Sai Mon, 25, from Narng Parng village, Murng Yarng tract (2) Sai Wa Ling, 23 (3) Ai Tark Ngo, 22, from Nawng Parng village, Murng Yarng tract (4) Ai Mon, 25, from Murng Yawng village, Murng Nawng (5) Pi Lern, 40, from Murng Yawng village and (6) Loong Kham Leng, 70, from Kung Kawk village, Murng Yarng tract, Shan State. They were accused of being SURA members and killed. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.10.** On April 4, 1997, SLORC troops fired M 79 grenades into the Tard Mawk

relocation site. Three villagers died and another three were wounded. (Source: UN report)

- 1.4.11.** On April 7, 1997, three women from Kung Yung village, Laikha township, Shan State were collecting vegetable in a nearby forest. One woman was on a tree cutting down branches for the other two under the tree. The SLORC troops arrived at the scene and called out something in Burmese which women did not understand. Being extremely scared, the two women under the tree ran away, leaving their friend alone on the tree. When the troops got nearer and saw the woman on the tree, they shot her down right away. After the woman fell from the tree, the soldiers covered her with 3-4 sheets of old roofing thatch and set fire to her. (Source: SHRF)
- 1.4.12.** On April 8, 1997, a 25 years old Muslim boy from Kharankhari village of Buthidaung township, Arakan State, who was sleeping in his cow-shed at night, was rounded up by the five soldiers from SLORC LIB. 354. The soldiers looted his gold and cashes from his house. Then he was dragged away to the nearby field and slaughtered. The case was reported to the police and the dead body was submitted to the township medical officers by the relatives. The relatives were warned to keep silent on the matter. (Source: RSO)
- 1.4.13.** On April 16, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 515 dragged three men who were tied with ropes to a place near Lao Ai bridge, north of Loi Lam village, Wan Long tract, Murgkerng township, Shan State, and beat them to death. They then piled up the bodies together with some dry twigs and branches and set fire to them. When the villagers went to look at them, after the soldiers had left, the corpses were found to be unrecognizable. (Source: SHRF)
- 1.4.14.** On April 18, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 378, one Captain and three soldiers went to Znawng Hai village, Kho Lam tract, Kunhing township, Shan State and arrested a man named Khing Sang at a farm nearby. They beat him and asked about SURA movements in the area. When he could not answer their questions, they stabbed him in the chest, belly and neck, and killed him near Wan Sai Khao. (Source: SHRF)
- 1.4.15.** On April 22, 1997, Sai Nge of Lon Pu quarter, Kaesee township, Shan State, was shot dead by SLORC troops from LIB. 523 near Pang Po village. (Source: SHRF)

- 1.4.16.** On April 29, 1997, SLORC troops killed Nan Zing, 28, from Wan Pa Mai, Nar Poi tract, Laikha township, Shan State. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.17.** In April 1997, people from Wan Nang village who had been moved to Kho Lam, Namzarng township, Shan State, came back to look for their cattle and their household property. They were shot by SLORC troops stationed at Nar Law village at the time. They were (1) Sai Thark Awn, 40, from Wan Nang (2) Sai Zik Ta Awn, 35, from Wan Nang (3) Sai Hurng, 30, from Wan Nang (4) Sai La, 33, from Wan Nang (5) Khat Ta Ya, 30, from Kho Ood village and (6) Nang Sai, 16. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.18.** In mid-April, 1997, four villagers from Mark Hark village, Hai Lai tract, Namzarng township, Shan State, were netting fish in Nam Waeng stream when SLORC troops from Kho Lam found them. The soldiers called them out of the water and shot them dead on the bank. The soldiers took away all fish. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.19.** On May 4, 1997, Sai Nya Mon who had been moved to Nam Mo in Klo Lam, Namzarng township, Shan State, was permitted by SLORC troops to go and work on his farm at his old village of Kun Sai. While he was driving his old bullock-cart towards Kun Sai, SLORC troops from Nam Mo went after him and shot him dead in a field near Kun Sai. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.20.** On May 5, 1997, Sai Mu Ling, 32, a villager from Pa Moi village, Nar Poi tract, Namzarng township, Shan State was arrested at his house by SLORC troops. He was beaten and shot dead in the forest near the deserted village of Wan Paeng. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.21.** On May 11, 1997, 15 Palawng villagers of Pha Ngarb village, Hai Lai tract, Namzarng township -- men, women and children of all ages, including an elderly man of 75 -- went back to their old village from new relocated site at Kho Lam to gather their things left behind. On their way back, they all were shot dead by SLORC troops near the old bridge of Nawng Kwai. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.22.** On May 11, 1997, Sai Nan Ti, 30, a villager from Pa Mai village, Nar Poi tract, Namzarng township, Shan State, was arrested at his house by SLORC troops. He was beaten and shot dead in the forest near the deserted village of Wan Paeng. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.23.** On May 11, 1997, Sai Ar Ta Pa, 35, and his two younger brothers, from

Kho Lam quarter 4, Namzarng township were shot by SLORC troops on their way back to their homes. Ar Ta Pa and one of his brothers died instantly while another managed to escape. (*Source: SHRF*)

