

8. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, Degrading Treatment or Punishment

8.1 Background

There is widespread practice of torture through Burma. The extent of this practice is enormous; and the methods used are most brutal, barbaric and inhumane. The victims are civilians including women and children; and rape remains quite common. Both physical and mental forms of torture are involved. In many instances deaths are caused as a result of torture.

At least six departments of the SPDC's security forces have been implicated in torture and ill-treatment of former detainees, including political prisoners. The six departments are as follows: (1) SPDC's army of Phyithu Tatmadaw (People's Defense Forces); (2) The People's Police Forces; (3) the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence (DDSI); (4) the Special Investigations Department (SID); (5) the Criminal Investigation Department (CID); and (6) the Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI). The activities of DDSI, SID, CID and BSI are coordinated by the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB), under the direct control of the SPDC. The DDSI is also commonly known as the MIS or Military Intelligence Service and is the agency most frequently identified as inflicting torture during interrogation. Since 1988, the units under its control (MI-1, MIS-1, MI-3, etc.) have nearly doubled from 14 in 1989 to 23 in 1991. Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt, Secretary of the SPDC, is the head of the DDSI. The breakaway groups of Democratic Karen Buddhist Army and other ethnic armed groups associated with the SPDC also use torture against the civilians as a way of terrorizing people in rural areas.

Ethnic people living in areas of counter-insurgency operations are subjected to harassment, abuses, and ethnic persecution by the SPDC troops. Troops systematically force nearby civilian villagers to relocate in order to deprive ethnic armed forces of potential logistical support. Civilians found in their villages after the relocation deadlines are shot on sight. Moreover, civilians are routinely tortured by SPDC troops for allegedly having contact with ethnic armed groups or for being "sympathizers."

Political opposition activists often endure particularly severe treatment while in detention. Torture is used to punish them and to compel them to cooperate with their interrogators. These prisoners endure both physical and emotional torture during the often prolonged periods of detention following arrest while they are isolated from public scrutiny and protection. Many of them are forced to sign "confessions" admitting to anti-SPDC activities or implicating colleagues or friends in such activities. Some are forced to sign documents confirming that they had been well-treated during interrogation or in jail, and other says that they have been incommunicado following torture to allow time for the physical signs of torture to heal before anyone could see them.

In Burma the practice of shackling of prisoners still persists. The prisoners are shackled in heavy chains, like the ones used to tie elephants even when they are kept in cells

which are securely locked while they are waiting to be called before Courts. The practice of shackling prisoners in this manner dates from medieval times. Such shackling clearly falls under inhuman and degrading punishment. Such shackling should be declared illegal and more suitable methods must be developed to ensure that prisoners do not escape while in custody.

8.2 Solitary Confinement

An iron rod, about 1 1/2 to 2 feet long is often placed horizontally between the shackled legs of prisoners in solitary confinement, forcing them to stand or lay with their legs astride. Prisoners are locked in tiny cells during their confinement. Normally, small chamber pots are placed in each cell. The pots are never emptied, so the smell becomes unbearable and the cell damp and wet. In the worst case of solitary confinement, prisoners are forced to stand with both arms tied above their head; they are forced to urinate and defecate while standing. Small daily food rations of soup made from rice are slid through the iron bars from outside of cell. No blankets or mats are provided; prisoners are forced to sleep on the concrete floor. Most days, prisoners are taken out of the cells, forced to stand in the standard position, with their legs splayed apart, and beaten. Solitary confinement usually lasts for at least one month and may continue to three months. In some cases, political prisoners are forced to remain in solitary confinement indefinitely.

8.3 Beatings

SPDC uses many forms of beating to intimidate and torture prisoners and detainees. Soldiers use typical as well as unusual implements to beat their victims, including their fists, combat boots, rifle butts, leather-coated pipes, wooden sticks, stick made from three interlaced pieces of cane, solid bamboo sticks, about three feet in length, and hard plastic water pipes. Victims often sustain serious permanent injuries including paralysis and even death.

SPDC beating are designed to physically harm and to humiliate their victims, The following are a few of the typical types of beatings: the prisoner is beaten while he/she stands and embraces a post and both hands are held firmly by another person; the prisoner is beaten while lying prone on the ground; the prisoner is beaten while being forced to stand with both legs chained; the prisoner is beaten while being forced to crawl along the ground; the prisoner is shackled, along iron bar is placed in between their legs, and they are forced to crawl while being beaten; prisoners are beaten while being forced to do continuous squat-jumps. Authorities do not hold back during these beatings; they strike victims in the face, chest, abdomen, and back; they also jump on the backs of prisoners while they are being forced to crawl on the ground. Prisoners are routinely seriously wounded; they suffer severe internal bleeding, fractured skulls, broken bones, and paralysis.

