

6. Deprivation of Livelihood

6.1. Exploitation and Abuse of Rice Farmers

All rice farmers in Burma are legally required to pay an annual paddy tax to the authorities, under the military's country-wide program of paddy procurement. Farmers are forced to sell their paddy for amounts set by the authorities, often at unfair and remarkably low prices. Rice farmers who are not able to sell the required amount of paddy are liable to imprisonment or face hefty fines. Additionally, those rice farmers who have been arrested and detained for their inability to sell the required amount of paddy, are not released until they have sold the full amount required by the law. If farmers do not obtain an adequate crop of paddy from their paddy fields, they must buy additional paddy from surrounding market places to make up a full quota. Such farmers are forced to sell the paddy they have bought in these market places for at least one-fourth less than the market price.

Farmers in Irrawaddy and Pegu divisions have suffered the most under SLORC/SPDC's paddy procurement program. Rice production in these two divisions is traditionally among the highest in the country, but large amounts of paddy fields were destroyed in 1996 due to bad weather conditions. Farmers, therefore, could not provide the military — imposed rice quota. The SLORC/SPDC has also issued an order warning rice farmers that those owning more than five acres of paddy field, are subject to have what they view as their 'excess land', and confiscated by the State and 'redistributed'. According to a farmer who recently escaped to the Thai-Burma border, many farmers have, as a consequence, been forced to sell their extra paddy fields at unreasonably low prices before SLORC/SPDC could enforce their latest order. (*Source: ABSDF*)

Rice farmers from Mon State and Tenasserim Division have normally been required to sell ten to twelve baskets of paddy for every acre of their paddy fields each year to SLORC/SPDC authorities. They were required to sell their paddy-quota's to various authorities at the SLORC/SPDC-set price of 150 *kyats* in the 1996-1997 fiscal year, vis-a-vis the current market price of 500 *kyats* or more per basket. Many farmers were subsequently arrested for their inability to sell enough paddy to the authorities. Many have been kept in detention for indefinite periods of time, or at least until the required amount of paddy had been sold at the set prices. Such

farmers were forced to buy paddy in the market-place for more than 500 *kyats* per basket and then sold the same paddy to the authorities at the set price of 150 *kyats* per basket for their release. Many of these farmers were forced to sell off or mortgage their cattle or farm lands in order to meet the paddy quota. Many of these farmers have been forced to flee Burma with their families to seek better jobs and conditions in Thailand, being unable to face the hardships of ordinary life in Burma.

Additionally, farmers who have recently fled to Thailand have complained of being sent to forced labor camps by the SLORC/SPDC. Some farmers who have fled to the Thai-Burma border areas have told of facing arrest and transfer to forced labor camps. Upon their arrival on the border, many farmers told of how their remaining paddy fields were subsequently occupied by the SLORC/SPDC.

In early 1997, a large number of farmers were arrested for failing to provide a rice quota of 12 tins per acre to the SLORC/SPDC, 6 tins to the Union Development and Solidarity Association (USDA), and incidental amounts of rice to local SLORC/SPDC officials. Since SLORC/SPDC has begun to implement a policy of increased rice exports, farmers have been forced to sell rice to the SLORC/SPDC at a price much lower than market rates. In 1997, the SLORC/SPDC set price was 70 *kyats* per tin, while the market price was over 250 *kyats* per tin.

6.2. Exploitation and Abuse of Rubber Farmers

In a fashion similar to rice farmers, rubber farmers are normally required to pay an annual 'rubber tax', by selling a certain amount of rubber at military set prices, to the local authorities. Likewise to the situation of rice farmers in Burma, rubber farmers who are not able to sell a quota of rubber at fixed prices are subject to imprisonment and/or fines. Rubber farmers from Tavoy township in Tenasserim Division have been required to sell such rubber quotas to the authorities at a rate of 2,000 pounds per 350 measures of rubber from their plantations.

6.3. Exploitation and Abuse of Fishermen

Fishermen in Tenasserim Division, many of whom are fully dependent on fishing for their survival, particularly those in Launglon township, have experienced great hardships resulting from the systematic deprivation of their rights to their own lives, a means of subsistence by the Burmese authorities. In the 10 long years since SLORC/SPDC came to power, it has sold a large number of fishing concessions in Tenasserim division to Thai fishing companies. As a result, the local fishing population have been banned

from fishing in large areas of sea surrounding their home towns because foreign fishing companies have been granted fishing concessions to these areas. At the same time, SLORC/SPDC has opened several large sea fish buying centers in towns and villages across Tenasserim, including Kyauk Ni Maw and Kan Yaw Byin villages in Launglon township, and normally require local fishermen to sell sea fish and prawns in specific amounts at set rates, significantly lower than the local market rates. Those local fishermen who are unable to sell a fixed amount of fish as required by the authorities, are subjected to arrest, detention and extortionate fines in a similar manner to the those imposed on rice and rubber farmers. Moreover, SLORC/SPDC authorities are increasingly imposing 'taxes' on local fishermen for fishing nets, boats, and engines.