- 1.4.24.** On May 14, 1997, Sai Nan Ta, 27, and his brother, of Wan Nag village, Kho Ood tract, Namzarng township, Shan State, went back to clean up the irrigation ditches in their rice field at their farms. SLORC troops saw them while they were working and arrested them. One of the brothers ran and jumped onto Nam Mawng stream, but was chased and shot dead in the water. The other was tied up and beaten to death on the head with a heavy stick on the bank of Nam Mawng stream. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.25.** On May 18, 1997, SLORC Major Aye Thant and his troops killed Sai Vi, Sai Vilarsa and Sai Saw Ta in Wan Mawk Zali village, Murngton township, Shan State. The three men were arrested, accused of being soldiers of the SURA, tied up, beaten, put into sacks and submerged in water several times before they were killed. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.26.** On May 20, 1997, SLORC Major Kyi Aung and his troops from Murng Tar village, Shan State came into Wan Huay Aw village and arrested the following villagers. (1) Loong Tan, 45 (2) Loong Than Ou, 50 (3) Loong Su, 47 (4) Sai Aw Ta, 27 (5) Sai Vi Zing Tar, 25 (6) Nang Kham, 31. SLORC troops accused these men of giving food and information to the Shan resistance group. They beat them up and after two days they killed them (*Source: SHRF*).
- 1.4.27.** On May 20, 1997, SLORC Major Aye Thant and his troops killed Sai Ti Mar and Sai Thun in the village of Mawk Zali, Murngton township, Shan State. The two men were arrested, accused of being the soldiers of the SURA, tied up, beaten, put into sacks and submerged in water several times before they were killed. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.28.** On May 22, 1997, eight villagers of Ter Zerng village, Nar Poi tract, Namzarng township, Shan State, who had been relocated, went back to their old village of Ter Zerng to get their belongings. On their way back, they met the SLORC soldiers from Namzarng at their old village. They all ran but only four of them managed to escape. The other four were captured, tied up two by two and killed. Their bodies were thrown into an old dugout in Loi Waeng village. They were (1) Loong Kaw Yao (2) Nang Nu, wife (3) Sai Ka Wing, son and (4) an unknown person. (*Source: SHRF*)

- 1.4.29.** On May 22, 1997, SLORC Major Kyi Aung and his troops from Murng Tar township, Shan State, killed Loong Tan, Loong Than Ou, Loong Su, Sai Aw Ta, Sai Vi Zing Tar and Nang Kham in Wan Huay Aw. The six villagers were arrested two days earlier and accused of providing the SURA with food and news. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.30.** On May 23, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 515 came into the old village of Zik Ta, Murng Lerm tract, Namzarng township, Shan State, and shot dead five villagers. Later they searched for rice which the villagers had hidden in the forest and took it away. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.31.** On May 27, 1997, SLORC troops of LIB. 515 from Laikha, led by Major Soe Phyu, came to Ter Leng village, Laikha township, Shan State, and arrested two villagers named Sai Tu, 22 and Pan Zik Ta, 25. They were accused of being SURA members. The troops tied them up, beat and tortured while interrogating them until both of them died. They then forced their families to move to Laikha immediately and burnt down their two houses. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.32.** On May 30, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 520 from Murngpan township, Shan State, shot dead the following villagers. (1) Su Nan Ta, 35, from Ton Hoong village tract, Murngnai township (2) Ai kaw, 27, from Kung Mong village, Kaeng Kham tract, Kunghing township (3) Kung Mala, 35, of Kunhing township (4) Ai Lot, 25, from Kunghing township (*Source: SHRF*).
- 1.4.33.** On May 30, 1997, Nai Li, 60, woman villager from Wan Kung Ho Yard village, Kaeng Kham village tract, Kunghin township, Shan State, went to collect bamboo-shoots in the forest. SLORC troops from Kunghing-based IB. 246 blasted her to death with a hand grenade. Her body was left lying in a bamboo grove. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.34.** On June 4, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 515 shot dead two villagers at Nar Kaeng village, Murng Lerm tract, Kaesee township, Shan State. They were Mu Ling, 32, and Win Ling, 41 (*Source: SHRF*).
- 1.4.35.** On June 6, 1997, some villagers with some bullock-carts went back to get rice and paddy from their old village of Pha Lang, Kaeng Lom tract, Kunhing township, Shan State. They returned with several cart-loads of paddy and they met some SLORC troops from IB. 246 and LIB. 332 led by Major Nyunt Oo. SLORC troops arrested them, tied them up with ropes and shot them dead without asking any questions. They also took away their belongings,

carts and paddy. The following is the list of the 26 villagers shot by the troops. (1) Pu Loi Kaw, 60 (2) Nai Loi Poi, female, 40 (3) Lai Zern Yong, 45 (4) Nai Zing, 40 (5) Su Nan Ta, 35 (6) Nam Kham, female, 35 (7) Sang Aw, 38 (8) Khat Nya, 30 (9) Wi Ling, 50 (10) Mu Ling, 45 (11) Kaw Ling, 45 (12) Su Ping Nya, 42 (13) Khing Tu, 39 (14) Khing Min, 37 (15) Sai Wong, 38 (16) Loong Man, 40 (17) Ae Nang, female, 20 (18) Kaw Ya, 50 (19) Su Ling, 20 (20) Loong Saw, 49 (21) Nang Lao, female, 45 (22) Nang Mart, female, 43 (23) Nang Seng Zing, female, 38 (24) Ook Tama, 35 (25) Na Ling, 46 and (26) Sin Na Ta, 29. (*Source: SHRF*)

1.4.36. On June 7, 1997, three villagers of Wan Kyawng, Murngpan township, Shan State, were beaten to death by the troops from SLORC LIB. 332 from Murngpan. They were (1) Loong Za Lim 40, (2) Loong Nan Ta, 45 and (3) Sai Ta, 37. (*Source: SHRF*)

1.4.37. On June 7, 1997, six villagers of Pa Karng village, Namzarng township, Shan State went to get honey in the forest. All of them were shot dead by the SLORC troops. The six villagers killed were (1) Ai Nu (2) Ai Sa (3) Zara (4) Kaw Ling (5) Mae Tha and (6) Wala (*Source: SHRF*).