8.4 ~~Tll-treatment during forced portering and labor~~

Local civilians are arbitrarily seized by the military and forced to serve as porters during military offensive lugging heavy army equipment and supplies; porters have been

held in army custody for periods between a few days to a month or more. Porters who have managed to escape have given consistent and horrific accounts of extrajudicial executions, beatings, and lack of food and medicine. When porters become exhausted from being overworked, underfed, and sometimes beaten, they are subjected to torture and sometimes beaten to death and left in the jungle. Female porters, mostly ethnic women living in combat areas, are subjected to gang rapes and other sexual crimes.

The use of forced labor on SPDC's infrastructure projects is widespread across Burma. During the past years, SPDC has increasingly forced hundreds of thousands of civilian laborers to build railway lines, airports, dams, quarries, and road without compensation. Conditions at work sites are often harsh, in many cases soldiers use inhumane and degrading treatment to keep laborers working; forced laborers are often shackled in chains and received inadequate food and medicine.

8.5 Torture during detention and interrogation

SPDC's use of cruel and unusual torture techniques have been well-documented by survivors of such techniques and human rights groups. SPDC's methods of torture include beatings rigorous enough to cause permanent injury; shackling of the legs or arms, both in prison cells and in work camps; burning victims with cigarettes; applying electric shocks to the victim's genitals, finger tips, toes, ear lobes, and elsewhere; suffocation; stabbing; rubbing of salt and chemicals in open wounds; forcing victims to stand in unusual and uncomfortable positions for extended periods of time, including "riding the motorcycle," which entails standing with arms outstretched and legs bent and the "helicopter" in which the victim is suspended by the wrists or feet from a ceiling fixture and then spun around; deprivation of light and sleep; denial of medicine, food, exercise and water for washing; employing the "iron road" in which iron or bamboo roads are rolled up and down the shins until the skin is lacerated; ordering solitary confinement with extreme small and unsanitary cells for prolonged period; rape and sexual assault and the use of psychological torture, including threats of death.

Prison punishment is often very similar to the cruel treatment endured during an interrogation period. Prisoners are severely beaten, placed in solitary confinement, transferred to other cell-blocks and denied contact with the outside world. Political prisoners are often sent to police dog cells, intended for dogs, where they are subjected to beatings and placed in leg-irons made of chains or of iron rod thrust between the feet.

8.6 List of Incidents

◆ In January 1999, SPDC troops savagely beat a woman from Thaton Township, Karen State because they thought her husband was with the KNLA. The turban she was wearing protected her head a bit from the blows, but she was seriously injured. (*Source: KHRG*)

◆ In early January 1999, private Nga Maung of IB 92, son of Daw Kyi Sein from Kyauk-taing village, Mindon Township, was demanding money on home leave, claiming to be MI. As a result, he was arrested, interrogated, and tortured to death by Sergeant Shwe Hla Maung, Lance Corporal Khaing Too, the Chairman of the Village Administration U Aye

Maung. (*Source: NLD*)

◆ On January 12 1999, a farmer from Kyauk Kyi Township, Karen State drove the families of LIB 264 troops out of his bean field where they were taking his beans. An hour later, a group of 4 soldiers led by Sergeant Mya Than appeared and told the farmer that everything belonged to the military and they and their families could take what they wanted. The 5 troops beat him until he was severely injured, fell unconscious and needed to be hospitalised. (*Source: KHRG*)

◆ On January 13, 1999, following the robbery of a passenger bus near Koe-mile village, Ye Township, Mon State, troops from LIB 343 arrested 6 villagers, including 1 women and accused them of being friends or relatives of the robbers. They detained the villagers at the battalion outpost for 5 days, and inhumanely and brutally tortured the villagers to get them to admit they were accomplices in the robbery case. Their relatives were forced to pay 20,000 *kyat* per person before they were released. (*Source: HURFOM*)

◆ On January 21 1999, troops from LIB 401, led by Major Thaw Min, entered Kwethonyima village, Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division to collect the paddy tax they had ordered the farmers to give. However, as the village secretary, “Nai Tin Swe”, had been unable to organize the villagers, and only a little rice had been collected to give as the tax, the troops arrested and tortured him severely. Then the soldiers looted 270 baskets of paddy from the village. (*Source: HURFOM*)