In addition to the methods of extortion waged against fishermen and farmers, SLORC/SPDC or SPDC authorities impose significant fines on the general population of these communities for various items like 'emergency portering' or non-specific taxes such as the general 'monthly' fee. Such monies are procured for use by the local Law and Order Restoration Council. The poorer among these communities have found it impossible to continue living in their own homes and have been forced to flee to refugee camps along border areas.

6.4. Unfair Levies and Taxes

The entire population of Burma, particularly rural peoples, is normally subjected to a myriad of 'taxes' or 'fees' of both the official and unofficial kinds, predominantly levied by local authorities- civil and military- besides the 'monthly' and 'emergency portering' taxes and fees. Taxes and fees of the official kind are levied by the authorities under the guise of providing necessary support to officially-sanctioned 'community work' on government sites. In the levying of these 'official' taxes and fees, it is commonplace that local SLORC/SPDC authorities levy their own, 'unofficial' fees, making private benefits.

Even the more middle-classed merchants, which make up just a small fraction of the rural population, are barely able to meet the requirements of the taxes and fees. Consequently, the poverty-stricken rural majority experience unparalleled hardship under the constant and heavy burden of all these 'official' and 'unofficial' taxes and fees. Such people are forced to obey any order given to them by the local military and civil authorities and are forced to comply with any demand made by them. Whenever local SLORC/SPDC or SPDC authorities- whether they be civil or military- make demands for contribution of labor, this population have no choice but to fulfil such demands, regardless of whether they are reasonably able to spare time and money in the process. Rampant corruption among government officials and civil

servants, and the traditional misuse of their authority, have doubled the burdens of the rural population and have increased their suffering.

6.4.1. Labor Taxes

Where the authorities use forced labor on state-sanctioned infrastructure or development projects, we find an additional range of taxes and fines that are often imposed in the name of substituted labor-hiring fees or donations. Such 'donations' are forcibly collected from those towns, villages and households that cannot perform or contribute labor. The most part, if not all of this extorted money is just stolen from forced labourers by local SLORC/SPDC civil and military personnel who are entrusted with the implementation of projects and with the supervision of forced labor camps. Absolutely none of the forced labourers working on the many infrastructure or development projects in and around Burma have been officially recruited nor paid by the responsible authorities.

6.4.2. Porter Taxes

The SLORC/SPDC-controlled military normally levies a porter tax of both a 'regular' and 'emergency' kind from the rural population, making up at least two thirds of the entire population of Burma. This rural population, especially in ethnic nationality or non-Burman regions, has been far more seriously affected by such policies of extortion than ever before. A 'porter' fee or tax is not a tax paid by a porter, but a tax paid in lure of actually becoming a porter, in those rare occasions when civilians are given the freedom to chose. In theory, individuals, households or villages must pay a regular 'monthly' and 'emergency portering' tax merely to remain free from having themselves conscripted into the military as porters. In practice however, mere payment of all these 'monthly' and 'emergency portering' taxes does not mean that people remain free from portering or associated military abuse.

Members of the SLORC/SPDC army, especially those controlling rural areas, normally incur a great deal of private benefit by the levying of such taxes among the local populations. Such taxes can vary from as little as 500 *kyats* per household per month to as large an amount as 3,000 *kyats* or more. (*Source: MIS*)

6.5. Situation in newly SLORC/SPDC-occupied areas

Rural areas formerly under the control of the many ethnic resistance groups have now been occupied by SLORC/SPDC troops, where the last remaining traces of opposition are being eliminated using a 'cut, clear, and cleanse' strategy. This involves

cutting areas off from food, information, and trade, clearing all inhabitants from large areas and relocating them to sites, usually adjacent to a military camp, and cleansing all insurgents and arms from the population by use of intimidation and torture. The SLORC/SPDC army continued to consolidate their hold over former ethnic opposition territories in their taken during 1997. The SLORC/SPDC's means of 'pacification' is thorough and systematic. It has left almost an entire population completely impoverished. Many families are under direct orders to relocate, or are hiding in the jungles, or are on the move to Thailand, while others end up living at relocation sites under deplorable conditions.

Education and adequate health care remains still unavailable to the vast majority of Burmese people. Where social services exist, the systematic use of forced labor, arbitrarily imposed taxes, rampant corruption and poverty all work together to make people's lives so difficult that many cannot afford medicines or school supplies. Another problem is that, due to sky-rocketing inflation and such excessive taxation regimes, a salary for a typical government employee in Burma is not even enough to adequately feed or clothe a family. While those people who resign from government positions face fines and other kinds of punishments, there are no rewards conferred to people who stay on. They continue to lack decent pay, resources, and the adequate training to serve Burma's citizens to the full. Under such a civil and political system, everyone ends up with too little.

6.6. List of Incidents

6.6.1. In early January 1997, SLORC Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 549 troops, along with the DKBA, imposed fines of 2,500 *Kyats* each on three Wan Pu villagers, in Pa-an district, Karen State. The fines were imposed as a result of a small battle that took place between SLORC troops, which killed one and wounded another Tatmadaw soldier.