1.4.38. On June 10, 1997, SLORC troops from Kunhing-based LIB. 524 shot dead six villagers who were going to work on their farm, a few kilometers west of the town (*Source: SHRF*).

1.4.39. On June 10, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 515, led by Major Soe Myint, forced some villagers at Wan Sang village, Laikha township, Shan State, to serve as porters. They shot dead one porter at Nawng Leng village and three other porters on the mountain of Loi Taeng. (*Source: SHRF*)

1.4.40. On June 11, 1997, a patrol of SLORC troops from LIB. 524 met ten villagers who were gathering rice paddy in the deserted village of Wan Phai, Kaeng Lom tract, Kunhing township, Shan State. Without saying anything, the SLORC troops shot all of them dead on the spot. They were all from Wan Phai village. They were: (1) Loong Zarn, 50 (2) Pan Ti, 22 (3) Sai Suay, 20 (4) Sai Ekka, 27 (5) Su Zing, 29 (6) Kaw Na, 39 (7) Khing Khong, 51 (8) Wa Ling Ta, 36 (9) Khing Ung, 42 and (10) Pan Ta, 45. (*Source: SHRF*)

1.4.41. On June 13, 1997, five villagers of different villages in Murngpan township, Shan State were beaten to death by troops from SLORC LIB. 332 from Murngpan township, Shan State. They were (1) Pannya, 35, from Nam Maw Mon village (2) Loong Pae, 50, from Nawng Harn village (3) Pa Kao,

50, from Wan Kung village (4) Su Nan Ta, 40, from Loi Noi village and (5) Su Na Ta, from Long Kaeng village. (*Source: SHRF*)

1.4.42. On June 16, 1997, 27 villagers with several bullock-carts who had been forcibly relocated to Kunhing returned to their old village of Wan Sar Lar in Kaeng Lom tract, Shan State to get their paddy and other belongings which they had not been able to take when they were forced to move. On their way back to the town, they met some SLORC soldiers at a place called Tard Pha Ho. The SLORC troops massacred all the villagers and all the oxen. Nine of the villagers killed were (1) Loong Kaw Zan Ta, 58-year-old villager from Sar Lar village, Kaeng Lom tract (2) Nai Poi, 50-year-old villager from Sar Lar village, Kaeng Lom tract (3) Loong Yo, 40-year-old villager from Sar Lar village, Kaeng Lom tract (4) Khing Zaw Ta, 42-year-old villager from Sar Lar village, Kaeng Lom tract (5) Khing Man, 37-year-old villagers from Nar Sai village, Kaeng Kham tract (6) Khing Tae Wing, 47-year-old villager from Nar Sai village, Kaeng Kham tract (7) Sang Pae Ti, 41-year-old villager from Kun Kyawng village, Kaeng Kham tract (8) Sang Khae Ming, 35-year-old villager from Nar La village, Kaeng Kham tract (9) Sang Kaw Ling, 35-year-old villager from Paeng Kham village. The names of the rest were unknown. (*Source: SHRF*)

1.4.43. On June 16, 1997, under the command of Lt-Col. Thein Soe, commander of Strategic Command (1) of Eastern Command, Captain Kamu of IB. 513 led his troops to guard the road near Sai Khao old village, Kaeng Kham district, Kunhing township, Shan State. They found some villagers who had come back to get their rice paddy in the deserted village. The troops arrested them, tied them up together, three in a bunch, and shot them dead. They all came from Quarter (3) of Kunhing town when they had been relocated. The 22 villagers killed were: (1) Ping Nya, 42 (2) Kaw Win Ta, 28 (3) Zin Ta, 50 (4) Pan Ta, 45 (5) Zing Ta, 38 (6) Nan Ti, 30 (7) Naing Harn, female, 27 (8) Wa Ling Ta, 42 (9) Nang Zern, 29 (10) Loong Man, 44 (11) Sai La, 40 (12) Su Nan Ta, 38 (13) Sai Nya Na, 29 (14) Pi Nu, 48 (15) Ai Sai, 20 (16) Khing Ta, 32 (17) Nang Zarm, female, 40 (18) Loong Ma, 40 (19) Kaw Ling, 25 (20) Zan Ta La, 30 (21) Ai Ti, 32 and (22) Khing Wa Ling, 40. These villagers were all shot dead near the forest north of Sai Khao. (*Source: SHRF*)

1.4.44. On June 17, 1997, SLORC troops and members of people's militia shot dead four of the villagers who were working at a remote farm in the forest near Wan Tong village, Ho Nar village tract, Murngkerng township. The four were (1) Lai Seng Mu, 48 (2) Sai Thun, 20 (3) Pa Mi, 60 (4) Nang Lu,

15. (Source: *SHRF*)