◆ On January 23 1999, SPDC troops from LIB 328 arrested two villagers of Wan Zarng village, Murng Yarng Township, Shan State. They were Sai Taan, aged 22 and San Nadawun, aged 20. The troops accused the two of giving information to the Shan human rights group mobilizing in the area. Both of them were beaten and tortured during their interrogation. They were released only after their parents paid 2,000 *kyat* each for their release. Both suffered severe head injuries from the beating. (*Source: SHRF*)

◆ On February 3 1999, troops from SPDC LIB 546 came to Naung-ga-doke village, Thaton district, Karen State and brutally beat Naw Mu Mu, a 57 year old woman. (*Source: KIC*)

◆ On February 12, 1999, a farmer named Sai Maing Sai, aged 27, of Wan Naa village, Nam Kham Township, Shan State, was badly beaten by two SPDC soldiers from IN 242. He was temporarily diverting some water from the stream that has long fed the rice fields in the area. The soldiers said this water was only for the military-own fields. (*Source: SHRF*)

◆ On February 22, 1999, SPDC troops from LIB 427 led by second –Lt. Than Aung arrived Daw Le Khu village, Prusoe Township, Karenni State and arrested Mee Ur, chairman of the village, Aye Lee, a secretary, Patrick, a pastor, Mozart, Mary, Pra Rei and Palo. All these villagers were accused of having communication with the Karenni armed group. They all were severely beaten and stabbed with sharpened knives. (*Source: HRDU*)

◆ On February 22, 1999, SPDC troops from LIB 427 led by 2nd Lt. Than Aung arrived in Htee Taw village, Prusoe Township, Karenni State and arrested U Ko Rei, chairman, Bae Rei, secretary and Hae Rei. The troops also arrested We Rei, Danny, Sha Rei, Not Rei and Haal Law Khi from Daw Raw Khu village. They were accused of supporting the Karenni armed group in the region. The troops severely beat them and slashed their faces and bodies with knives. After the torture, they went to Prusoe hospital for treatment but they were not given any medicine as the military had prohibited the hospital from providing any. (*Source: HRDU*)

- ◆ On February 22 1999, Company 4 Commander, Thuta Swe, and a Sergeant from IB 231 seized Mauns Ngwe Yee (40,M) and a friend from Myo-haung village of Kaw-ka-reik Township, Doo-pla-ya district, Karen State and tortured them for many hours. They repeatedly hit Maung Ngwe Yee with a machete, severely wounding him. (*Source: KNU*)
- ◆ In late February 1999, 'Saw Toh Wah' of Waw Raw Township, Karen State was tortured by troops led by Capt. Han Myaing of LIB 343. They tied him to a tree and told the porters to dig a grave. They gathered the villagers, and asked them to guarantee for his 'good behaviour', then shot to miss him in mock execution twice. (*Source: KHRG*)
- ◆ In March 1999, about 70 SPDC soldiers arrested Saw Thay Htoo, aged 35, from Thaton Township, Karen State and interrogated him about the activities of the KNU. They beat him with a short pole on his head and shins. They quickly sutured the place where they broke his scalp with 3 stitches, but he was unable to walk for 10 days after the beating. (*Source: KHRG*)
- ◆ On April 6 1999, 12 SPDC troops from LIB526 came to Yan Shin, a Lahu village in Murng Ko tract, Ta-Khi-laek Township, Shan State and demanded 15 labourers from the Lahu headman, Kya Hi, to clear the bushes and other rubbish in the compound of the military base. The Lahu headman refused to comply with the demand and so the troops beat him with their rifle butts. They stopped only when the head of the Lahu People's Militia came to intercede. Headman Kya Hi was sent to a clinic at Murng Ko and the wounds on his head had to be treated with at least 7 stitches. (*Source: SHRF*)
- ◆ On April 21 1999, SPDC troops from LIB526 arrested Sai Kam, age 28, and Sai Thai, age 21, of Saw Kong village Murng Phong tract (2), Ta-Khi-Laek Township, Shan State. They accused them of recruiting new soldiers for SSA-E and beat and tortured them while interrogating them. Both of the villagers suffered serious wounds on the heads and waists and could not walk or stand up. They were released only after the headman and the village leaders testified to their innocence and signed a guarantee paper taking responsibility for them. Both of them had to be hospitalized and received treatment at a hospital in Mai Sai Town in Thailand for 3 days before they were taken back to their village. (*Source: SHRF*)
- ◆ On April 25 1999, 20 DKBA soldiers of Brigade 333, led by Paw Li and Maw Klah arrested Saw Hsay Hsay, aged 26, from Thaton Township, Karen State. The accused him of contacting the KNU and tortured him. They tied his sarong around his head to suffocate him, stood on his chest, and poked him with a gun. (*Source: KHRG*)
- ◆ On April 29 1999, SPDC troops from LIB334 beat and tortured 6 men from Murng He village in Murng-Yawng Township, Shan State then left them hanging from trees. Ai Phom-Ma, 25, son of Loong Pin, Ai Lao, 20, son of Loong Hong, both later died due to the injuries from the beating and torture. (*Source: SHRF*)
- ◆ On April 30, 1999, the village chairman and secretary of Tarana village, Kyaikmayaw Township, Tenasserim Division, were severely tortured by a SPDC back-line tactical commander, Col. Tin Win and his soldiers from Light Infantry Division No.22 for the headmen's failure to organize a meeting with them. (*Source: HURFOM*)
- ◆ On May 4 1999, 35 troops from LIB 332 led by Maj Than Aung arrested the village headman and his deputy of Pa Khaa village, Ho Phaa Long tract, Murng-Pan Township, Shan State. The village had been ordered to relocate to Murng-Pan in February. The troops interrogated the man and burned their bodies and faces with torches of hay. They were so badly burnt that they were unable to speak after the incident. (*Source: SHRF*)