Every day about thirty ox-carts were commanded to clear mines along the Ta Nay Cha-Kawkareik road. All the villages in Ta Nay Cha township were forced to provide 'volunteer labor' for SLORC troops five days a week. In a statement issued by SLORC LIB 549, it was made clear that; a) anybody who had made an kind of contact with resistance forces would be dealt with severely, and b) that if there were any explosions or shots fired in the vicinity of any village in the area, the village in question would be relocated immediately, and face a heavy fine. (*Source: KIC*)

6.6.2. On January 4, 1997, Major Maha Aw (former head of the People's Militia

in Murng Muang who joined the MTA in 1993), with the help of SLORC troops, ordered Zai Auay Pa of Me Ken, the owner of a Toyota four-wheel-drive truck, to transport his family, belongings, and some of his followers, from Murng Sart to Murng Harnng. Since early January he has forced around 50 villagers from Murng Harnng to clear at least 30 acres of land, some of which was later recouped by the villagers. After villagers had cleared the land, Major Maha Aw paid them only 8,000 *kyats* for ten full days' work. Thus far, 15 ex-MTA families have been re-settled, and villagers have been used to clear and measure lands that have been seized by SLORC troops in Murng Harnng, Murng Ton township, eastern Shan State. (*Source: SHRF*)

- 6.6.3.** On January 20, 1997, SLORC LIB. 406 terrorised Mon villagers at Mae Taw in Yebyu township by burning down four houses and plundering village goods. All of the villagers fled in fear. (*Source: MIS*)
- 6.6.4.** In February 1997, SLORC confiscated a total of 1,700 acres of land without compensation, two furlongs west of Mahazedi Pagoda in Pegu for the planned establishment of a satellite town. At the same time, SLORC confiscated a total of 1,000 acres of rubber, cashew nuts, banana, rice and other such plantations around Shwe Baw Gon, Shaun Gwa Gon, Kyeik Day Gon and Thek Kala villages north of Pegu, for the new military bases of Division 77 and 88. (*Source: MIS*)
- 6.6.5.** Since the SLORC offensive against the KNU was stepped up in Mergui-Tavoy district in February 1997, SLORC troops have burned to the ground at least 6 villages; Myitta, Kwe Waw Wah, Kalat Kee, Ka Nal Pose, and other villages. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.6.** On February 8, 1997, SLORC LIB 219, commanded by Lt-Col. Aung Ko Ko, burned unmilled rice belonging to the following villagers in Mae Baw Kee village, Thaton district. 1) Saw Pah Er (75 baskets), 2) Maung Kya Ngay (60 baskets), and 3) Pa Baw (75 baskets). On the same day, SLORC soldiers killed and ate buffaloes belonging to Maw Loh Pha from the same village. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.7.** On February 9, 1997, SLORC LIB 25 set fire to 16 houses in Ka Let Kee village and executed an innocent villager named Saw Paw Na. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.8.** On February 10, 1997, two villages, namely Now Baw Kee and La Kyo Ko, were relocated to Htaw Klaw Kee village by SLORC LIB 63 which is

- also based at this village. The entire village was fenced and the villagers are now virtual prisoners. They are only allowed to leave the village as forced laborers to work on a road being built by SLORC troops in the region. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.9.** From February 11 to July 31, 1997, nine villages totaling 196 houses, were burnt down and destroyed and 882 villagers were rendered homeless in Thaton district, Karen State. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.10.** From February 11 to July 31, 1997, 88 villages totaling 3,000 houses were destroyed. Over 369 rice barns with 60,000 baskets of paddy were burnt, along with four churches and 60 schools. As a result around 20,000 civilians became homeless in Pa-pun district, Karen State. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.11.** From February 11 to July 31, 1997, 14 villages totaling 350 houses, 14 churches and 12 schools were destroyed. 993 civilians became homeless, and 50 rice barns with 149 baskets of rice and 580 baskets of paddy were burnt to ashes in Taungoo district, Karen State. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.12.** From February 11 to July 31, 1997, 67 villages consisting of 669 houses were destroyed; 4,679 civilian became homeless, and 162 rice barns with 7,870 baskets of paddy were burnt in Naung Lay Bin district, Karen State. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.13.** During the second week of February 1997, Deputy Commander Aung Myint ordered Gaung Say Chaung, Ka Taung Ni, Ka Let Gyi and Karamon Chun villages, all on the east side of the Kan Chaung River, to move from their village to the west or face persecution. During the last week of February, troops from SLORC LIB 25 arrived at Gaung Say Chung village and looted the homes of U Phee Hla, U Pho Thalone, U Sue Naw, U Saw Dar, U Saw Tin Aye, U Saw Three, and U Khin Maung. The same troops also burned paddy barns in the villages. (*Source: FTUB*)
- 6.6.14.** On February 12, 1997, the same regiment burned to the ground five houses and a Christian church in Ka Nel Pose village. The commander also ordered the execution of seven ailing SLORC soldiers and 20 porters. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.15.** On February 16, 1997, SLORC IB. 273 burned down Ka Nel Hqae (Pyar Thar Chaung) village near the Paw Kin River, Ban Chaung village in the Paw Klao River valley, and Phaung Daw village, in Tenasserim Division. These

villages had been suspected of supporting the KNU. All farms belonging to the villagers were torched, and farm animals confiscated by the troop. (Source: KIC)