- 1.4.45.** On June 26, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 515 shot dead seven villagers at Huay Aw village, Wan Tong village tract, Kaesee township. All the victims were women and their children. They were (1) Ae Pu, 28, and her 11 year-old son (2) Ae Purng, 25, and her three-month old baby (3) Ae Zing, 27, and her five month-old baby, and (4) Ae Kham. (Source: *SHRF*)
- 1.4.46.** On June 27, 1997, SLORC troops of Maurngpan-based LIB. 332 led by Captain Thein Htut arrested the following twelve villagers in Kaeng Tawng area, Murngnai township, Shan State. They were (1) Sai Nan Ta, headman of Ton Hoong village, Ton Hoong tract (2) Pu Karng Parn, headman of Nam Tum Tai village, Nawng Hee tract (3) Pu Karng Thawn, headman of Nawng Phar village, Nawng Hee tract (4) Awng La, headman of Waeng Kao village, Nawng Hee tract (5) Saw Ya, headman of Kun Mong village, Kun Mong tract (6) Pu Lai sai, headman of Kun Kawk village, Kun Mong tract (7) Pu Karng Larn, headman of Phak Lurn village, Kun Mong tract (8) Pu Karng Mawng, headman of Long Kawng village, Ton Hoong tract (9) Mu Ling, headman of Nawng Phar village, Nawng Hee tract, (10) Pu Karng Mon, headman of Kung Sa village, Tin Hoong tract and three unknown villagers. These twelve people, most of whom were village and tract headmen, were accused of supporting Shan soldiers. The SLORC troops brought them to a military base, and after torturing and questioning them for three days, killed all of them on June 30, 1997. (Source: *SHRF*)
- 1.4.47.** On the night of June 30, 1997, three people escaped from the regimental lock-up of Falam-based IB. 268 after removing the iron bar of a ventilation window in the cell. All of them were soldiers from IB. 268. Sergeant Tun Lin was put into the lock-up due to the misuse of money collected from cow smuggling dealers as tax. Two other riflemen, Soe Myint and Ko Oo were put into regimental lock-up because they tried to run away from their regiment. A platoon of IB. 268 started the search operation to arrest the deserters in the same night. When the platoon reached Zaothe village on July 2, 1997 its commander threatened the village chief and villagers that the village would be burnt down and all male villagers would be exterminated unless they disclosed the place where the deserters were hiding. So the villagers disclosed the place of hiding. The army surrounded the hut in the hillside cultivation field near Zaothe village, where the deserters were hiding the afternoon of the same day. At that time, three deserters and Ms. Van Lai Pal, a local woman were in the hut. Although they tried to escape, the army apprehended all of them except rifleman Ko Oo. Three arrested people were interrogated

the whole day in that hut. Ms. Van Lai Pal confessed that she had agreed to send the deserters to anti-SLORC revolutionary forces staying at Indo-Burma border. Colonel Ohn Thwin, Commander of Military Tactical Command No (1), North-West Command ordered Major Khin Maung Wai, Deputy Commander of IB. 268 to terminate all the deserters including the woman and then to report as death in an encounter. Tun Lin, Soe Myint and Ms. Van Lai Pal were killed on the night of July 2, 1997 in the same hut. (*Source: ABSL*)

- 1.4.48.** On July 1, 1997, SLORC troops of LIB. 524 led by Major Htun Mya ransacked Kaeng Lom area, Kunhing township, Shan State, and arrested villagers who had come back to collect their possessions left behind at their old villages. Altogether 96 men and women were arrested from Waeng Kham, Kun Mi, Wo Long, Nar tau, Wan Parng, Ho Ha, Nar Poi, Karang Nar, Nar Yao, Son Sarng, Nar Khar Awn and Nar Khar Long. These 96 villagers were all gathered together at the village of Kun Mi. They were beaten, tortured and accused of being supporters who provided food and information for the Shan soldiers. On July 3-4, 1997, the troops put plastic bags over their heads, wrapped them up round their necks until they suffocated to death and threw their bodies into the Nam Parng River. All the women were also raped several times during the 3-4 days and nights before they were killed. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.49.** On July 11, 1997, on the road that branches out from the main road to Kaeng Lom, Shan State, the corpses of 26 villagers were lined up with their heads laid beside their bodies. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.50.** On July 12, 1997, on the road between Kaeng Lom and Kaeng Tawng, 17 corpses were lined up with their heads laid beside their bodies. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.51.** On July 12, 1997, the Ler-der-poo villager, Karen State, Saw Bla Daya was arrested and executed by a SLORC military column led by Khin Maung Win. The following day, the column arrested and executed Hseet-ku villagers Saw Ko Sher, Saw Ba Nee, Saw Pee Ler, Saw Ba Shwe and Saw Wah Ler. (*Source: UN report*)
- 1.4.52.** On July 20, 1997, SLORC troops of LIB. 376, led by Major Ko Ko Lay made a search in the area of Kaeng Lom, Kunhing township, Shan State. While searching Nam Pa Man village, they arrested a villager named Sai Rae Wa Ta, 35, son of Loong Kawn Kya. They accused him of being a

SURA spy and shot him dead in the forest near Mai Hen Lao. (*Source: SHRF*)

