

## 5. Forced Relocation and Internally Displaced Persons

### 5.1 Background

Faced with ethnic-based armed uprisings against its repressive rule from all over the country, in the early 1970's the SPDC's predecessors implemented the 'Four Cuts' policy which is still in effect today. The 'Four Cuts' aim to cut the supplies of food, funds, recruits and information to resistance groups by systematically terrorizing, controlling, and impoverishing the civilian population in resistance areas so that they have neither the opportunity nor the means to provide any form of support to the opposition. The main pillars of the Four Cuts policy are; detention, torture and execution of villagers and village elders perceived as having any contact whatsoever with the resistance; systematic extortion and pillage of the villagers' crops, food supplies, livestock, cash and valuables; forced labor to get the civilians working for the Army and deprive them of time to do anything else; and, increasingly, forced relocation to sites and villages directly under the control of the SPDC military troops. The SPDC's plan for relocation over areas where there is resistance appears to consist of the following steps; (a) mounting a military offensive against the areas; (b) forcibly relocating villages to sites under direct army control and destroying the original villages; (c) using the relocated villagers and others as forced laborers for portering and building military access roads into their home areas; (d) moving in more army units and using the villagers for forced labor to build bases along the access roads; (e) allowing the villagers back to their villages, where they are under complete military consolidating control through "development" projects like forced labor farming for the army, etc. If resistance attacks still persist at this last stage, retaliation is carried out against villages by executing village elders, burning houses and other means.

These relocations have often been accompanied with other forms of human rights abuses. After relocation orders have been issued and people have been expelled from their homes, SPDC has declared expansive areas as "free-fire zones"— anyone who tried to remain in their homes can be shot on sight. Villagers are told that they will not be permitted to go home until the opposition groups have capitulated; SPDC calls this policy, "draining the ocean so no fish can swim."

SPDC issues written orders addressed to village headmen; the orders specify the date by which the entire village must be relocated to designated site. Relocated persons are not compensated for their homes nor are they given enough time to collect all of their belongings. Nearly all of the villagers must leave behind the majority of their belongings, including their livestock. Often people must also leave behind elderly and sick relatives. Once they leave their village, SPDC troops pillage the villages' homes and burn them to the ground.

Forced labor is commonplace in and around the relocation camps. The SPDC troops force the villagers in the relocation sites to work on a daily or weekly basis; generally one person from each family must go. This forced labor includes clearing bushes and trees from the roadsides both inside and outside the relocation sites, cleaning military buildings, cultivating

land for the military bases, hauling water for the troops, building fences around the military camps, digging bunkers, road construction, portering for the military and other general servant work. The villagers are also being used to work in the infrastructure projects in the area.

The villagers at the relocation sites have no land there and paid day labor is difficult to find, so most of them try to return to their home fields to farm. This requires a pass, which must be bought for varying amounts from the local SPDC military. When available, these passes are only valid for three days to a week, and they do not allow the villagers to spend the night; people are only allowed to leave the relocation site after 6 a.m. and must return by 6 p.m.,

## **5.2 Relocation in Shan State**

In March 1996, they delineated a huge area of central Shan State and ordered the forced relocation and destruction of every village in the region, whether or not these villages had had any contact with SURA. Over 700 villages were relocated and destroyed, with well over 100,000 people displaced. Throughout 1997 and 1998 the SPDC, expanded the target area and also forced people who had already been moved to relocate again into larger sites under more direct military control. By mid-1998, over 1,400 villages in eight Townships had been forcibly relocated and destroyed, displacing a population of at least 300,000 people. Tens of thousands of people were struggling to survive in relocation sites throughout the region, foraging for food and begging from cars passing on the roads. The SPDC provided them nothing. Those who tried to hide in the forests around their villages were shot on sight by SPDC patrols, and in some cases there were systematic massacres of as many as 40 people at a time. At least 100,000 people fled across the border into Thailand; the SPDC troops allowed them to go, happy to see the Shan people leaving Burma.

While the SPDC's tactic of destroying civilian villages to root out the SSA (Shan State Army)- South has been a complete failure, the junta's response to this failure has simply been to continue the relocation of villages within the specified relocation zones, and to intimidate or terrorize villagers into not returning to their homes. The village forced relocation region spans roughly 7,000 square miles (18,000 square kilometers) in the heart of Shan State. Since 1998 the region has not expanded significantly in size, but more and more villages within the relocation zone have been cleared, and relocation sites have been consolidated from smaller sites containing one or two villages to larger sites in main towns or near military bases. SPDC patrols roam the region, burning whatever is left in villages and shooting villagers they find on sight. Most of the villagers in this area have been homeless since the operation began, and the displacement is taking a fatal toll.

### **Life in Relocation sites in Shan State**

The number of internally displaced grows exponentially, as villagers are finding it increasingly difficult to survive in relocation sites. Lack of food is the all-consuming concern for uprooted villagers. Those in relocation sites must compete for work on land owned by other villagers, or farm fields at great distances from the relocation sites. They are issued one day travel passes which are only good from dawn to dusk, leaving them no time to work a distant field which may take hours to reach on foot. As a result their harvest never yields

enough to sustain their families. Some farmers have been allowed to return to their villages on a temporary basis, usually during key phases in the rice growing cycle. Most often permission has been granted to villagers who own fields close to the relocation sites in town or along main roads.

Even when the SPDC gives them passes, the villagers are afraid to go far from the relocation sites because of the massacres which have occurred. On several occasions the SPDC military in relocation sites have given passes to villagers and told them they can go back to salvage some building materials and food from their home villages, but when the villagers assembled a convoy of bullock carts and went, they were intercepted along the way, lined up and executed by another SPDC unit. The worst massacres have occurred in Kun Hing Township. On June 16th 1997, two groups of villagers headed back to gather things from their home villages with passes from SPDC officers in Kun Hing relocation site. Along their way, both groups were intercepted by SPDC troops, lined up and mown down with automatic fire. 29 villagers died at Sai Khao, and 27 died at Tard Pa Ho. The massacres were later confirmed by the few who had managed to escape and by video footage of some of the remains. The most recent cases occurred in late January and early February 2000 in Kun Hing Township. On January 30, a group of villagers were returning to their village in Keng Kham village tract with permission and passes from SPDC B246 in Kun Hing relocation site when they were stopped by an SPDC patrol from IB 66. 19 of them were executed, including three women. On February 12, a group of 20 male villagers from Kun Pu village tract who had been living in hiding in the forest were spotted by a patrol from IB 246, and all 20 of them were executed; the same patrol later killed five women and children who were hiding in a nearby hut.

Those in relocation sites must fear the violence of SPDC troops at all times. Villagers are terrified of leaving the site for fear of being beaten, raped, or killed. Across Shan State the testimonies of people living inside relocation sites echoes a palpable fear of soldiers, who have taken people off the streets of relocation sites and beaten them in surrounding forests. Many families, particularly the men, hide when they hear that soldiers are coming through the camps for fear that they will be captured for use as military porters. Forced labor is a constant burden for all villagers in the relocation sites; the SPDC has forced civilians to build military camps, roads, and railways across Shan State since the mass relocation operation began in 1996. The time required to work for the military is also a major factor preventing people from farming their own fields or earning money to feed their families.