6.6.16. On February 17, 1997, Ka Witt Hta village was burned to the ground, and villagers were forced to serve as porters for the SLORC's LIB. 17 and 101. The whole village population of this area has since fled (Source: KIC)

6.6.17. On February 17, 1997, advancing SLORC troops also set fire to Ka Saw Wah and Ka Maw Htar villages, in Tenasserim Division. Htee Pho Law and Lo Ray villages were subsequently burned to the ground on February 18. Some plantations were also destroyed by the same troops. (Source: KIC)

6.6.18. On February 20, 1997, the SLORC reinforced its units stationed in the eastern part of Pinyinmana district. Troops from IB 34 arrested Karen villagers from the villages in the eastern part of Tantabin township, Taungoo district, and forced them to carry food for their soldiers. They were released only upon payment of a 2,000 *Kyats* fine. SLORC IB 34 ordered four Karen villages, namely Shwe Zee Bo, Zee Byer Gon and Tawgoo, in Taungoo district, to send 25 men per month to serve the army as porters. In addition, troops demanded 1,000 and 2,000 *Kyats* payments from each village household. The same troops arbitrarily arrested villagers and demanded a further 2,000 *Kyats* for their release. At present, the SLORC's IB is still moving among Karen villages in the hills of the eastern of Tantabin township harassing Karen villagers. (Source: KIC)

6.6.19. On February 27, SLORC IB 51 entered Toe The Kee village and summoned villagers. They were ordered not to leave the village. Without reason, the same troops proceeded to arrest local men and women, the soldiers beating and torturing villagers by pouring boiling water over them, or by forcibly immersing their faces in water. (Source: KIC)

6.6.20. In February 1997, SLORC LIB. 104 confiscated more than 1,000 acres of rice fields on Pyingyi island in Launglon township, Tenasserim Division, and another more than 700 acres in Tabea and Ka Nyon Kyun villages in the same township. The more than 300 local farmers were given no compensation. The lands that were confiscated are the intended site of an experimental, modern-method rice cultivation project run by the military in the region. (Source: MIS)

6.6.21. On March 2, 1997, SLORC IB. 230 and DKBA soldier, Maung Han Shwe,

torched the house of Maung Chit Tu, a villager from Ta Maw Daw. All of his household belongings, worth in total around 35,000 *kyats*, were destroyed in the fire. They also confiscated a pair of earrings worth 5,000 *kyats*, ten baskets of rice worth 5,000 *kyats*, and a saw worth 1,000 *kyats*. The group demanded that 500 *kyats* be paid by each of the villagers who collected matured leaves for roof-building from the surrounding forests. They threatened villagers by saying that they would shoot them if they returned to the forest to collect leaves. They set the forest on fire so all the leaves were destroyed and the villages had no leaves with which to furnish their roof for this coming rainy season. (*Source: KIC*)

- 6.6.22.** On March 10, 1997, troops led by Commander Zaw Hlaing from LIB. 337 burnt down Buko village in Karenni State. As a result, 44 houses were gutted. (*Source: KNPP*)
- 6.6.23.** On March 12, 1997, the SLORC troops confiscated 25.6 acres of farmland in Buthidaung township to establish a Khumi and Morang village. Again, the same troops seized 64.8 acres of farmland in Area 4 of Bu Thi Daung township to construct a prison. (*Source: RSO*)
- 6.6.24.** On March 24, 1997, SLORC troops spent two nights in Leh Kee village, Papun district, Karen State. During this time, soldiers burned 27 houses including a Christian church and ate the villagers' livestock. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.25.** On March 28, 1997, SLORC troops entered and burnt much of Ku Day village, Papun district, Karen State, including 13 barns, and killed 28 buffaloes belonging to villagers. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.26.** On March 28, 1997, the Tactical Operation Command 772, under Division 77, attacked Day Kee village, Naunglebin district, Karen State and burned it to the ground. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.27.** On March 29, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 319 torched Ta Thoo Der village, Papun district, Karen State. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.28.** On April 1, 1997, SLORC troops burned down Hsaw Law village, Papun district, Karen State. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.29.** On April 2, 1997, SLORC troops burned down Peh Day village, Papun district, Karen State. (*Source: KIC*)