- 1.4.53.** On July 24, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 439 opened fire on the village of Maw-law village in Papun District, Karen State wounding villager Saw Tu Lu, 32. (*Source: KIC*)
- 1.4.54.** On July 25, 1997, the column arrested Pyi Cha villagers, Saw Kway Poe, Saw Tun Hla and Saw Par Er in Tavoy-Mergui District and then executed them without reason. It killed and ate three of the villagers' cattle. Again, on July 26, the column came to Pyi Cha and burnt down five houses and a pandal. (*Source: KIC*)
- 1.4.55.** On July 25-26, 1997, about 200 SLORC troops of LIB. 248 rummaged around the area of Kaeng Lom, Kunhing township, Shan State. The troops arrested a villager named Sai La Oo, 18, son of Zan Da and Nai Nang Oo Keng Lom village. They killed him near Kam Pi village, Kaeng Lom tract, Kunhing township. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.56.** On August 14, 1997, the SLORC unit killed six villagers from Seik Ku village in Tenasserim Division. The killings were carried out as a threat to the other forced laborers. The SLORC complained that the six slain villagers killed did not work hard enough and were lazy. (*Source: KIC*)
- 1.4.57.** On July 29, 1997, troops from SLORC LIB. 709 indiscriminately shot at the villagers of Thway-doe village in Papun District, Karen State, wounding a villager. The troops stayed at the village for a day and killed all the chickens and pigs found and ate them. (*Source: KIC*)
- 1.4.58.** In July, 1997, 80 SLORC troops of LIB.525 arrived at Hart Mai village, Larnghkur township, Shan State, and camped in the village. In the evening, when the villagers who had gone to work outside the village returned home, SLORC troops shot them without asking anything, killing four villagers. They were (1) Ai Zing, 35 (2) Nan Ti, 20 (3) Zan Ti Ma, 22 (4) Ing Ta, 30. SLORC troops accused them of being rebels. When the village headman said they were his villagers, the soldiers arrested him, questioned him for a while and eventually killed him as well. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.59.** On August 7, 1997, 150 SLORC troops of LIB. 516 from Namzarng, Shan State, led by Major Myint Maung, made a search in the area of Wan Lao village tract, Kunhing township and shot dead two villagers. They were

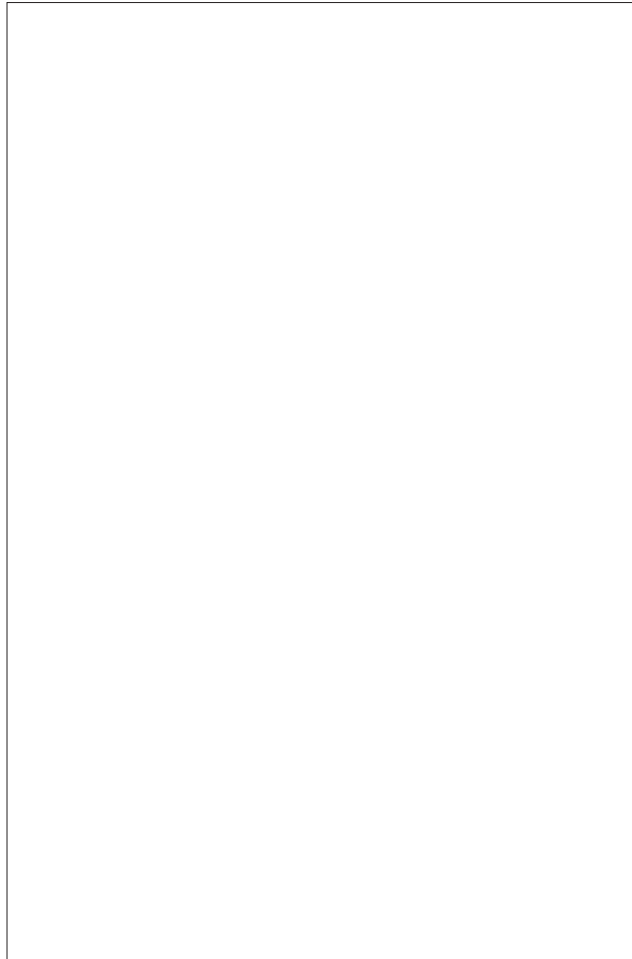
Nang Mai, 25, daughter of Loong Zong and Pa Awng of Wan Lao village and Ping Nya, 30, son of Loong Wawd and Nan Mart of Wan Lao village. (Source: *SHRF*)

- 1.4.60.** On August 10, 1997, 80 SLORC troops from IB. 246 led by Major Htoo Nyein, arrested six villages in Kho Lam area, Manzarng township, Shan State. They were (1) Sai Wi Ya, 40, (2) Sai Harn, 38 (3) Sai Parn, 37 (4) Nang Poi, 36 (5) Nang Htoo, 32 and (6) Sai Kaw Ya, 29. These people were accused of supporting the SURA troops with food and were taken to the army base at Kho Lam. The men were beaten and tortured while being interrogated and finally killed by suffocation, with plastic bags put over their heads and faces. (Source: *SHRF*)
- 1.4.61.** On August 23, 1997, husband Saw Kalo, 58 years old, and wife Naw Moo, 50 years old, were arrested in Lo Po village of No. (2) District by the SLORC troops of LB.102 under the command of Sein Hlaing (unknown position). The troops killed the husband. The wife Naw Moo died after being repeatedly raped by the troops. (Source: *KNPP*)
- 1.4.62.** On August 27, 1997, 23-year-old, Saw Jelley, Kho Baw Deh village was killed by Captain Min Ko Oo of Battalion No. 531 of SLORC while he went to Mawchee town to buy salt and fish paste. Saw Jelley was stopped and searched while he was on his way to Mawchee. The Captain accused him of Karenni intelligence when the Captain found on him 10,500 kyats (Burmese Currency) and shot him dead. This incidence reached the Commander of the Unit who covered the truth and explained to the public that Saw Jelley was killed because he was trying to escape while he was being questioned. (Source: *KNPP*)
- 1.4.63.** On November 6, 1997, SLORC battalion commander Khin Maung Win arrested Saw Kai of Ta Peet Lay village, Tavoy district, Tenasserim Division, without any reason and brutally killed him. (Source: *KIC*)
- 1.4.64.** On November 18, 1997, SLORC Lt-Col. Thein Maung and LIB. 708 battalion commander Win Tun arbitrarily shot the following villagers who were hiding in the jungle around Shoo-kee village, Htantapin township, Karen State. They were Saw Maw Rae (60), Saw Law Ba-kay (35), Saw Maw Lay (40), Naw Kai Mai(30), Saw Khu Say Doe(6) and Naw Posie(2). (Source: *KHRG*)
- 1.4.65.** On November 19, 1997, troop from SLORC LIB. 708 shot the villagers of