Nam Wan relocation site is on the border of Nam Zang Township, about a four-hour walk from Nam Khai. Villagers from Nam Khai faced the same problem there that plagues villagers across Shan State who are forced into relocation sites far from their native villages: all surrounding land is already owned, so it is impossible to work a field and earn a living. After being relocated twice, the Nam Khai villagers no longer retained any hope of returning to their original village to stay, especially after the village was finally destroyed. Fighting for survival at relocation sites is even more precarious, especially when the sites consolidate or more people are forced into them. Securing jobs as field hands becomes competitive, as does foraging for the little food available, and there is no possibility of farming their own fields. The SPDC military and civilian authorities provide nothing at all to the relocated villagers; instead they demand forced labor, food and money from them. Many relocated villagers decide to head for Thailand, where at least jobs as day field laborers will bring in a

meager income to feed their families.

The other factor preventing people from earning a living at relocation sites is the forced labor they are required to do for the Army, whose officers see the relocated villagers as a convenient pool of forced laborers. Villagers living at Hwe Mark Pun site are constantly called to work, mainly to build military camps in the Township. Standard practice is to force civilians to go to villages that have already been relocated, dismantle people's homes and fences, and then use those materials to build the camps. People complain of having to work for the SPDC troop twice as much as they are able to work for themselves, and no one is spared from duty. While typically the men go as military porters, women and children have to fulfill the military's demands for other forms of forced labor, which usually include building and maintaining military camps, doing unarmed sentry duty on motor roads, clearing scrub from the roadsides (to make it difficult for resistance forces to ambush SPDC columns), and maintaining roads. In the past, villagers in relocation sites have also been used to build railways, such as the track from Shwe Nyaung to Nam Zang, from Nam Zang southward to Murng Nai and from Shwe Nyaung up the hills to Taunggyi. Portering, however, is generally the most feared form of forced labor, because porters are often severely abused and a shift involves a prolonged absence from wage earning; for these reasons, men and sometimes even women and children hide in the forests surrounding relocation sites when they hear that SPDC troops are collecting porters. Villagers living in smaller relocation sites like Hwe Mark Pun are called on for forced labor and portering more often than in larger sites, where the work load can be rotated among a larger population. It is extremely difficult for these villagers to earn enough to survive under such constraints.

In addition to fearing capture to be used as porters, villagers must also avoid SPDC soldiers who beat and kill civilians without explanation. Extrajudicial killings are commonplace in relocation sites throughout Shan State, and Murng Pan Township is no exception; villagers reported six cases within the past year. While all the victims were killed outside the relocation site, some were not far from the sites. In several cases recently, people have actually been dragged off the main street of the relocation site to the surrounding bush and beaten terribly, in at least one case, almost to death. Villagers have always known that they are vulnerable to the whims of drunken or aggressive SPDC soldiers if caught outside the sites working in fields, selling vegetables in town, or searching for food in forests, but they must even be on guard within the 'safe' confines of the relocation site. Ironically, the SPDC claims that it sequesters villagers in relocation sites so that its troops can 'protect' the civilians against attacks by 'insurgent' groups. It is the SPDC soldiers, however, whom villagers fear the most.

### **Situation of Water Poisoning near a relocation site in Shan State**

From May 1998- February 1999, over 400 villagers in a relocation site north of the town of Parnng Long in Central Shan State have died with symptoms of poisoning. The deaths began occurring after the dumping by the SPDC troops of thousands of poisoned rats into the Pawn River, the only source of water for the over 10,000 villagers relocated to Wan Nong Wan Koong, which lies about three miles north of Parnng Long.

In the last week of April, 1998, the SPDC military authorities gave an order to the quarter headmen of Parnng Long that each household in the town would have to kill five rats

and deliver them by 8 a.m. the following morning at the SPDC office next to the main town market. They were ordered to bring the rats dead or alive. Any household that did not bring the rats would be charged 100 *kyat* per rat. According to refugees from the area, there had never been such an order before, despite the fact that rats had always been plentiful in Parnng Long.

Most of the townspeople bought Chinese rat poison from the market in order to kill the rats. There were several kinds of poison available: small vials of white powder, for 50 *kyat* each; small vials of liquid for 5 *kyat* each, and packets of rice-like pellets for 5 or 10 *kyat* each. Most people preferred to use the powder or the pellets, as these were stronger than the liquid, so the rats would die more quickly, and would be easier to find around the house. People mixed the poison with food and then left it either on plastic bags or on bowls at the foot of walls inside their houses in the evening. Early the following morning they collected the rats' bodies and most people put them in plastic bags to take to the market. The baskets were then put on an army truck and driven to the LIB 513. The following morning, at about 5 a.m., three relocated villagers from Wan Tok and Khong Lang villages happened to be driving a "tohlagyi" (small tractor) from the relocation site to the market in Parnng Long. They crossed over the "Kho Phuk" (White Bridge) and they passed a parked army truck, from which soldiers were emptying baskets of rats into the river.

The relocation site of Wan Nong Wan Koong is directly downstream along the Pawn River from Parnng Long and the bridge where the rats were dumped. As mentioned above, the river was the only water source for the over 10,000 villagers staying there. Within days after the rats were dumped, people began falling sick in the relocation site. The first to begin suffering were children from the houses nearest the river, because they would often spend each day swimming in the water.

The symptoms displayed by the sick villagers before death included headaches, fever, vomiting, inability to eat or drink, dehydration and failing vision. After death, black bruising appeared all over the body. All of these have been verified by medical experts as symptoms of poisoning.

Whether or not the patients recovered depended mainly on whether they were able to be treated in time. In the first few weeks after the poisonings began occurring, people in the relocation site were as yet unaware of the seriousness of the illness, and did not seek any special treatment. Thus most people who fell sick died. However, when it became apparent that the condition was fatal, those with enough money were taken to be treated in the hospitals or clinics in Parnng Long or Loi Lem. At these places, the patients were usually given intravenous saline drips, which, if the patients had not been sick for too long, usually enabled them to recover. If the patients had already been sick for about five days, then the treatment was not effective.

However, many of the relocated villagers did not have enough money to treat themselves in the town. One refugee from the area who had become sick with poisoning symptoms, but recovered after treatment, said she had slept at a clinic in Loi Lem and been given 20 intravenous drips over a period of three days. It cost her 30,000 *kyat* (approximately US\$85). This high cost was prohibitive for most of the relocated villagers. By June, several people were dying each day.

When the villagers died, they were usually simply wrapped in a mat, and then carried to the local cemetery to the north of the site and buried. Traditionally, Shans hold funeral

ceremonies lasting for several days, with hosting of community members, but because the relocated villagers were so poor, and had so little food, they could no longer afford to do this.

It is noteworthy that none of the villagers from the original village of Wan Nong Wan Koong fell sick with the same symptoms. These villagers did not use the water from the river, but would fetch their water by ox-cart from a source about one and a half hours away. The soldiers at the nearby military unit also did not use the water from the river, and none of them fell sick.

Refugees from the area say that the cemetery near the relocation site is so full that the graves have spilled over into the nearby fields. In spite of what was clearly a health emergency, there was no attempt by the local authorities during May and June to deal with the problem. Not only that, but at the end of June, they again gave the order for the townspeople of Parn Long to collect five dead rats each per household.

The procedure for killing and collecting rats was exactly the same as in April. Again, the rats were dumped in the river. This time no villagers saw the dumping, but an inside source from the military camp confirmed that the rats had been dumped in the same place.

Following this second dumping of rats, there were increased incidences of poisoning among the relocated villagers, who say that the months of July and August were the worst, with 3-4 people dying every day. The cemetery to the north of the site became so full that people were forced to dig new graves in the fields nearby.