◆ On May 4 1999, troops from IB 55 led by Capt Kyaw Myint arrested 4 villagers from the Lai-Kha relocation site, Shan State who were out collecting firewood. Loong Maha Zai, aged 51, Loong Lai Seng, aged 49, Zai Nyunt, aged 22 and Zai Mala, aged 20 were accused of being Shan rebel soldiers, and brought to the military camp. They were severely tortured until the next day, when villagers came to vouch for their innocence, and paid 12,000 *kyat* per person for their release. 2 tractors owned by 2 of the men were also confiscated by the army. (*Source: SHRF*)

◆ On May 6 1999, at around 10:00 at night, about 60 SPDC troops from LIB 330 surrounded Naa Ke, a Lahu village in Ta-Khi-Laek Township, fired their guns into the air and ordered all the villagers to gather in the centre of the village. Many villagers were frightened and ran away, but they were shot after, and 2 were killed. Two wounded villagers were captured and brought back to the centre of the village. The soldiers, accusing them of having connections with SSA-E, cut off their ears. They threatened all villagers that whoever dared to work as agents for the Shan soldiers would have to face the same fate. After that, the SPDC troops left the village, taking the 2 wounded Lahu villagers with them. There has been no news so far about their whereabouts or whether they are alive or dead. (*Source: SHRF*)

◆ On May 15 1999, 15 troops from LIB 332 led by Sein Maung Win arrested Sai Nya-Na, aged 40 and his wife, Naang Mon, aged 36 who had been forced to move, but had secretly gone back to their village of Paa Saa, Kaeng Tawng area, Murng-Nai Township, Shan State to catch their loose cattle. The troops took them to the army base and tortured them both for a while, then tortured only the husband, and made his wife watch until he was almost dead and she agreed to show them where they kept some of their hidden valuables. (*Source: SHRF*)

◆ On May 17 1999, Loong Loi Hurng, 51, and Loong Lai Seng, 49, Kaw-Na, Ma-La, Khat-Ti-Ya and Kun-Na,(all in their twenties) and two teenagers, Zai Taeng and Zai Suay, were herding 15 of their cows from their former village to the Lai-Kha relocation site where they lived. They were stopped by 50 troops from Battalion 515 who arrested them and took them to the army base in Lai-kha. At the base, Commanding officer Saw Hpyu accused the men of going back to the village to provide rice to Shan insurgents and gave an order for them to be punished. The beating they received was so severe that some of them lost consciousness several times. They were released only after paying 2,000 *kyat* for each of the cattle and 5,000 *kyat* per person. However, their cows remained in army possession. (*Source: SHRF*)