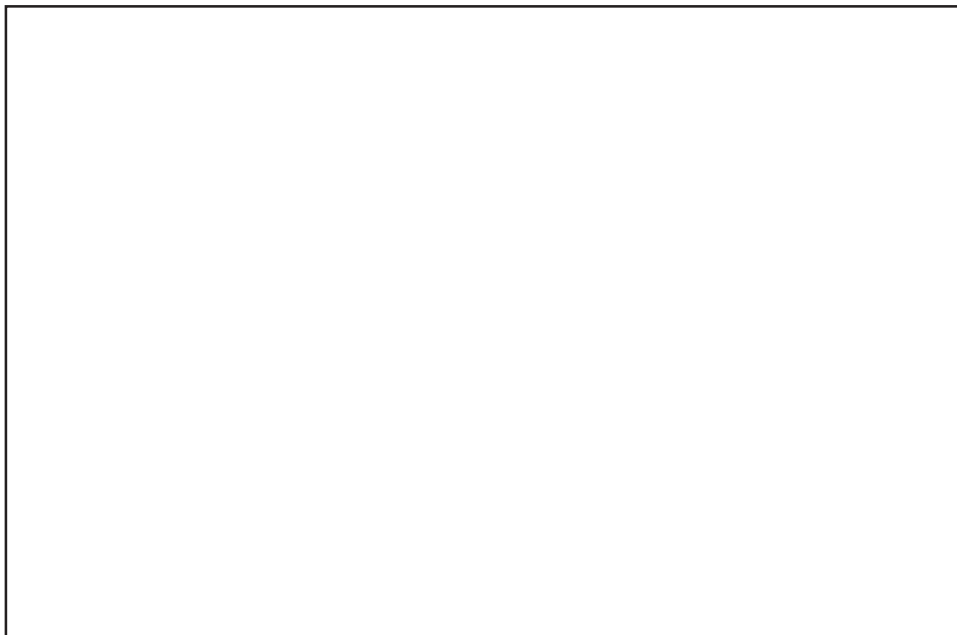
- Tha-aye-kee village in Htantapin township, Karen State. They killed four people, a man, a woman and two children. (*Source: KIC*)
- 1.4.66.** From November 26 to December 3, 1997, SLORC column led by Lt-Col. Kyaw Sein from LIB. 36 stayed in Kyaukdaung village, Papun township, Karen State and committed various forms of abuses. The troops forcibly collected 80,000 kyats from the villagers as porter fees for three months and killed villager U Ohn, aged 33. (*Source: ABSDF*)
- 1.4.67.** On November 27, 1997, SLORC LB. 48 arrested and brutally killed U Pa Nya, Min Min Latt and Thein Pu of Aung Chan Tha village in Mooe township, Shan State. (*Source: KIC*)
- 1.4.68.** On November 29, 1997, SLORC soldiers from LIB. 704 arrested May Saw Kyay (age 30), who lived in Pa-La-lar village, Karen State and brutally killed him. (*Source: KIC*)
- 1.4.69.** On December 12, 1997, SLORC military column from LIB. 38 led by Captain Win Naing entered Htee Thelay village in Papun township, Karen State and killed a whole family. The victims were U Phar Hope, 40-year-old teacher, Daw Matwe, 25-year-old wife, Saw Nelwe, 16-year-old son and Saw Nisay, 7-year-old son. The column took 5,200 kyats and other belonging of the family. (*Source: ABSDF*)
- 1.4.70.** On December 19, 1997, a company from SLORC IB.12, based in Lolem and led by Captain Tin Win ransacked the areas along the Nam Taeng river in Laikha township, Shan State. They met three villagers in two bullock-carts near Wan Huay village who were returning from Parg Phone village relocation site after selling consumer goods there. After asking a few questions, the SPDC troops shot dead all the villagers. The three victims were (1) Sai Naw, 30, (2) Nang Yaw, 30, and (3) Pa Nang Ee. All of them were from No.2 quarter of Laikha town. The soldiers also killed the four oxen for meat and burnt the two bullock-carts. (*Source: SHRF*)
- 1.4.71.** On December 2-3, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 517 ransacked the area of Murng Khun village tract, Murng Kerng township, Shan State. They arrested four villagers and killed them. They were (1) Sang Wi, 18 from Nam Tao village, Murng Khun tract, (2) Sang Ui, 18, from Nam Tao village, (3) Nang Non Zing, 35, from Nam Tao village and (4) Nang, 18, female from Kung Pek village. She was also raped by the SPDC troops before being killed. The soldiers also killed two villagers at Wan Kyawng village.