For several months no one in the relocation site dared to approach the authorities directly about the poisonings, but in early July, one of the villagers went to request medical assistance from the government office in Loi Lem. Following the visit, the hospital authorities in Parn Long arranged for three health workers to visit the relocation site together with troops from LIB 513 in a military truck. The health workers visited some of the people who were sick, and simply administered five white pills per person. They did not give any special instructions about how to take the pills. According to the local people, the condition of those that took the pills did not improve. Only this one health visit was made, and the villagers did not request any further medical assistance from the authorities.

As the numbers of deaths continued to rise in July and August, the relocated villagers began moving out of the site. Many went to settle in villages to the west of Namzarng (which had not been relocated); many went to stay in the Pa-O villages north of the town that had not been relocated. Many simply went back to hide in the hills near their old villages, choosing to risk being shot on sight rather than die of the mysterious disease in the relocation site.

By September 1998, only about 100 households of the original over 2,000 households were left in the relocation site.

However, cases of poisoning were still occurring as recently as December 1998 and January 1999. One woman originally from the village of Wan Tok, who had gone to live in the town of Parn Long after being relocated, went back to visit the relocation site in later December 1998. She did not eat anything there, but accepted a cup of tea, made with water from the Pawn River. After returning to Parn Long, she became ill with symptoms of poisoning, and only recovered after long and expensive treatment at a clinic in the town.

On January 8, 1999, a woman called Ba Yoi, originally from the village of Wan Erk Lin Leng, who was still living in the relocation site, died with symptoms of poisoning at Parn

Long Hospital. She had been ill for five days, and had been brought to the hospital by her daughter, who only had enough money to pay for one intravenous drip, which was not enough to save her mother's life.

Refugees estimate that a total of over 400 villagers relocated to Parnng Long have died since May 1998. The fact that villagers from the relocation site have still been dying in January 1998 indicates that there is still poison present in the waters of the Pawn River. List of villagers relocated to Wan Nong Wan Koong, who are known to have died with symptoms of poisoning. See Appendix # 4 for a partial list of those who have died from the rat poison.

### **5.3 Relocation in Karen State**

#### **Nyaunglebin district**

The eastern two-thirds of Nyaunglebin district is covered by forested hills dotted with small Karen villages, and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) operates extensively in this region. The western part of the district is in the plains of the Sittaung river basin; here there are larger villages of mixed Karen and Burman population, and this area is under strong SPDC control. There was a spate of forced relocations in 1997, then somewhat of a lull through early 1998. Many villages in the parts of these eastern hills bordering Papun district have been destroyed since 1997 as part of the SPDC campaign to wipe out Karen villages in northern Papun and eastern Nyaunglebin districts. However, in late 1998 and early 1999, there have been more relocations as well as repeat relocations of villages which had previously made their way back home. This is probably connected with the aim of the *Sa Thon Lon* Guerrilla Retaliation units in 1998 and early 1999 to bring all villagers under complete control, execute any with past or present KNLA connections as a warning to the others, and make the area into a 'white area', which is SPDC terminology for regions where the population has been completely subjugated.

In early 1997 the SPDC began a campaign to wipe out all Karen civilian villages in the hills. Where villagers could be found they were ordered to relocate westward into the plains; where they could not be caught, their villages were shelled without warning, looted and then burned to the ground, while villagers found afterwards were shot on sight. Most villagers fled into the hills to live in hiding in small groups of families while trying to grow small patches of rice, and many others moved westward as ordered into the plains, either to stay with relatives or to garrison villages along the main roads as the SPDC troops had demanded. Many of the people who moved into the plains have now fled back into the hills. They say that they returned to the hills because they could not survive in the plains; they had no land to plant, there was no paid labor to survive on, and they could not face all the demands for forced labor and money from the SPDC troops. Some had died because they were not used to the water and the illnesses in the plains. In the end they fled back into the hills. Now they join the thousands of Karen villagers who have lived internally displaced in these hills since 1997.

In the hills the villagers are hiding in small groups of a few families in high valleys and other remote places. They try to grow small patches of rice but have little or nothing to eat. As in many other areas, much of the already small rice crop was destroyed by the lack of rains early in the season and the plague of insects brought on by the drought. SPDC

patrols come through the hills as often as two or three times per month, burn any rice storage barns they find, shoot at villagers they see in the fields or the forests, and burn any shelters they find.

The displaced villagers are always fleeing from one place to another to avoid the patrols. They have no change of clothing and few or no blankets, and have to sleep around fires in temperatures which can drop to 10 degrees Celsius or lower at this time of year. They have no medicines and speak of treating gunshot wounds by applying sesame oil after saying incantations. These villagers don't dare go down into the plains for fear of arrest as 'insurgents', and it is difficult or impossible for most of them to get to Thailand because they would have to pass through all of northern Papun district, where SPDC troops have destroyed even more villages and are patrolling to shoot villagers on sight.

### **Life in the relocation camps, Nyaunglebin district, Karen State**

Many of the Karen villages in the plains east of the Sittaung River currently lie abandoned because their inhabitants have been forced to relocation sites or have fled. Many people spend part of their time in the relocation site and part of their time hiding around their old village or in their farm-field huts with or without a valid pass, leading a tenuous and risky existence. Some Karen villagers have gone to stay in the Burman villages which were not forced to move.

The villagers at the relocation sites have no land there and paid day labor is difficult to find, so most of them try to return to their home fields to farm. This requires a pass which must be bought for varying amounts from the local SPDC military. When available, these passes are only valid for three days to a week, and they do not allow the villagers to spend the night; people are only allowed to leave the relocation site after 6 a.m. and must return by 6 p.m., and those in Kaw Tha Say relocation site, Nyaunglebin district, are not even allowed to take a packet of cooked rice with them for lunch. Many people's home fields are three hours or more on foot from the relocation site, so these restrictions make it extremely difficult for them to farm properly, especially as they use labor-intensive farming methods which usually require them to sleep in their field huts through much of the planting and growing season.

However, villagers have little option but to obey the restrictions, because many who have been caught with invalid passes have been seriously beaten or taken as porters, and several villagers have been killed simply for being found in farm-field huts after 6 p.m., particularly since the arrival of the *Sa Thon Lon* Guerrilla Retaliation units in the area. SPDC patrols also search for any evidence of food supplies in field huts or abandoned villages, and take or destroy whatever they find. Any villagers caught together with a hidden supply of rice run a strong risk of being accused of 'feeding the rebels' and summarily executed.

### **Mone Township**

Relocation sites have been established more recently at Mone, Weh Gyi and Thit Cha Seik in Mone Township, and Yan Gyi Aung and Kaw Tha Say in Kyauk Kyi Township, and Than Seik/Min Lan in Shwegyin Township, Karen State; there are certainly other sites

as well. 39 villages are known to have been forcibly relocated and are still not allowed to return home. Some of these villages have been forced to move two or three times in the past several years, to a relocation site, then back to their villages, then to another relocation site, and so on. This list is far from complete. All of those listed in the above table are currently not allowed to stay in their home villages.

Many villages, such as Myeh Yeh in Mone Township, have a Karen section and a Burman section; the SPDC accused the village of being “full of rebels” and forced the Karen section to move but not the Burman section. Villages which are primarily Burman, such as Thit Cha Seik, were not forced to move. Ma Bpee Po and Ma Bpee Doh villages (frequently referred to together as Ma Bpee) were previously forced to Yan Gyi Aung site, but have since returned to their village and are currently paying a large amount of money each month to local SPDC troops as a bribe to avert forced relocation. Similarly, Yay Leh village in Mone Township and Baw Ka Hta village in Kyauk Kyi Township are paying in order not to be relocated; such bribes can be in the tens of thousands of *Kyat* per month, and as soon as the village can no longer pay or the troops rotate they may be forced to relocate.