- 6.6.30.** On April 3, 1997, troops from LIB. 391 shot civilians at Doh Heh Ser village, Papun district, Karen State, and a further two villagers were reported missing. Later that day, the same troops burned down the village. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.31.** On April 3, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 106 burned down K'Ngaw Mu Der village, Papun district, Karen State. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.32.** In the middle of April, 1997, soldiers from LIB. 429 destroyed the Gay Toe Moe (or spirit post) in Daw Klo Ku village, Pre Tho Leh township, Karenni State. (*Source: KNPP*)
- 6.6.33.** In April 1997, seven villages of Laikha township, in Shan State were relocated and burned to the ground by SLORC troops from IB. 246. The villages were 1) Wan Phar Wawng, 2) Wan Nawng Kern, 3) Wan Zalai Loi, 4) Wan Ho Nam, 5) Wan Nawng Wo, 6) Wan Kung Parn and 7) Wan Nam Maw Long (*Source: SHRF*)
- 6.6.34.** On May 11, 1997, SLORC IB. 429, led by Captain Myo Myint Aung, attended Daw Leh Doe village, Soe Moe township, Karenni State, and burnt down five houses and five paddy barns. (*Source: KNPP*)
- 6.6.35.** On May 12, 1997, Major Than Win from LIB. 439, under the command of the Southern Military Command, demanded that 35,000 *kyats* per village be collected from Kyauk Kyi and Mom townships, Pegu Division. In addition, villagers were only allowed to leave the village to cut and cart bamboo after paying a 1,000 *kyat* 'fee'. Villages affected include Tatgon, Ywa Haung, Ta Pu Taung, Thit Chat Seik, Ohn Chit Khin, Thah Tay Gon, Nga Laut Tat, Taipin, Pho Thauung Su, Nga Htwe Soke, Myat Yan and Well Gyi villages. (*Source: HRDU*)
- 6.6.36.** On May 29, 1997, soldiers from LIB. 730 in Kyauk Kyi township, Pegu Division, arrived in Nat Than Kwin village, in the same region. The soldiers conscripted villagers for portering at random and confiscated properties. Property such as gold jewellery valued at 150,000 *kyats* was confiscated by the military. (*Source: HRDU*)
- 6.6.37.** On June 11, 1997, 40 SLORC troops from IB. 265, led by Captain Aung Zin, accompanied by five militia-men from Thebyu Kyun village, led by U Soe Naing, arrived in Shan Pon village in Kyun Suu township, Tenasserim Division. They burnt down the village rendering all 40 families homeless. (*Source: MIS*)

- 6.6.38.** On June 25, 1997, a military column from LIB. 439, led by Major Than Win, under the command of Southern Military Command, attempted to arrest Naw Gar Hel from Kyaung Suu village, Mom township, Pegu State. When they could not arrest her, the troops took her belongings, valuables, and farm animals. (*Source: HRDU*)
- 6.6.39.** The project to renovate Kalay Myo airport commenced in June 1997. In order that the appropriate extensions of the runway be made, farm lands from Tada-U ward in Kalay Myo, near the southern side of airport, were confiscated. People living in Tada-U ward were ordered to get out of the way. No plans had been made for their relocation to a new area, nor was any compensation given to affected persons (*Source: FTUB*)
- 6.6.40.** Captain Nyi Nyi Naing and Sergeant Kyaw Phone Naing from LIB. 355 forcibly collected porter fees from villages such as Taung Ghun, Chauk Ba Lu, Wan Ka Na, Kha Lae Saw, Taung Ga Lay, and the Mon village, Taung Bauk, in Kya Ein Seik Kyi township, Karen State between June and September 1997. Each family was forced to pay from between 3,000 to 6,000 *Kyats* per month. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.41.** Since the end of June 1997, SLORC troops burnt to the ground around 265 houses in seven villages in No.2 district of Maw Chee area in Karenni State, as part of SLORC's relocation programme in the area. SLORC troops were ordered to kill anyone found in this area without questions, including children, women and the elderly. (*Source: KNPP*)
- 6.6.42.** On July 24, 1997, troops from SLORC LIB. 439 opened fire on Maw Law village in Papun district, Karen State, wounding one villager, Saw Tu Lu, 32.
- 6.6.43.** On July 24, 1997, troops led by Tint Lwin Oo from SLORC IB. 55, arrived in Ber Gor Doe village, Taungoo district, Karen State, confiscating and killing livestock, and destroyed the villagers' food supply. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.44.** On July 29, 1997, troops from SLORC LIB. 709 shot indiscriminately among the villagers of Thway-doe village, Papun district, Karen State, wounding one villager. The troops occupied the village for a day, and killed and ate the villagers' chickens and pigs. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.45.** On July 29, 1997, troops from SLORC IB. 55 arrived in Dek Ko village in Taungoo district, Karen State and stole two gold chains, three rings, a pair of earrings and 2,000 *Kyats* from a villager named Naw Koo Lu. The

soldiers looted valuables from other households as well. (*Source: KIC*)