◆ In the early morning of May 23 1999, Maung Kyi Khine, 25, son of U Paw Khine, of Myoma quarters, De-pai-yin Town, Sagaing division was arrested by Police sergeant Tha Doon and some constables on the charge of swearing at his aunt Daw Khe. Members of his family were present to vouch for his good character, but he was taken to the jail. When the family took food for him later they were denied contact. That evening, they were informed that he had committed suicide by hanging in jail. However, the family found no signs of death by hanging when they saw the corpse. There was swelling of the face, back and chest with lacerations in the area above the pubic bone. The medical report and exhibits which were sent by parcel from the hospital were lost in transit to the post office and recovered later in a bush along the Ye-u /De-pai-yin motor road. Shwebo district police investigated, and found only one man, Sergeant Sein Win responsible, but took no action against him. (*Source:*

NLD)

- ◆ On May 26 1999, troops from LIB 334 severely beat up 3 young men from Kaeng Khaang village, Murng Yu tract, Murng-Yawng Township, Shan State to get information the villagers didn't have about the activity of the former members of the MTA. (*Source: SHRF*)
- ◆ On June 6, 1999, Lt Hla Tin from LIB 330 beat up Aa Kyuay, aged 49, the Lahu village headman of Wan Li Za village, Loi Taw Kham tract, Tachilek Township, Shan State because he had been unable to provide the amount of chickens the Lt. had demanded. His skull was fractured and split open as a result of the beating. (*Source: SHRF*)
- ◆ On June 20, 1999, a man from Murng-Kerng Township who had been detained and mentally tortured at the Ba Htoo military base in Lawk-Zawk Township, Shan State since May 16 of 1999, was warned that he should talk or be brutally tortured. They showed him instruments of physical torture, and brought in victims of torture with mutilated noses, ears, lips, and soles, and those with broken legs and sprained waists to show him what he would face. He was released after intervention from his family and village heads. (*Source: SHRF*)
- ◆ In July 1999, Pha Kar, aged 13 and his friend Saw Cha Lwe Lwe aged 15 were arrested by troops of Division 88 while they were tending the cows outside of Htee Tablu village, Kyar-Ein-Seik-Kyi Township, Karen State. They were arrested in the evening and detained until midnight. They were given no food, and they were tortured even though they were only young boys who did not know anything about the KNU. The troops beat them because they couldn't speak Burmese. Pha Kar was repeatedly kicked by the troops, who were wearing military boots. At mid-night, they were finally released after women from the village went and pleaded their innocence. (*Source: HRDU*)
- ◆ On July 17, 1999, troops from IB 226 arrested 3 young men of Wan Laen, Murng-Khawn tract, kaeng-Tung Township, Shan State. They tortured them in the middle of the village, accusing them of working for the SSA-East. Ai Maat, aged 19, Zaai Num, aged 20, and Zaai Peng, aged 16 were all seriously injured. The headman had to pay 5,000 *kyat* for each before they were released. (*Source: SHRF*)
- ◆ On July 26, 1999, 7 troops from IB 227, led by Lt. Hla Tint entered Wan Tap village, Murng Nam tract, Murng-Khark Township, Shan State, arrested 3 young men and brought them to the army base in Murng Khark. Ai Lap, aged 21, Ai Wong, aged 19, and Zai Kam, aged 36 were detained and tortured at the base for 3 days. They were all severely wounded from the torture. (*Source: SHRF*)
- ◆ In July 1999, Ma Bwae, age 29, while her husband Naing Lu, age 32, a Mon National was going out to the sea, was raped by a soldier at gunpoint for 3 times within 4 hours. The soldier was from Capt. Maung Maung Lay's troops. In the morning Ma Bwae went to Capt. Maung Maung Lay and reported about this. Then Capt. Maung Maung Lay called that soldier and punished him. That soldier had to run from the village to the seashore for a hundred times. The captain also made him to hop from the village to the seashore as his punishment. Capt Maung Maung Lay also told Ma Bwae not to tell about this story to other villagers and foreign news agency or he will take a severe action against her.
- ◆ On 29 July, in the forest, Ma Bwae's husband Naing Lu came face to face with the soldiers. Among those was one who raped his wife. The soldiers captured him and beat him till he lost consciousness, then left him in the forest. On 2 August, some villagers from other village saw him unconscious, and helped him to his home. Naing Lu dared not report about this incident to the army officials. Instead he had to take medicine for his wounds secretly.