Relocation sites are chosen by the SPDC for the ease of control by the military troops. Yan Gyi Aung and Than Seik/Min Lan sites are alongside the Shwegyin-Kyauk Kyi vehicle road. The site at Thit Cha Seik is in a field west of the Kyauk Kyi - Mone road, and the site at Weh Gyi is beside a new road from Na Than Gwin to Mone being built with forced labor. Kaw Tha Say and Baw Ka Hta sites are right beside SPDC camps. The newest relocation site, created in April 1999, is on the outskirts of Mone town.

There was a spate of forced relocations in 1997, then somewhat of a lull through early 1998. However, in late 1998 and early 1999, there have been more relocations as well as repeat relocations of villages which had previously made their way back home. After *Sa Thon Lon* Guerrilla Retaliation officer Bo Shan Bpu burned all the houses in Lu Ah village in January 1999, the village was forced to move to a field near Weh Gyi, along the new road which is being built by forced labor under *Sa Thon Lon* supervision. Also in January 1999, Kya Plaw and Leh Wain Gyi villages were ordered to move to Yan Myo Aung and Pa Hee Ko, and immediately afterward the villages were burned by regular SPDC troops. The forced relocation in April 1999 of Baw Bpee Der, Myau Oo and Aung Chan Tha villages, none of which had been relocated before, to a new relocation site on the outskirts of Mone town seems to indicate that the immediate future will probably bring even more forced relocations. Those who are still in their home villages go on living in the hope that they can remain there and in some cases paying heavy bribes for the privilege, while those who have already relocated try to survive by making the dangerous trip back home to farm their old fields whenever they can get a pass to do so from the SPDC.

Since late 1998, regular SPDC and *Sa Thon Lon* Guerrilla Retaliation units have begun taking some additional steps to ensure that people cannot go back to stay in their home villages and that resistance forces cannot take cover there. In some villages they have burned whatever remains of the houses. For example, in December 1998 they burned all the remaining houses in Twa Ni Gone village of Mone Township, which has been forced to Yan Myo Aung relocation site and is abandoned. However, some Twa Ni Gone villagers were nearby with passes to farm their fields and saw it happen. When Kya Plaw and Leh Wain Gyi villages in Kyauk Kyi Township were forced to relocate in January 1999, the villagers stripped their houses of building materials so that they could build huts in the relocation site,

and then as soon as they were gone SPDC troops burned what remained of their houses. In addition to burning the remains of villages, they began ordering villagers in the relocation sites to return to their villages to cut down all of the trees in and around the village. *Sa Thon Lon* Guerrilla Retaliation troops forced villagers in Thit Cha Seik and Weh Gyi relocation sites to return and cut down all except the coconut trees in Ter Bpaw, Lu Ah and other villages. People from several villages have also reported being forced to clear scrub along both sides of the paths around their old villages, presumably to protect SPDC patrols from ambush. Villagers who have fled the western plains of Kyauk Kyi and Tantabin Townships state that in March 1999 in their home areas the *Sa Thon Lon* Guerrilla Retaliation troops began forcing people to build fences around their own villages with a maximum of two gates, also to allow tighter control and monitoring of the movement of villagers.

### **Situation in the relocation sites of Mone Township**

Conditions at the relocation sites are generally bad; they are often on low-lying land prone to flooding and there is usually no good water available. Nothing is provided for the villagers; they must bring along building materials they have stripped from their houses in their home villages, or find materials around the new site. They must also bring along whatever rice and other food they can, as none is ever supplied by the authorities.

A pass is required for going out from the relocation site. This can be bought for varying amounts from the local SPDC military. When available, these passes are only valid for three days to a week, and they do not allow the villagers to spend the night. Even people with passes to return to their villages are finding it more and more dangerous to do so, particularly with the *Sa Thon Lon* forces in the area. These special troops regularly stop villagers on the path and beat them for no apparent reason except to harass and to frighten them. A villager from Yan Myo Aung relocation site have recently been told that they will no longer be allowed to return to their fields, and that the fine for anyone caught doing so will be 100,000 *kyat*. This may also be an initiative of the *Sa Thon Lon* units. If this is enforced, it will make survival virtually impossible for the people in the relocation sites, and they will have no choice but to attempt to flee.

### **Dooplaya district**

Until the mid 1999, the SPDC had limited forced relocations in Dooplaya to a few villages here and there, but since November 1999, the SPDC has begun a campaign of much more systematic forced relocations. The commander of SPDC Strategic Command 881 and his subordinate Battalion Commanders called all 70-80 village heads in Kya-in Township to a landmark meeting just outside Kya-in-seik-kyi on November 25, 1999, at which the village heads were told that all villages not already under the direct control of the military must move to as soon as the rice harvest was completed in December. They were warned that anyone remaining in these villages would be shot on sight, that the entire rice harvest must be handed over to the SPDC troops by December 20 for storage, and that villagers would have to approach the military each day to receive their daily ration from this stockpile. The commanders went on to tell the villagers that they would be regularly interrogated about KNLA activities and later executed if they were found out to be withholding

information, and that all villagers who had been KNLA soldiers at any time within the past fifteen years would be sought out and executed.

SPDC officials also informed them which villages in the Township would soon be either consolidated to the village centre or relocated. Small villages in the Meh Gu / Plaw Toh Kee village tract like Meh Gu Kee, Htee Tha Blu, and Toh Doh Doh initially had to move to larger villages along the main car road to Ghaw Gheh such as Meh Gu or Plaw Toh Kee. All villages, even larger ones, would be relocated by December 25 to towns with a military presence. Meh Gu, Htee Po Way, and Kyaw Kheh Ko were forced to relocate to Kya-in-seik-kyi, while Plaw Toh Kee was moved to Kyi Soe; both relocation sites are at SPDC military camps. After forcing the villagers to consolidate in the center of Ghaw Gheh and Kwih K'Neh Ghaw villages, Ghaw Gheh was ordered to Ter Noh and Kwih K'Neh Ghaw to Kyaikdon, two places where the SPDC has built storage barns for confiscated rice. Other relocated villages include: Htee Noh Bo, Noh K'Rer, P'Yaw Pu Hta, Wah Lu, Khay R'Moh (burned by the SPDC before relocation), Myint Wah Kyo Baw, Pyu Gyi, Meh Baw Tee Kaw, Dta Dah Lee, Seik Doh, Kyaw Meh, and Ta Gay (relocation deadline: January 12, 2000). Villagers identified different relocation sites where they were ordered to go, most of which are clustered on the main car road to Ghaw Gheh in order to provide easier access by the SPDC military and to prevent contact with KNLA troops in remote locations. All were warned that if any villagers were caught in their village after the relocation deadline had passed, they would be shot on sight. The large majority of villagers in the area left their paddy in their fields and fled before the deadline arrived. Some village heads surmised that the SPDC was waiting to relocate the tract until the villagers had harvested this year's paddy and deposited it in the SPDC military storage barns, but that the troops were hesitant to confiscate the abandoned paddy from the fields themselves because they feared KNLA ambushes.