- 6.6.46.** On August 9, 1997, a Sergeant from LIB. 549 shot into the audience of a video show at Aw Kaw village, Kaw Ke Yeik township, Karen State, killing Ma Than Htay, a 23 year old woman who was 6 months pregnant, Nyang Hlaing, a 13 year old boy. Maung Saw Oo, an 11 year old boy was wounded in the gun-fire. (*Source: KIC*)
- 6.6.47.** On August 21 and 22, SLORC troops burnt down 70 houses in upper and lower Gay Loe village, Mawchee township, Karenni State, and destroyed 21 acres of planted rice paddy, as well as a substantial quantity of brown rice. (*Source: KNPP*)
- 6.6.48.** On August 24, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 102 under the command of Aung Myo Min (unknown position), burned 28 houses in Kaw Moo De village, in No. 2 district of Karenni State. (*Source: KNPP*)
- 6.6.49.** On August 25, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 426, under the authority of commander, Lt-Major Soe Nwe, and second commander, Major Win Soe, burnt to the ground 16 houses in Ywe Beh village and destroyed 35 acres of paddy plantation. (*Source: KNPP*)
- 6.6.50.** On August 25, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 261, under the command of Lt. Col Khin Maung Htay, torched 25 houses and a church in Hu Muu Ka Lah village, Karenni State. (*Source: KNPP*)
- 6.6.51.** On August 26, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 102, under the command of Major Win Htwe, burned to the ground a church in Kwa Kee village and 54 houses in Htee Sar Beh Htee village, Karenni State. (*Source: KNPP*)
- 6.6.52.** On August 27, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 261 burnt down 28 houses, including a church in Bwe Lay Kho village, Karenni State. (*Source: KNPP*)
- 6.6.53.** On August 30, 1997, a skirmish took place near Taung Ga Lay village, Kyar Ein Seik Kyi township, Karen State, between a military column from LIB. 355 and KNLA troops. After the incident, SLORC troops accused villagers of aiding the KNLA and severe repression followed. One villager died and two houses were burnt down. The whole villager later abandoned their homes and fled for their lives. (*Source: PDF*)
- 6.6.54.** In September, a group led by Sergeant Kyaw Phone Naing from LIB. 355 in Taung Bauk village Kyar Ein Seik Kyi township, Karen State, battered

Let Wa Zeik villagers Aung Than, Mon Chan and Ah-Htain, and stole 2,000 *Kyats* from them. The group later robbed 8,000 *Kyats* from an underground lottery seller from Ka Gurn Zu village. (Source: PDF)

- 6.6.55.** Since September 1997, SLORC local IB. 106 has been levying a human tax on an estimated 15,000 Mon villagers living in approximately 30 villages between Ye township in Mon State, and Yebyu township in Tenasserim Division. Every person in each household, regardless of age or sex, is required to pay several different ‘fees’. 10 *Kyats* per person from Khaw Za, Thabyu Gyi, Yin Dein and Yin Ye villages; 50 *Kyats* per person from Kyon Kan Ya village; 80 *Kyats* per person from Ma Gyi and Da Nik Yar villages; and 100 *Kyats* per person from Mi Ta Khla Gyi and Mi Taw Hla Ga Lay villages is levied per month. (Source: MIS)
- 6.6.56.** On October 10, 1997, SLORC troops from LIB. 707 and 708, led by Tactical Operation No. 2 Commander, Lt-Col. Thein Maung, ordered the destruction of villages in Htantabin township in Karen State, namely Bu Kee, Ho Kee, Kee Daw Kaw, Shoo Ko, Thay Thu Dai, Ha Toe Pai, Tha Aye Kee. All households and churches were later burnt. Soldiers confiscated chicken, pigs, buffaloes, cows and opened fire at people on sight. The same troops have also carried out similar atrocities in Tha Daung township. (Source: KIC)
- 6.6.57.** On November 31, 1997, SLORC troops set fire to 40 stacks of rice paddy which had been reaped and stored in rice fields near Kawng Wet village, Parnng Sarnng tract, Murng Kerng township. (Source: SHRF)
- 6.6.58.** On December 2, 1997, the SLORC troops burnt the rice paddy of the villagers of Wan Huay and Nawng Leo villages, Murng Khun tract, Murng Kerng township, Shan State. (Source: SHRF)
- 6.6.59.** On December 6, 1997, a military column from IB. 341, led by Major Aung Thein, arrived Naku Palaw village in Pa-pun township, Karen State, and burnt the whole village to the ground. The villagers began fleeing when the column first arrived at the village. Unfortunately, Khe Htoo Pee, a 70-year-old blind woman, was left behind. She was tied to her house and burnt alive by SLORC soldiers. The troops also confiscated approximately 1,000 baskets of rice and destroyed rice barns. (Source: ABSDF)
- 6.6.60.** On December 24, 1997, SLORC troops burnt rice fields at Tard Mawk, Wan Huay, Nawng Leo and Zarng Eb villages, in Murng Khun tract, Murng Kerng township, Shan State. (Source: SHRF)

(Also see under “personal Accounts,” interviews 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 14, 16, 17, 18, 27, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 45, 49, 50, 53, 65, 73, 74, 78, 80, 85, 92 and 94)

6.7. List of Burned Villages in Karen State

This is a partial list of villages confirmed as completely or partially burned by SLORC/SPDC troops during the operation between February 1997 and the present. Villages numbers (1) through (146) are listed from KHRG information sources, i.e. visit to villages and interviews with villagers. Numbers (147) through (186) are additional villages listed by independent monitors in the area, and numbers (187) through (192) are from KNU Field Reports.

* indicates villages which were partially burned; all other villages have been completely burned. This is not complete, and additional villages are still being burned by patrols.