(Source: *THRF*)

◆ On July 30, 1999, SPDC Maj. Thu Yein, of LIB 356, Company 2, came to Po village, Karen State and tortured villagers Tihpade and Naw Sonny Yeik Htoo. (Source: *MOJO*)

◆ On August 7, 1999, 45-50 SPDC troops from LIB520 led by Maj Aye Thaug came to Pung Kur village, Murng Pan Township, Shan State and arrested 2 villagers, Loong Aw, aged 56 and Zai Hurng, aged 26 on suspicion of collecting rice for SSA. The troops tied them up and interrogated them, put plastic bags over their heads to stifle them into confessing, while continually beating and kicking them. When the 2 villagers kept denying the charge, the troops used a pointed knife to poke their arms, thighs and necks until they were bloody all over, and continued to beat and kick them until they lost consciousness several times. (Source: *SHRF*)

◆ On August 11 1999, Captain Win Myint led some SPDC soldiers from IB 292 to seize two village headmen. They were Loong Heng Ong Hsa of Wan Nam Koke and the headman of Wan Naa Poong village, Mong Pieng tract, Lawkzawk Township, Shan State. They were tortured and interrogated about the movements of SSA. When no information could be obtained, the village headmen were then tied up and submerged in the village pool until they lost consciousness. (Source: *SSA*)

◆ On August 16, 1999, 12 troops from LIB 331 entered Li Za village, Loi Taw Kham tract, Ta-chi-lek Township, Shan State and arrested 2 Lahu villagers. Kya Yur, aged 33 and Kya Pae aged 26 were accused of assisting the Shan resistance and were severely tortured. The soldiers beat them, and crushed their shins by rolling thick bambbo sticks across them, until the men lost consciousness several times. The men were released after the villagers of Li Za paid 20,000 *kyat* for each. (Source: *SHRF*)

◆ On September 4, 1999, Nai Win Shein, a 25 yr. old fisherman from Aindan Ywathit, Palein Taung coastal region, near Ye, Mon State was arrested by troops from IB 31 stationed at his village. He had failed to provide the fish the troops had demanded when he came back from fishing at sea, so he was tied up and beaten by the troops and then left under the scorching sun for the whole day. (Source: *HRDU*)

◆ On September 5 1999, SPDC troops from LIB 333 arrested 3 villagers at Murng Ing village, Murng Sen tract, Murng-Sart Township, Shan State. They were:

1. Zaai Sing Kham (m), aged 21
2. Zaai Kam (m), aged 26
3. Zaai Kan-Tha (m), aged 36

The troops accused the villagers of secretly collecting information for the Shan soldiers of SSA-E and ordered them to confess. But the villagers denied the charge and the troops beat them again and again until they virtually lost consciousness. (Source: *SHRF*)

◆ On September 7 1999, at night, Major Lay Naing led troops from IB 66 to shoot at innocent villagers of Wan Kart - Maw Nang, Kesi Township, Shan State. One of their bullets hit the left breast of Nang Li, 35 years, daughter of Loong Htoon and Nai Pock. Her condition was not known. (Source: *SSA*)

◆ On September 11, 1999, SPDC troops led by division commander Soe Aung from LIB (8) entered Shwe Yaung Pya village, Thaton district, Karen State and tortured Maung Win, aged 35. The troops accused him of having connection with the KNU. He lost one eye

as a result of the brutal torture. (*Source: HRDU*)

◆ On September 17, 1999, SPDC troops led by division commander Than Shwe and deputy commander Htun Aung Kyaw from LIB 357 came to Taye Khwee village, Thaton district, Karen State and randomly rounded up all male villagers. All of them were then tortured brutally. The troops tied one of the villagers, Saw Maung Win, aged 26, around the neck with his longyi and later stabbed him to death. (*Source: HRDU*)

◆ On September 19, 1999, SPDC troops led by Commander Zaw Win Aung from IB 231 arrived in Palwah Khee village, Thaton district, Karen State and forced the village headman to collect 35 baskets of rice from the villagers. Later the soldiers tied up Tee Kyaw Ke, aged 55, owner of the rice mill, and tortured him. (*Source: HRDU*)

◆ On September 20, 1999, Nai Amon from from Aindan Ywathit, Palein Taung coastal region, near Ye, Mon State was arrested and severely beaten up by troops from IN 31 stationed at his village. He had failed to provide the fish the troops had demanded from him when he came back from fishing at sea. He was released only after he paid 1,000 *kyat* in compensation. (*Source: HRDU*)

◆ In October 1999, 4 Karenni people, including a Christian preacher and a woman, visiting relatives across the border in Thailand were arrested by Burmese troops (regiment 5) and taken back across the border where they were tortured and interrogated about the Karenni resistance. (*Source: ABSDF*)