The villagers reeled from the effect of these proclamations, and people immediately began fleeing their villages into hiding. Some abandoned their crop in the fields, while others handed their rice to the SPDC military as ordered but then did not dare to move to relocation villages or confront soldiers every day to ask for their ration. The troops proceeded with its plan to clear out the villages; some have been forced into the center of their villages, while others have been moved outright. Many people are now in hiding. Since late 1999 the SPDC forces throughout Dooplaya district have begun a much more systematic campaign to bring the villagers under direct military control in order to undermine the KNLA resistance. The incidences of arbitrary detention, torture and killings have suddenly risen, and the SPDC has been ordering village farmers to move into the center of their villages and never to leave without permission. The result has been widespread starvation, with villagers throughout much of central Dooplaya district living on foraged taro roots and jungle vegetables. Many have had no choice but to abandon their rice in the fields or in the hands of the SPDC and flee forced relocation to hide in the forest, where the SPDC officers have promised to shoot them if they are found. Some have made it across the border into Thailand, where a very uncertain reception awaits them.

### **Kyar-in-seik-kyi Township**

Residents of 31 villages from Kyar-in-seik-kyi were issued orders by SPDC regional

commanders to abandon their villages and move to “concentrated villages” no later than April 20, 1999. Village headmen, monks, priests and prominent members of the 31 villages were summoned April 1, 1999 by officials of LIB 284 and issued orders to depopulate the area and move to four designated sites near SPDC military posts. The consequences for failure to obey the relocation order were spelled out in no uncertain terms. Villagers were warned that they would be treated as hostile forces if they were found in or near their village areas after April 20, 1999. For a list of the villages forced to move, and their designated relocation site, see Appendix # 1 and 2.

The SPDC relocation orders mirror those issued to other villages in the area during the dry season one year ago and signal the SPDC intent to turn the entire area into a free-fire or so called “black” zone. Indeed, Karen and other ethnic villagers in this large area of Southern Karen State have long been subjected to human rights violations including forced portering, seizure of property and arbitrary torture and detention.

The renewal of the notorious four-cuts strategy in and around Kyar-in-seik-kyi Township is likely related to recent limited successes achieved by armed members of the KNU and other opposition groups against the SPDC military targets. The continuing terrorization of unarmed and peaceful ethnic minorities in rural areas such as Kyar-in-seik-kyi occurs simultaneously with an offer by the SPDC to negotiate cease-fire terms with the KNU. The current preparations for a military offensive in Southern Karen State suggest that such offers have a basis in neither truth nor sincerity.

A large number of village residents are reportedly ready to desert their treasured homes and land to flee for possible shelter over the border in Thailand rather than face privation and victimization in the “concentration” villages.

### **Villages between Taw Oak and Kyaw Ko**

In late 1998 KHRG reported that the SPDC Army had issued an order that villages between Taw Oak and Kyaw Ko would be forcibly relocated to Ker Ghaw, Kwih Lay, or Kyaw Ko at the end of the rice harvest. While some villagers scattered or moved, most managed to hold off from being relocated. However, SPDC columns have been acting directly to enforce the forced relocations since August 1999. One of the final relocation sites is indeed Ker Ghaw, the site of a DKBA Army camp, where the villages Kwih Lay, Pah Klu, and Taw Oak are now being forced to move. The villages Thay K’Dtee, Toh Thu Kee, and Kyaw Ko are being relocated to another site at Tee Wah Blaw, where SPDC columns temporarily camp while patrolling the area, and where they may be planning to establish a permanent camp once they have relocated all villagers. SPDC troops also destroyed all of the villagers’ farmfield huts in the area of B’Naw Kleh Kee village right in the middle of the rice-growing season when villagers need to live in their farmfield huts. SPDC Light Infantry Battalions #310 and #120 have occupied the area of Pah Klu and Taw Oak villages, and Light Infantry Battalions #9 and #2 have occupied the area of Ker Ghaw and Kyaw Ko villages. (*Source: KHRG*)

### **Kya In Township**

At a meeting on November 25 1999 the village heads were informed that all villages,

even larger ones, would be relocated by December 25 1999 to towns with a military presence. Meh Gu, Htee Po Way, and Kyaw Kheh Ko were forced to relocate to Kya In Seik Gyi, while Plaw Toh Kee was moved to Kyi Soe; both relocation sites are at SPDC Army camps. After forcing the villagers to consolidate in the centre of Ghaw Gheh and Kwih K'Neh Ghaw villages, Ghaw Gheh was ordered to Ter Noh and Kwih K'Neh Ghaw to Kyaikdon, 2 places where the SPDC has built storage barns for confiscated rice. Other relocated villages include: Htee Noh Bo, Noh K'Rer, P'Yaw Pu Hta, Wah Lu, Khay R'Moh (burned by the SPDC before relocation), Myint Wah Kyo Baw, Pyu Gyi, Meh Baw Tee Kaw, Dta Dah Lee, Seik Doh, Kyaw Meh, and Ta Gay (relocation deadline: January 12<sup>th</sup> 2000). Villagers identified different relocation sites where they were ordered to go, most of which are clustered on the main car road to Ghaw Gheh in order to provide easier access by the SPDC military and to prevent contact with KNLA troops in remote locations. All were warned that if any villagers were caught in their village after the relocation deadline had passed, they would be shot on sight. The large majority of villagers in the area left their paddy in their fields and fled before the deadline arrived. Some village heads surmised that the SPDC was waiting to relocate the tract until the villagers had harvested this year's paddy and deposited it in the Army's storage barns, but that the troops were hesitant to confiscate the abandoned paddy from the fields themselves because they feared KNLA ambushes. (*Source: KHRG*)

### **Forced Relocation in Bokpyin Township**

Since the beginning of 1999, LIB 432, 355 and 589 have been increasing the military activities in Bokepyin Township, Tenasserim Division to wipe out the KNU's activities in the region. Due to the various forms of human rights violations, local people fled to Thailand during April-June, 1999.

According to the refugees from the region, the SPDC local battalions had ordered Pawa village to relocate to a designated area near their military base. The military warned that anyone found after the order of relocation would be killed without questioning. Like Pawa village, Kamawpyin village in the area was also ordered to relocate by the military. As they had threatened, in the third week of March, 1999, troops from LIB 432 led by Lt. Col. Htein Win, shot over ten villagers they found in the area of the village ordered to relocate. All of them died immediately. Similar executions also took place elsewhere in the region. Many villagers in the area who refused to move as ordered were accused of being KNU supporters and persecuted. (*Source: HURFOM*)

### **5.4 Life in the relocation camps, Karenni State**

The relocation sites were scattered throughout the state at Shadaw, Ywathit, Mawchi, Pah Saung, Baw La Keh, Kay Lia, Mar Kraw She, Tee Po Kloh and Nwa La Bo. As more villages were relocated, more sites such as Daw Dta Hay were created. All were under complete control of the Army, usually located adjacent to new or existing Army bases. Although living in the jungle was fraught with problems associated with the danger of the patrols and finding food to eat, some people still tried to remain there, but many gave in to the order and moved to the relocation sites.

Upon arriving at the relocation sites, the villagers were provided very little in the way of food or land and nothing in the way of materials for constructing their new homes. In several of the sites, including Shadaw and Mawchi, villagers report that they were given some rice during the first three months, though it was much less than what they required, and after that nothing else.

The perimeters of the relocation sites are largely left unguarded and the fences that the villagers are often forced to build are primarily around the army camps and not the actual relocation sites. The troops are lax in securing the camp perimeters mainly because they realize that the villagers have no choice but to go and forage for food outside the camps. This opportunity is often used by the villagers to flee the relocation site and go into hiding in the jungle, usually near their old villages.

This has been ongoing since the relocation sites were first established. Many villagers have reported that large numbers of people have already left the relocation sites in search of food and that the current populations of the relocation sites are much less than what they were originally. Shadaw relocation site reportedly had approximately 600-800 households in it after the bulk of the forced relocations, Nwa La Bo initially had 80-100 households and Daw Dta Hay had approximately 120 households. There are far fewer families in those sites now and many who are remaining are starving and need to find another alternative.