KHRG Information

Northern

1. Ler Mu Plaw
2. Saw Mu Plaw
3. Naw Yo Hta *
4. Kay Pu *
5. Sho Per Ko
6. Lah Eh Der
7. Yah Plo Der
8. Ka Leh Der
9. Baw Peh
10. Bena Ay Per Ko *
11. Hser Hta *
12. Ker Ko Mu Der (>100 houses)
13. Kaw Say Der
14. Thu Kler
15. Lway Der
16. Naw Ku
17. Tee T'Kay Hta

Car road

18. Plah Ko

19. Saw Ee Der
20. Ku Day
21. Toh Kee
22. Lay Ghaw
23. Thay Baw
24. Toh Loh Kee

Between Yunzalin and Bilin Rivers

25. Kaw Weh Der
26. Bwo Mu Hta
27. Yeh Mu Plaw *
28. Thay Tho Der
29. Bo Kywe (Bo Dweh)
30. Kaw Mu Bwa Der
31. Dta Paw Der
32. Thay Ko Mu Der
33. Moh Kee
34. Ber Khaw
35. Tee Lay Hta
36. upper Lay Hta
37. Kwith Toh Kee
38. Kyaw Law

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 39. Kywe Day | 77. Tee Ku Hta |
| 40. Doh Heh Der * | 78. Thalay Wah Der |
| 41. Maw T'Kyaw | 79. Ner Kee |
| 42. Haw Kee (upper and lower) | 80. Ler Htoo Po |
| 43. Bpeh Deh | 81. Meh Gha Law |
| 44. Nyaw Mu Der | 82. Meh Kaw Hta |
| 45. Ler Lah | 83. Dta Kaw Hta |
| 46. Maw Lay Kaw | 84. Bo Wah Der |
| 47. Tee Ler Ghaw Kee | 85. Dta Baw Kee |
| 48. Maw Thay Der | 86. Toh Kaw Saw Kee |
| 49. Toh Hta | 87. Maw Day |
| 50. Saw Ner Kee | 88. Dta Kaw Der |
| 51. Bwa Oo Bwa Der | 89. Kaw Lay Der |
| 52. Tee Thu Der | 90. Tay Mu Der |
| 53. Bu Kyu Kee | 91. Ler Shu Ko |
| 54. B'Na Kwih Duh | 92. Maw Law Der |
| 55. Mu Kee Der | 93. Yah Kyaw Der |
| 56. Ber Baw | 94. Doh Daw Kee |
| 57. K'Maw Kyaw | 95. Ku Theh Kee |
| 58. Haw Ko Theh (one part of two) | 96. Kheh Der |
| 59. Paw Say * | 97. Mi Hta |
| 60. Lay Nah Der * | 98. Maw Ghu |
| | 99. Khaw Klah |
| | 100. Meh Si Hta |
| | 101. Maw Thay Tha |
| | 102. K'Wah Ler |
| | 103. Mu Ko Law |
| | 104. Ko Reh Kee |
| | 105. Ko Reh Hta |
| | 106. Lay Hta |
| | 107. Lay Kee |
| | 108. Baw Kwaw |
| | 109. shelters in hiding in
various places,
including Tee Kalaw
near Lo Plah. |
| | |
| | Eastern Papun District |
| | 110. Toh Thay Der |
| | 111. Kyaw Kee |

Shwegyin township

- 112. Wah May Kyo
- 113. Htee Muh Hta
- 114. Deh Oo Po
- 115. Saw Theh Kee
- 116. Bweh Si Kee
- 117. Nay Mu Kwee
- 118. K'Saw Wah Kwih
- 119. Meh Law Lah
- 120. Poh Loh
- 121. Kyi Zone Gone
- 122. Du Baw
- 123. Ler Hta Kwih
- 124. Tee Sgheh Hta
- 125. Ler Wah
- 126. Tee Law Klay Kee
- 127. Po Kha Law
- 128. Maw Hta Mee Hser
- 129. Saw Theh Hta
- 130. Hsaw Oh Kee
- 131. Hsaw Oh Hta
- 132. Der Wih Ko
- 133. Tee Blah Kee
- 134. Tee Blah Hta
- 135. Bpray Maw Kee
- 136. B'Ta Hta
- 137. Wah Ko Law Dteh
- 138. Ko Pler Kee
- 139. Ko Pler Kee
- 140. Maw Kee
- 141. Dta Thay Der
- 142. Yan Aung
- 143. Meh Way Kee
- 144. Saw Roh Ko
- 145. Kaw Mu Der
- 146. Day Oo Koh

**Independent Monitor
(Papun District)**

- 147. Si Day (lower)

- 148. Baw Lay Der
- 149. Kleh Mu
- 150. Yo Po Loh
- 151. Leh Kee
- 152. Tee Meh Hta
- 153. Tee T'Blu Hta
- 154. Dta Thu Der
- 155. Khaw Kee
- 156. Pah Ko
- 157. Kweh Htoo Hta
- 158. Thay Pa Kee Der
- 159. Noh Lay
- 160. Oo Thaw Kee
- 161. Oo Thaw Hta
- 162. Nya Mu Hta
- 163. Meh Nyu Hta
- 164. Tee Ber Ka Hta
- 165. Day Law Pu
- 166. Klaw Loh Kloh Hta
- 167. Noh Law Hsu
- 168. Ta Hu Loh
- 169. Thay Ko Loh
- 170. Ko Kaw Der
- 171. Ko Tha Loh Der
- 172. Tee Ler Kee
- 173. Meh Ka Hta
- 174. Du Pa Leh
- 175. Thay Ko Pu
- 176. Wah Peh Kwee
- 177. Po Khay
- 178. Ta Koh Hta
- 179. Paw Wah Der
- 180. Maw Pu
- 181. Hser Ree Kyo
- 182. Tu Moh Hta
- 183. Poh Lah
- 184. Maw Ler Loh
- 185. Meh Ku Kee
- 186. Ler Klaw