They were Tiya and Ai Long, both of them from No.4 quarter of Murng Kerng town. (*Source: SHRF*)

(Also see under “personal Accounts,” interviews 3, 8, 9, 13, 14, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 32, 38, 42, 45, 50, 52, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 64, 65, 72, 73, 77, 79, 97, 98, 99, 100 and 102)



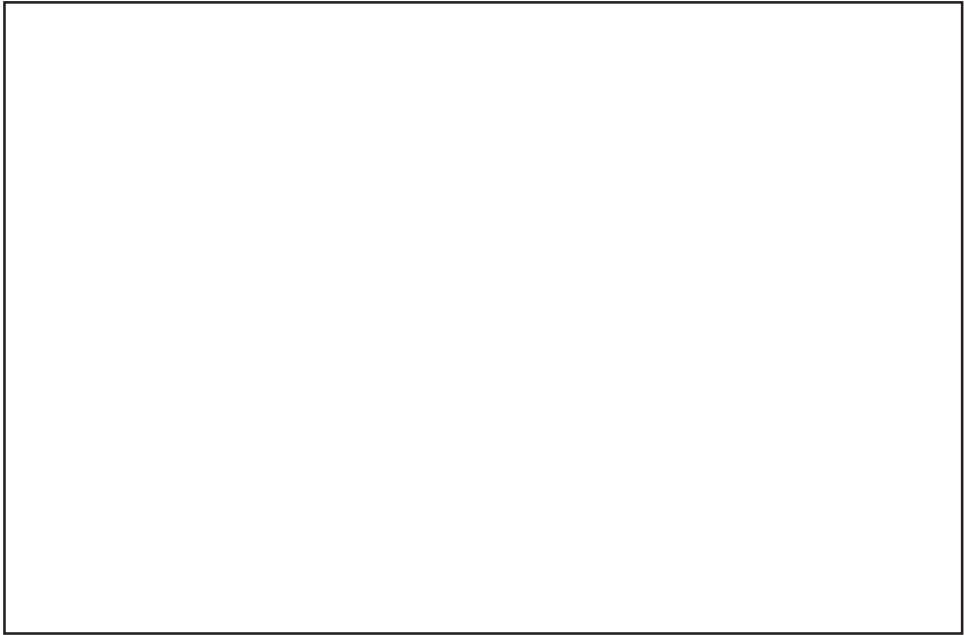
Za Ling Ta, 28, killed in the February 21 incident in Kho Lam relocation site with his wife and two daughters. (Photo by SHRF)



Bodies of two Shan refugee families prepared for burial. They were blasted to death by the SLORC troops in Kho Lam relocation site in Shan State on February 21, 1997. (Photo by SHRF)



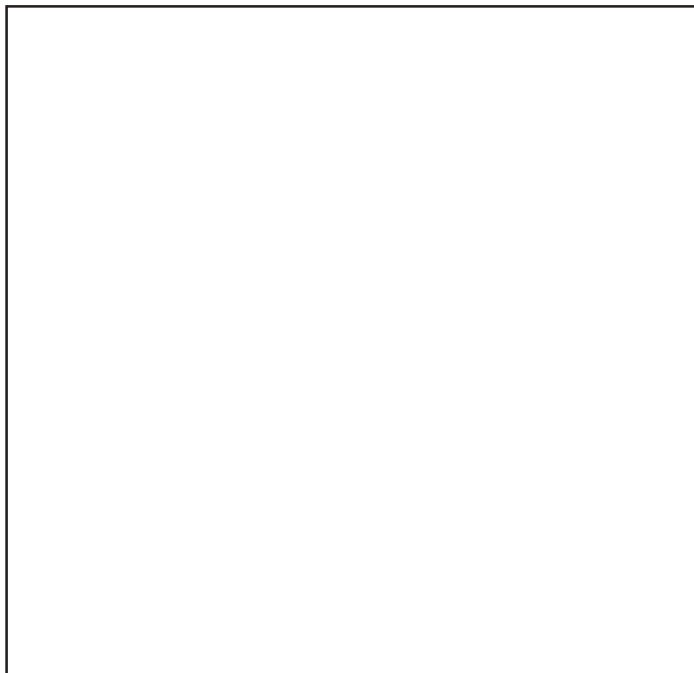
Ka Ling's four-year-old son in the February 21 incident in Kho Lam relocation site. (Photo by SHRF)



Ka Ling, 47, killed in the February 21 incident in Kho Lam relocation site with his family and other relatives. (Photo by SHRF)



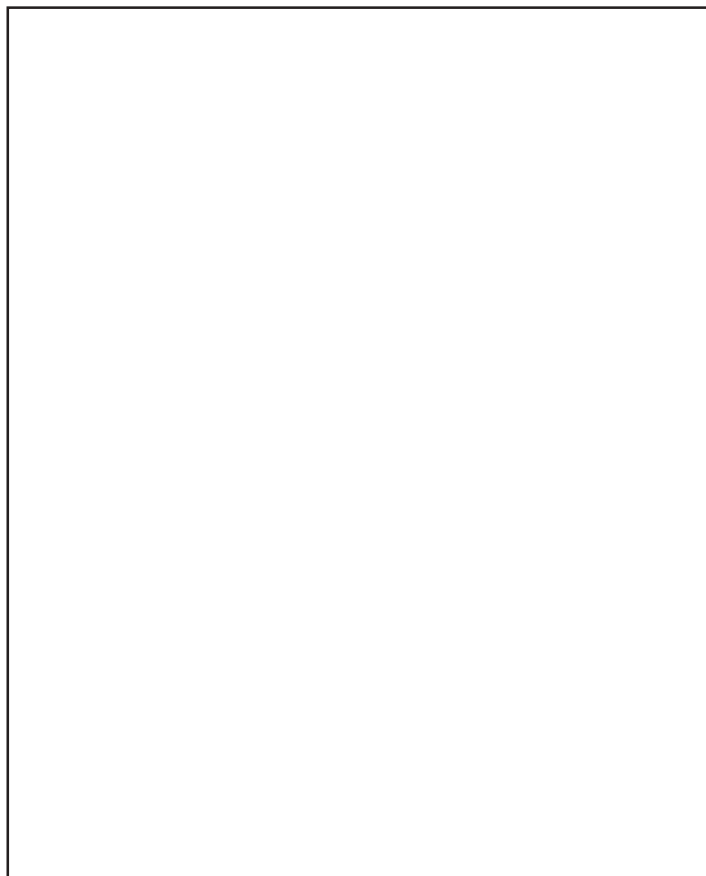
Nang Nu, 28, Za Ling Ta's wife, killed in the February 21 incident in Kho Lam relocation site. (Photo by SHRF)