Those in the jungle can produce little or no food because of the SPDC patrols and must rely mainly on what they can forage in the forest, and for those still in the relocation sites the situation is little better. In the relocation sites, those who have been allowed to grow food must either do it outside of the site, which requires them getting a pass, or grow things such as corn in small gardens next to their houses, which is the case in Shadaw relocation site. Villagers can pay the SPDC troops to obtain a plot of land to farm near the relocation site, though often part of their crop is taken by SPDC troops. Those who have arrived as refugees in Thailand have reported that the military is taking half of the rice produced by villagers.

Even holding one of the passes which the villagers are required by the military to have before leaving the camp doesn't guarantee safety, particularly farther than a few miles from the camps. Villagers who have fled Shadaw site say that they were told that if they went more than three or five miles from the site they would be killed.

Another source of food for the villagers in the relocation sites was rice they had managed to hide in the jungle before their villages were destroyed. However, leaving the relocation site to retrieve the hidden rice was a dangerous proposition and could only result in small amounts of rice being brought back each time. By now all of that rice has either been used up by the villagers themselves, found and destroyed by the SPDC troops or taken by villagers hiding in the jungle who can't find food elsewhere. The food shortage problems have been exacerbated in 1998-99 by widespread crop failures that are affecting not only the majority of Burma but other Southeast Asian nations as well. The erratic climate during this period has resulted in alternating droughts and floods, causing much lower yields in most of the region.

Deaths from basic dehydration due to diarrhea and vomiting are commonplace. In the area in and around the southwestern relocation site of Mawchi, it would seem that the majority of the people are dying from this, which would normally be easily treatable. Most of these deaths are among those hiding in the forests around Mawchi, but many have also died in the relocation site itself. This is in combination with malaria, dysentery and infection from

a host of parasites that can normally be found in the jungle have already killed more than half of the people who were living in the jungle in the Mawchi area. Villagers from the Mawchi area and most other areas say that before they fled there was always at least one member of their family who was sick, and that family members and friends have already died of minor diseases. The villagers in the jungle fear going very far from their hiding places because they may be killed if seen, so they resort to burying the dead in and around their small settlements, and this can lead to even further spread of disease. The villagers in the Mawchi area have virtually no access to medical supplies and the journey to flee the area is too long for those in poor health.

Hospital facilities are virtually unheard of in the relocation sites. One exception to this rule is in Shadaw, where the hospital is understaffed and the medicine is very expensive if available at all. Refugees who have come from Shadaw are reporting that the doctors who are meant to be working in the hospital in the relocation site are only coming once every two or three months and spending the rest of their time in Loikaw, presumably because they find life more comfortable there. The doctors are reportedly posted to care for the people in Shadaw, but they hardly ever appear in the relocation site. This is consistent with reports from other areas of Burma such as Shan and Karen States, where recently graduated doctors are posted to remote places but choose to stay in nearby towns instead. Diarrhea, malaria, dysentery and the other common illnesses previously mentioned can all be found in Shadaw relocation site, and chicken pox has also caused problems and death for the villagers living just outside the relocation site. Those interviewed have noted that the few nurses that are at the hospital aren't capable of dealing with anything other than minor problems. If a serious problem has to be treated, the person who is ill must pay to be taken to Loikaw for treatment or simply stay and suffer.

Basic education is also lacking in the relocation sites. Most of the relocation sites have no schools whatsoever. Space at the Shadaw School is limited and for the most part only Shadaw townspeople can send their children there. People in the relocation site must pay the full cost of schooling. Very few of them have money to do this, so very few of their children go to school. Even if children are able to get into one of the small number of schools that are available they are only permitted to study Burmese. Study of the Karenni language and culture is forbidden. In Daw Dta Hay there is a primary school for the children, but if they wish to continue their education beyond that they must take the risk of going elsewhere to find it. Although education is available in some areas the young people are rarely able to go because they have to work to help their family survive.

Daw Dta Hay is not set up as a formal relocation site, but an existing village where others have been forced to settle. Villagers who were relocated to Daw Dta Hay say that there was recently an SPDC military training exercise conducted nearby. The SPDC military brought in children and adults aged 14 to 30 from other parts of Karenni State to participate in the training course, which was called 'The Column 7 Training Exercise'. Many of the children who came told the villagers at the site that they were summoned by the SPDC military and hadn't been told where they were going when they were forced to go with the soldiers. Some young people from Daw Dta Hay said that they had been told they would have to join the training exercise as well, but they never did. After the exercise the trainees were reportedly sent to Loikaw, presumably to join one of the 4 SPDC Battalions that are based there. The people of Daw Dta Hay were ordered to provide large amounts of food

and other support for the military personnel who came to conduct the training. Little or nothing was given to the villagers in return for whatever food or goods they provided. Daw Dta Hay has also seen at least three of the village's young girls taken as wives against their will by SPDC soldiers.

Earning money in the camps is limited to odd jobs that are rarely. Some people have been able to work for the military as guides, interpreters, teachers, etc. However, they don't get paid much and what they are paid is often reduced because of unfair fees. The small amount of work that can be found outside of the relocation sites virtually always requires a pass costing from 5 to 50 *Kyat*, but a pass doesn't guarantee safety for the one who holds it.

However, most of the labor to be found is non-paying forced labor. Forced labor or *Loh Ah Pay* ('voluntary labor') is commonplace in and around the camp. The SPDC troops force the villagers to work on a daily or weekly basis; generally one person from each family must go. This forced labor includes clearing bushes and trees from the roadsides both inside and outside the relocation sites, cleaning military buildings, cultivating land for the military outposts, hauling water for the troops, building fences around the military camps, digging bunkers, road construction, portering for the military and other general servant work. The villagers are also being used to construct a road from Daw Wah Kaing to Daw Dta Hay.

## 5.5 Rangoon Division

Residents of Kyisu western ward which surrounds Ywa-thar-gyi, North New Dagon Township and South New Dagon Township, Rangoon Division were invited to attend a meeting held on January 29 1999 by Township PDC group headed by chairman U Thein Tun. They were told by the authorities to vacate the land and return to where they came from. Arrangements would be made only for groups of ten households. Individual households would have to make their own arrangements. On the other hand they were given the option to move to the new scheme called Arakan Development (New Living Project) which would entitle them to a pair of cattle and agricultural land at the going price. If they preferred to move towards wetlands in Nyaungdon they would have no ownership rights to the land but would have to work as laborers. The choice was to either go for a new scheme without any proper definitions or to make their own plans. They were threatened that those who failed to do either way by March 30, 1999 would be jailed.

The residents of the area refused to sign the document that was presented to them to indicate their approval of the terms. They appealed and asked that consideration be given because of the children who were attending schools in the area. The reply given was that this was not an important issue because all the children will be promoted without having to take any exams. Some of the people have lived in this area for over ten years, others for over five and others for over three years.