**KNU Field Reports
(Papun District)**

187. Bler Ghaw *

188. Bo Plaw

189. Kaw Say

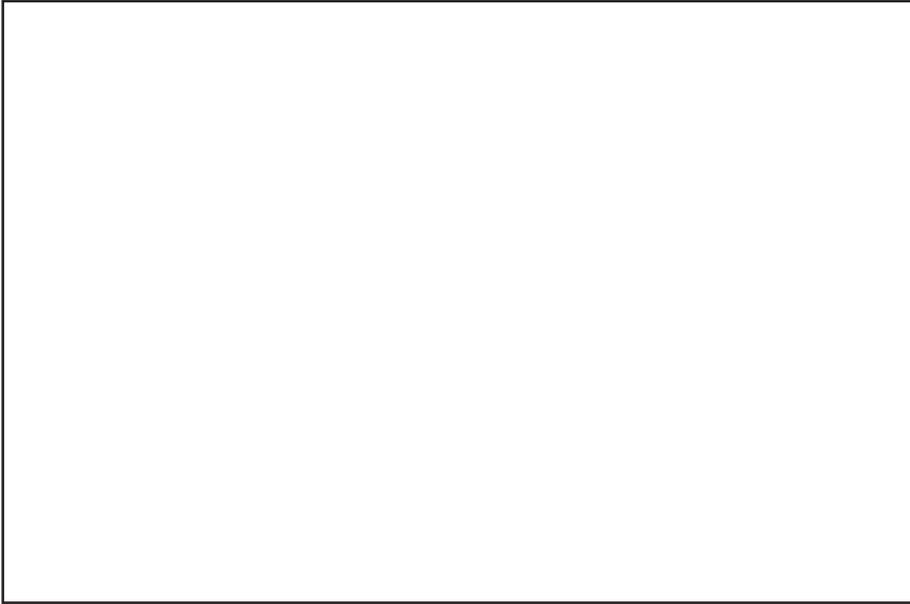
190. hidden shelters near
Kaw Say

191. Mi Hsah Po Der

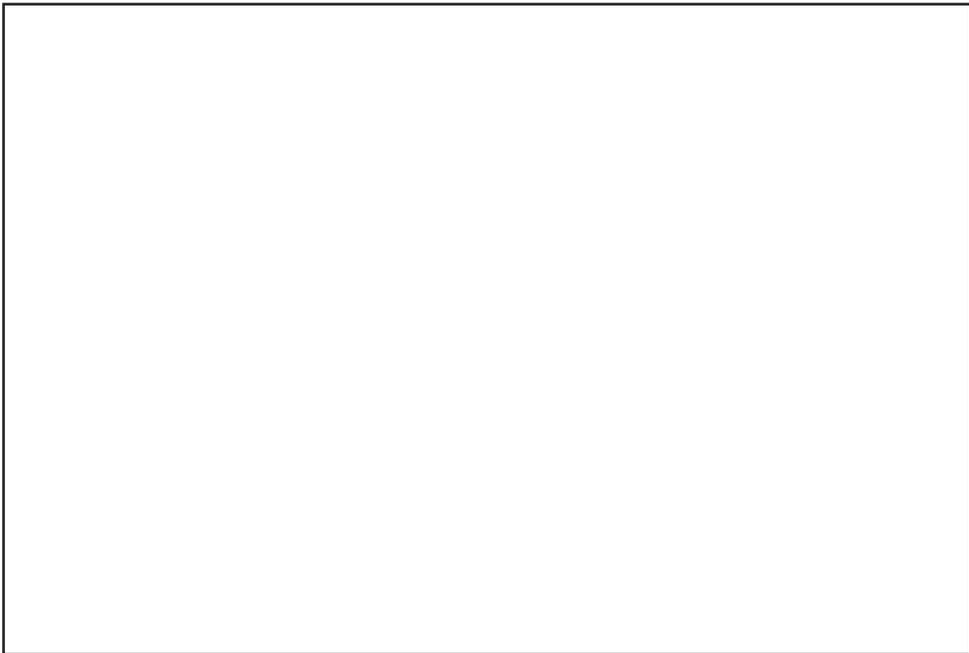
192. Paw Mu



Advertisement of "Visit Myanmar Year 1996" was destroyed in Rangoon. A campaign to attract the foreign visitors was failed due to the political instability and human rights violations by the SLORC. (Photo by N. Dunlop)



A slum quarter outside Mandalay. Many people are living under this situation where there is no electricity and water. (Photo. N. Dunlop)



Villagers standing among the burned ruins of their village which fell when SLORC troops burned the village. (Photo by KHRG)



A Blind grand father and his grand son on their way to downtown Shwebo to earn their living by begging. (Photo by HRDU)



Public bus transportation in Rangoon. The high price of patrol and insufficient public services make the people's lives difficult.