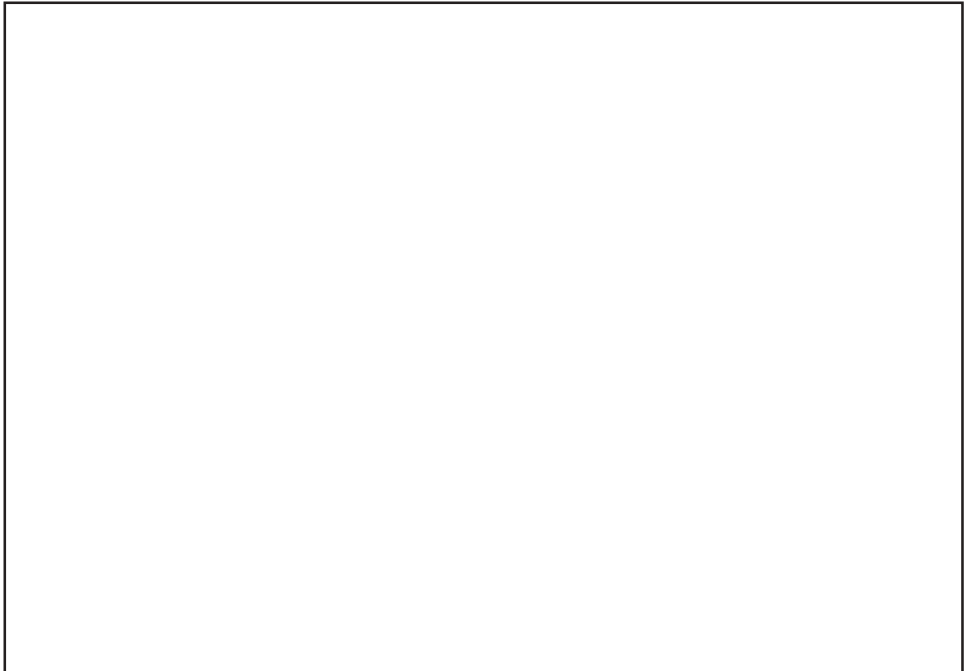


Saw Lah Po, Karen, aged 42, single. He was killed in front of his house in Papun district by a passing SLORC patrol on June 30 1997.

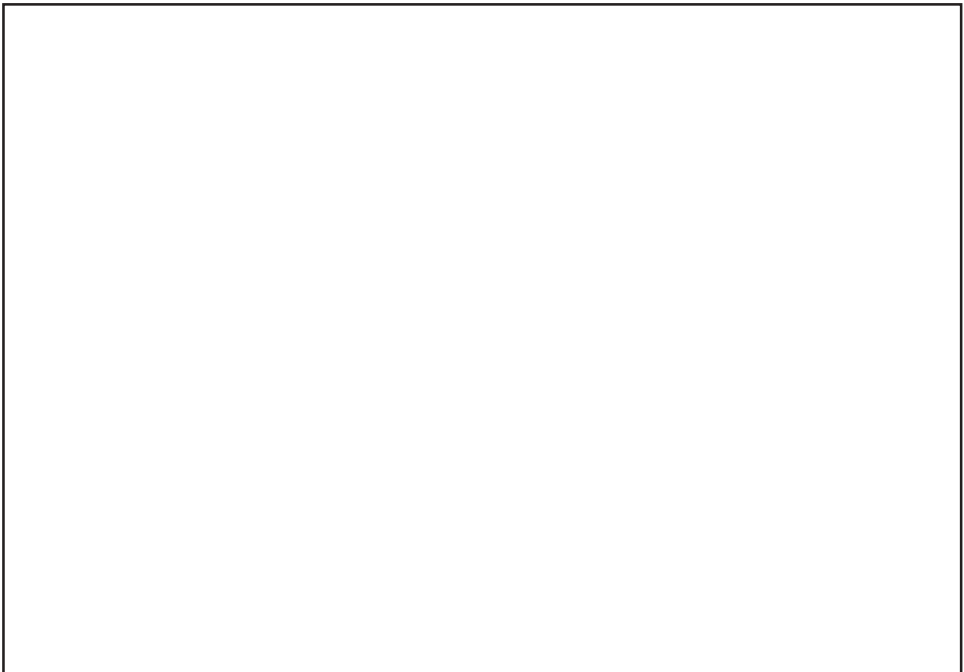
(Photo by Independent Karen Source)

Pah Dah, Karen Christian, aged 45 was shot dead on sight in the forest by a SLORC patrol on June 26, 1997. His body was left where he was shot. The grave in the photo was dug by the villagers. (Photo by KHRG)





Elderly Karen villager who was badly burned when his house was burned by SPDC troops in late 1997. He managed to escape the village but fell and died alone in the bush. By the time he was found part of his body had been devoured by animals. (photo by Saw TGH)



This elderly Karen woman was found like this after struggling to live alone in this field hut. She apparently starved to the point where she collapsed into the fire she had lit for warmth, and died there. (Photo by Saw TGH)

**EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS IN
THE FORCED RELOCATION
AREAS
IN SHAN STATE
DURING 1997**