On the January 31, 1999, the group entered the area at a time when most were away at work. They demolished all the houses that had no occupants despite the pleas from the neighbors. The total population in that area is 1700 to 2000. (*Source: NLD*)

## 5.6 List of Incidents

- ◆ In the first week of January 1999, after an attack by the KNLA in late December 1998 in Kyauk Kyi Township, DKBA troops called in the local SPDC Battalion and the two groups cooperated in forcibly relocating Kya Plaw and Leh Wain Gyi villages to a forced relocation site. (*Source: KHRG*)
- ◆ On January 12, 1999, Villagers from Naung Lun village, Htee Sae Kha village tract, Loikaw Township, Karenni State were given fifteen minutes to pack their belongings and then were forcibly ordered to relocate to Htee Sae Kha village. The relocation order was given by riot troops led by Captain Thein Htoo from a Loikaw-based battalion. (*Source: Karenni*)
- ◆ On January 29 1999, U Thein Tun, Chairman of the administration unit in North New Dagon Township ordered the very poor residents of Kyisu western ward which surrounds Ywa-thar-gyi, North New Dagon Township and South New Dagon Township, Rangoon Division to relocate by March 30. He accused them of being trespassers and ordered them to move to an Arakan Development project or Nyaungdon, or else face imprisonment. The residents refused to sign his document, and the next day the homes of these 1700 people were demolished. (*Source: NLD*)
- ◆ On January 31 1999, Troops from SPDC army forcibly relocated Htay-kay-lor village to Kwin -seik and Kyun-chang village to Don-za-yit, Naung-le-bin District, Karen State. (*Source: KNU*)
- ◆ On February 2 1999, a Special guerilla force from SPDC army ordered villages such as Mau-bin and Let-kauk-wa to be forcibly relocated to Kyaung-gon and Baw-ta-daw-kho village to Kyee-bin seik, Naung-le-bin District, Karen State within (5) days. (*Source: KNU*)
- ◆ On March 13 1999, IB 53 ordered everyone living in Aunchanthar village, Kyauk Kyi Township, Pegu Division, Karen State to relocate to the outskirts of Mone town within 3 days. They accused the villagers of supporting rebel troops with food and other assistance. The Shan village had been surviving on betal palm and other plantations, and lost their fields when they moved. (*Source: BI*)
- ◆ They all were forced to sign saying they would obey the order. Some villages effected that order were big villages with population over 500. They had been established for a long time and that order left the people deprived of their livelihood. (*Source: Yoma-3*)
- ◆ On April 1, 1999, residents of 31 villages from Kyar-in-seik-kyi Township, Karen State were ordered by the SPDC regional commander to abandon their villages and move to new relocation site no later than April 20, 1999. Villager headman, monks, priests and prominent members of the 31 villages were summoned by members of LIB 284, led by by Major Kyaw Win and issued orders to depopulate the area and move to four designated sites near SPDC military posts. The consequences for failure to obey the relocation order were spelled out in no uncertain terms. Villagers are warned that they would be treated as hostile forces if they were found in or near their village areas after April 20. (*Source: HRDU*) *See Appendix #1*
- ◆ In the first week of April, 1999, the Southeast Region Military Command, IB 97 and 32, and LIB 230 and 284, ordered 12 villages in Kyer-Ein-Seik-Kyi Township, Karen State, with a population of both Karen and Mon, to relocate to 5 designated villages, (1)Yatagon,

(2) Anan-gwin, (3) Taung-zun, (4) Maezalee and (5) Chaungzon. The deadline of forced relocation was April 30. (*Source: HURFOM*) - see *Appendix #2*

◆ On April 2, 1999, Aung Chan Tha, Mee Taw Taw and Mae Zali Gone villages were forcibly ordered to relocate to a place near Mong town, Karen State. Similarly, Paw Pedai and Myaung Oo villages in the same area were ordered to move to a place between Htee Tolo and Si Pin Tha villages. (*Source: Refugee News*)

◆ In mid-1999, 7 villages in Kyauk Kyi Township, Pegu Division, Karen State were forcefully relocated. They were:

Kawnee - 100 houses with over 700 people. Relocated by Sathonelone.

Aungchanthar -

Meetaingtaw-

Mezalikon-

Kyaungsu-

Myaung U-

Myaung U (new section) - These 6 villages had a total population of 2,800 people living in 800 houses. They were relocated by IB 53.

(*Source: BI*)

◆ From March 17 to April 21, 1999: troops led by Lieutenant Colonel Kyaw Win from IB 284 carried out forced relocation in Win-yay Township, Dooplaya District, Karen State. Villagers from (1) Zee-hna-pin to Yeh-da-goon, (2) Yeh-paw, Ta-nyin and Tharn-bya to Anan-gwin, (3) War-mor-lay to Taung-zun, (4) Tat-daying to Chaung-zone, and (5) A-pa-lone were ordered to go to Meh-za-li. Some of the affected villagers went with the forced relocation, but others chose to flee, away from the SPDC troops, into the jungles and live in hiding. (*Source: KNU*)

◆ On April 10 1999, troops from SPDC LIB 208 destroyed by burning a cart and 5 houses situated between Yauk-ka-kya and Mae-ka-thort villages, Toungoo District, Karen State. They extorted 50,000 *kyat* cash from the villagers and drove out people of the 2 villages by force, for relocation in other villages. (*Source: KNU*)

◆ On April 29 1999, Maj Aye Thaung of LIB520 sent Capt Khin Kyaw Win with 80 troops to Pung Kur village, Nawng Yaang tract, Murng-Pan Township, Shan State to move the villagers to the town. The Captain ordered the village headman to start moving his villagers to Murng-Pan town on April 30 (the next day) and the move was to be completed by May 2, 1999. Starting from May 3, anyone found in the area of the village would be assumed to be a "destructive element" and shot dead. Pung Kur consists of 186 houses of mostly farming families. (*Source: SHRF*)

◆ On May 1, 1999, Maj Aye Thaung sent about 80 troops led by Capt Than Htoo to Nawng Yaang village, Nawng Yaang tract, Murng-Pan Township, to force the villagers to relocate to Murng-Pan. The villagers were ordered to move within 4 days, and were warned that from May 6 onwards anyone who failed to move would be shot dead and their houses burned. There were 85 houses of farming families in Nawng Yaang village. (*Source: SHRF*)

◆ On May 2 1999, Capt Kyaw Myint, with about 80 troops, was sent by Maj Aye Thaung to Pa Khaa village, Ho Phaa Long tract, Murng-Pan Township, Shan State to forcibly evict the villagers from their homes. The villagers were ordered to move to Murng-Pan town and were told not to dismantle their houses but to leave them intact so that one day when the situation became better they could come back home. However, only 2-3 days

after the villagers had moved away, the troops came back to the village and dismantled a big wooden house, owned by a villager named Loong Zaang Kaeng Tung, and took the lumber to their military base in Murng-Pan. (*Source: SHRF*)

◆ On August 8 1999, LIB 520 Major Aye Thaung ordered all the villagers of Pung Kur, Nawng Yaang tract, Murng-Pan Township to move to Murng-Pan town within 5 days. But, only after 2 days, before most of the villagers could move, the troops came back and looted the village and the village monastery and took away what they wanted. (*Source: SHRF*)

◆ On September 16, 1999, 32 soldiers led by deputy commander Tha Sein Win from LIB 431 arrived in Tha Kho and Taung Pai villages, Mergui-Tavoy district, Karen State and forced the villagers to move out of their village. (*Source: KIC*)

◆ On September 29, 1999, around 70 SPDC soldiers led by commander Thein Lwin from LIB 557 forcibly moved the villagers from Pyo Ein village, in Mergui-Tavoy district, Karen State. (*Source: KIC*)

◆ In the last week of November 1999, SPDC military strategy commander Min Thein from the Southeast Military Command ordered Tagay village in Kyar-ein-sei-kyi Township, Karen State to move to Kyar-ein-seik-kyi Myothint by the end of November. The villagers were accused of having communication with the KNU. Over 850 villagers had to move out of their village during the harvest time. Some of them did not relocate as ordered and are hiding in the forest nearby. (*Source: HRDU*)