◆ On October 3 1999, SPDC troops from LIB 120, led by Lt. Col. Maung Maung Oo, went into Kyone-sein village, KyaEinSeikKywi Township, Karen State and arrested 12 villagers including two women, accusing them of supporting rebel troops. (1) Saw Thar See-16 years, (2) Saw Kaw Kaw - 40 year, (3) Saw Ohn Miyint-28 years, (4) Saw Kar Koe-17 years and Pastor Saw Kwae Kwae (unknown age) were among those arrested. The soldiers beat them with gun-butts, kicked and beat them, with fire. At the end, the soldiers cut off Pastor Saw Kwae Kawe's ear. The soldiers stayed in the village for nearly 7 days and also tortured other villagers, including Saw U Htoo and his 2 sons. Saw U Htoo was beaten in the head so severely that he lost most of the skin on his scalp, and the soldiers also cut his body in many places with knives. When the soldiers left the village, they took him with them, and detained him in Kya-Inn-Seikyi Town. The 2 women, namely, (1) Naw B-B—16 years, and (2) Naw M-K—17 years, were also severely tortured. The soldiers cut Naw B-B-'s breasts with a knife, causing her to lose consciousness because of the extent of the injury, and poured hot water into Naw M-K-'s nose so that her whole face was burnt and her skin was ruined and painful. In addition, the troops didn't allow Naw M- K- to feed her 4-month-old baby, who was with her. Her hungry baby cried for the whole day. The soldiers also raped the women. These women were accused of being rebel's wives because their husbands were away from home. Of the villagers arrested by soldiers, three villagers died as a result of the torture. They were: (1) Saw Lay Doe- 17 years, (2) Saw Kaw Kaw- 40 years (3) Saw Phar Kalu -23 years. The soldiers cut open the bodies of Saw Lay Doe and Saw Kaw Kaw in many places and put salt in the wounds. They tortured the 2 villagers this way for five days. At the end, the soldiers clamped the 2 men with bamboo slats and burnt them in a fire until they died. They similarly tortured Saw Phar Kalu for many days, and in the end strangled him to death with strong rubber loops. (*Source: HURFOM*)

◆ On October 6, 1999, Kasawwah troops led by DKBA leader San Kabaw Yu entered Poma Hell village and tortured village headman Saw Hto Kukara aged 45. As a result of the

torture, he was not able to walk properly for a long time. (*Source: KIC*)

◆ On October 17 1999, 2 SPDC troops were captured and beaten by the villagers while stealing things at the house of Loong Zaai Pi at Paeng Saang village, Murng-Paeng, Shan State and were sent back to the military camp. The camp commander was angry and sent out 2 truckloads of troops, numbering about 40, to Loong Zaai Pi's house to punish him. When they got near the house, Loong Zaai Pi's daughter, Naang Phiu Phawng, came out to meet them and explain the situation. But the troops did not listen, and beat and kicked Naang Phiu Phawng until she was bruised and swollen all over her face and body. After that, they drove their trucks around the Town, stopping to beat up people and throw stones at houses where lights could be seen. (*Source: SHRF*)

◆ On October 25 1999 LIB 120, led by Lt.Col.Maung Maung Oo entered xxxx, Karen State and arrested five villagers with suspicion of being rebel-supporters. The five arrested villagers were: (1) Saw Pel Khaw-40 years, (2) Saw Thaw Hae-35 years, (3) Saw Chit Chit-28 years, (4) Saw Hae Say (unknown age) and (5) Saw Special-26 years. After the villagers were arrested, they were interrogated about the activities of Karen soldiers. During the interrogation, the soldiers were dissatisfied and beat and tortured them. These villagers were beaten, burnt with fire, cut with knives, and received other cruel treatments. After the interrogation and torture, the soldiers killed three of them (1) Saw Pel Khaw, (2) Saw Thaw Hae and (3) Saw Chit Chit by cutting their throats. (*Source: HURFOM*)

◆ On November 1, 1999, 30 SPDC troops from IB226 led by Capt. Kyaw Own came to Wan Lawn village, Murng Khawn tract, Kaeng-Tung Township, Shan State and arrested 3 villagers. The troops beat and tortured the villagers while interrogating them about SSA-E. They were only released after the village headman and some other villagers paid 10,000 *kyat* for each of them. The 3 villagers were:

1. Zaai In Phya, aged 18, son of Loong Num
2. Zaai Ya, aged 20, son of Loong Long
3. Zaai Leng, aged 19, son of Loong Pan-Ti

(*Source: SHRF*)

◆ On November 22 1999, combined SPDC troops from Battalions 423, 426, and 427 operated a cleansing campaign in the Townships of Mong Kung and Kaesi, Shan State. They robbed livestock and provisions from the people, and Sarng Hsu, from Wan Nam Oon, Ho Khai tract was interrogated and tortured until he lost consciousness. (*Source: SSA*)

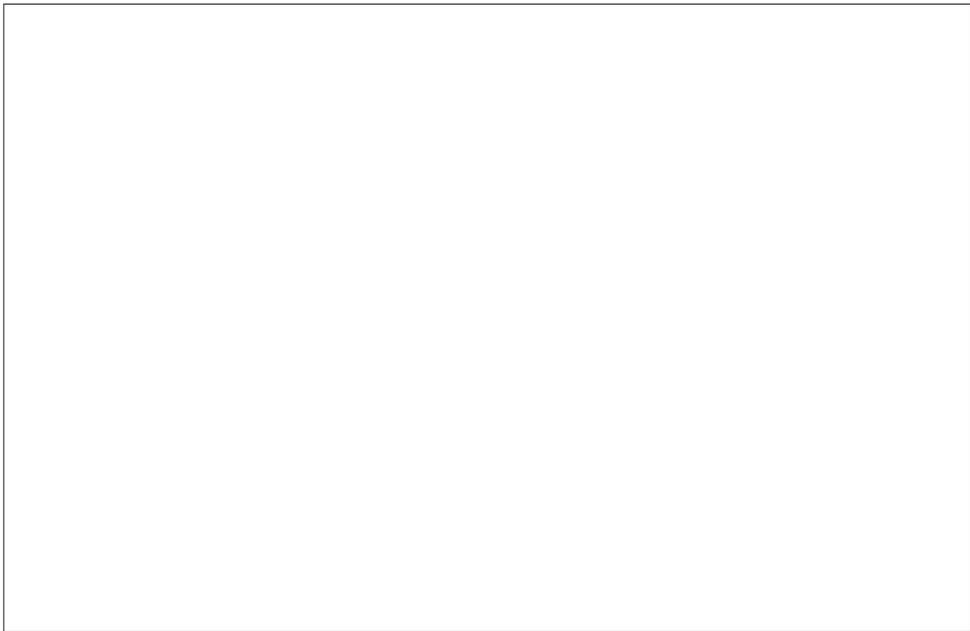
◆ On November 23 1999, 3 Burmese policemen from Kun Hing police station tortured Khing Law King Ta, a resident of the 3rd quarter of Kun-Hing, Kun Hing Township, Shan State. They demanded 300,000 *kyat*, which the victim could not give. The victim was then beaten and his head and hands cut with swords. He was severely wounded and had to be hospitalized. (*Source: SSA*)

◆ In December 1999, three villagers from Bae Ngaw relocation (concentration) camp, Loikaw Township, Karenni State; Tho Rei, Day Rei and Khu Rei, all over 30 years old, were taken as porters by troops from IB 54. While labouring as porters, they were accused of being supporters of the KNPP, then tortured and put into stocks at IB 54 base in Likaw. At the end of 1999, none of them had been released, and it was reported that Ku Rei died due to the severe torture by the soldiers. (*Source: HRDU*)

◆ On December 1, 1999, troops from IB 524 led by Major Kyaw Aung rounded up two civilians from Wan Nam Zoom village, Nong Hee tract, Kunhing Township, Shan State.

Their lips, noses and ears were cut off and later they all were executed on December 8. They were Loong Karng Kar Lin aged 28 and Loong Saray Hsaw Sing aged 35. Both were village headmen. (*Source: SHRF*)

◆ On December 1 1999, Phar Not Mu, aged 38, Tar Kwar, aged 40 and other villagers were arrested in Plaw Htoo Kee village, Kyar-Ein-Seik-Kyi Township, Karen State. The men were accused of being formerly involved in the KNU and severely tortured. Tar Kwar was tortured by being repeatedly cut with a knife all over his body, and Phar Not Mu was beaten. (*Source: HRDU*)



(18) A Karen woman randomly shot by the SPDC soldiers at her village in Karen State was seen at Mae Khonkhee refugee camp in Thailand. She lost her tooth and her lip was severely wounded due to the gunshot. (Photo: KIC)