◆ On December 3 1999, the SPDC Commander of Military Strategy Operation ordered Rat Kalar, Haw Ket, and Hti Kyaw Ki villages of Kyar-Ein-Seik-Kyi Township, Karen State to relocate to Paw Htu Ki village. (*Source: HRDU*)

◆ On December 11, 1999, a military column led by battalion commander Tin Tun Aye and division commander Captain Maung Maung Htun from LIB 534 forcibly relocated Kaw Le and Htee Wah Klu villages in Kyar-ein-seik-kyi Township, Karen State. The villagers were ordered to move from the village within a day and they would face persecution if they failed to comply with order. Without any other choice, about 100 people moved from their villages. (*Source: HRDU*)

◆ On December 12, 1999, SPDC military strategy commander Min Thein from the Southeast Military Command ordered Dali village, Kyar-ein-seik-kyi Township, Karen State to move to Kyar-ein-seik-kyi Myothint, accusing the village of having connection with the KNU. Over 600 villagers, mostly Shan and Karen, moved to the new site. (*Source: HRDU*)

## Appendix to Relocation

### Appendix # 1 : 31 villages forced to relocate from Kyar-in-seik-kyi Township, Karen State

Village	Relocation Site
Kakatit	Ye Tagun
Yathe	Ye Tagun
Loshan	Ye Tagun
Reiphaw	Ye Tagun

<b>Village</b>	<b>Relocation Site</b>
Htee Hto Kaw	Ye Taung
Khanit Wah	Anan Gwin
Tanyin	Anan Gwin
Upper Phaya	Anan Gwin
Lower Phaya	Anan Gwin
Win Khana	Anan Gwin
Pan Aung	Anan Gwin
Thanpara	Anan Gwin
Putaw	Anan Gwin
Khoke Khwa	Taungzun
Mae Kanaw	Taungzun
Mae Kawah	Taungzun
Sin Pway	Taungzun
Mhar Law	Taungzun
Htee Mawke	Taungzun
Kyauk Belu	Taungzun
Thapway Gone	Phar Pyat
Myayni Gone	Phar Pyat
Thaya Gone	Phar Pyat
Montlone Taung	Phar Pyat
Nan Khwee	Phar Pyat
Win Htaung	Phar Pyat
Khale Saw	Phar Pyat
Hnit Ein	Phar Pyat
Win Poke	Phar Pyat
Taung Kalay	Phar Pyat

**Appendix # 2 : The 12 villages forced to relocate in Kyer-Ein-Seik-Kyi Township by April 20 :**

<b>Villages</b>	<b>Households (estimated)</b>	<b>Population (estimated)</b>
(1)Zee-hnitpin	45	220
(2)Law-shan	150	625
(3)Rat-phaw	160	840
(4) Yathay-taung	65	320
(5)Ka-kathit	55	220
(6) Ta-nyin	120	800
(6)Thanpaya	180	1400
(8)Sin-pyay	20	120
(9)Khon-khan	90	480
(10)Ma-law	85	110
(11)Pan-auny	150	1200

*(Source: HURFOM)*

**Appendix #3 : Lists of Villages Relocated in Karen State (KHRG)**

From	Township	To	Order Date
Baw Bpee Der	Mone	Mone town outskirts	4/99
Myau Oo	Mone	Mone town outskirts	4/99
Aung Chan Tha	Mone	Mone town outskirts	4/99
Kyaut Bu Daung	Mone	Mone town outskirts	4/99
Sweh Dtee	Kyauk Kyi	Baw Ka Hta Kaw Tha Say	15/1/99
Noh Nya Thu	Kyauk Kyi	Yan Myo Aung	7/1/99
Kya Plaw	Kyauk Kyi	Yan Myo Aung	7/1/99
Leh Wain Gyi	Kyauk Kyi	Pa Hee Ko	3/1/99
Ma Oo Bin	Shwegyin	Than Seik/Min Lan	1/99
Kyi Pin Su	Shwegyin	Than Seik/Min Lan	1/99
Leh Bain (Leh Pa)	Mone	Yan Myo Aung	1/99
Lu Ah	Mone	Yan Myo Aung	1/99
Hintha Weh	Kyauk Kyi	Kaw Tha Say	1/99

**APPENDIX # 4 : Partial list of relocated villagers who died from rat poison in Shan State**

(This list is incomplete, as it was given by refugees from the villages listed, who only knew of deaths in those villages. There are only four villages listed here, out of a total of 144, so the total number of deaths is obviously much higher.)

Name	age	original village
1. Pa Mya (F)	53	Wan Tok, Sanen Tract
2. Pa Say (F)	70	Wan Tok, Sanen Tract
3. Loon Sai (M)	50	Wan Tok, Sanen Tract
4. Pa Mya (F)	48	Wan Tok, Sanen Tract
5. Mae Tao Nyo (F)	86	Wan Tok, Sanen Tract
6. Ai Mone (M)	6	Wan Tok, Sanen Tract
7. Loon Myat (M)	56	Khong Kao, Sanen Tract
8. Pa Kham (F)	50	Khong Kao, Sanen Tract
9. Nang Mon (F)	18	Khong Kao, Sanen Tract
10. Mae Tao Su (F)	82	Khong Kao, Sanen Tract
11. Mae Tao Par (F)	68	Khong Kao, Sanen Tract
12. Loon Tun (M)	53	Khong Kao, Sanen Tract
13. Ai Hla (M)	5	Khong Kao, Sanen Tract
14. Loon Kham Lim (M)	75	Khong Kao, Sanen Tract
15. Pa Mya (F)	60	Khong Kao, Sanen Tract
16. Pa Kyi (F)	42	Khong Kao, Sanen Tract
17. Aye Sain (F)	10	Khong Kao, Sanen Tract

<b>Name</b>	<b>age</b>	<b>original village</b>
18. Pa Kue (F)	65	Khong Kao, Sanen Tract
19. Loon Tun (M)	58	Berng Long, Sanen Tract
20. Pa Sone (F)	43	Berng Long, Sanen Tract
21. Pa Yoie (F)	40	Berng Long, Sanen Tract
22. Pa Mu (F)	48	Berng Long, Sanen Tract
23. Pa Tone (F)	65	Berng Long, Sanen Tract
24. Nang Sang (F)	7	Berng Long, Sanen Tract
25. San Sen (M)	18	Berng Long, Sanen Tract
26. Loon Sai (M)	50	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
27. Loon Phay (M)	48	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
28. Loon Kheng (M)	60	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
29. Pa Mark (F)	50	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
30. Nang Pang (F)	18	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
31. Ai Sai (M)	12	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
32. Pa Phong (F)	58	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
33. Loon Pan Da (M)	62	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
34. Pa Mya (F)	42	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
35. Pa You (F)	45	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
36. Pa Lem (F)	56	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
37. Tun Hla (M)	25	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
38. Nang Sang Kyi (F)	18	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
39. Sane Kyaw (M)	13	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
40. Pa Nang (F)	48	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
41. Pa Yone (F)	34	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
42. Nang Jang (F)	12	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
43. Nang Ani (F)	11	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
44. Loon Yon (M)	32	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
45. Nang Mya (F)	12	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
46. Mae Tao Aie (F)	62	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
47. Ai Aung (M)	6	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
48. Pa Kham (F)	32	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
49. Loon Hla (M)	48	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract
50. Pa Sane (F)	50	Wan Jong, Sanen Tract

(Source: SHRF)