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Some Acronyms in This Issue

- SPDC-** State Peace and Development Council,
- SLORC-** State Law and Order Restoration Council,
- APTD-** Agricultural Products Trade Department,
- GONGOS-** Government organized Non-Governmental Organization
- IB -** Infantry Battalion (of Burmese Army),
- LIB-** Light Infantry Battalion (of Burmese Army),
- MOMC-** Military Operational Management Command
- PDC-** Peace and Development Council,
- USDA-** Union Solidarity and Development Association

News

More displaced persons escaped from their native homes

(August 2003, Thailand-Burma Border)

Over 50 Mon families have fled to the border with Thailand to escape from the systematic persecution in conflict areas and poverty during in the month of August, said a relief worker in Halockhani Mon refugee resettlement area.

The source said most new arrival families fled from the areas from southern part of Ye Township and some came from Yebyu Township area. A few families came from the middle part of Mon State, especially from Kyaikmayaw and Mudon Townships.

"Most villagers from southern part of Ye Township and Yebyu Township fled from fighting and serious human rights violations, but the families from middle part of Mon State fled because of economic hardship and unemployment" said by a relief worker.

He added that some families also left into Thailand to seek jobs. Only about 25% of the families who fled from serious persecution, such as forced labour in porter service and mistreatment related to suspicion



Displaced Persons in the rural area of southern Burma

Commentary

Slavery to Militarization in Burma

The people in Burma are likely prisoners in their country, described by democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. She pointing out that the people in Burma have no freedom and no individual rights.

Additionally, they are not only as 'prisoners', but they are also 'slaves' for the current military regime, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). Almost the people in Burmese, except some who have money and who close to the regime authorities, have been forced to contribute their labour without payment to the government projects, military operation, military deployment and many other works in the whole country.

Although there is intense pressure from the international community and ILO to stop the practices of forced labour, but it is not really stopped in Burma, where 'the rule of law' is totally collapsed. Burmese Army still use thousands of ethnic civilians in the rural areas as porters to carry ammunition and food supplies along their dangerous military offensives.

Since early June, the new type of slavery occurred in Burma. Whether the people agree or not, the regime and the Burmese Army have recruited almost men in villages and towns to attend the military training. After training, they are forced to be in paramilitary force without taking their agreement.

Currently, many civilians who would not like to involve in violence are forced to be members of the organizations (see the report in this The Mon Forum), which are totally under the command of Burmese Army.

of rebel-supporters decided to stay in Halockhani resettlement area. The resettlement area is locating just right on the border but in Burma, opposite of Kanchanaburi Province of Thailand.

There are over 100 families of the displaced persons also arrived to the area in the previous three months, from May to June 2003, they also resettled in the area. However, as the ethnic Mon people do not have the refugee camp in Thailand, most of them did not cross into Thailand to stay in refugee camps.

Because the rebel movement in the area, the Mon and Tavoyan farmers in Ye and Yebyu Township area are also accused as rebel supporters. One family from southern part of Ye Township said that they escaped from arrest because the Burmese soldiers in the area tried to arrest them after a fighting between Burmese Army and rebel army.

The fighting in the southern part of Ye Township and Yebyu Township has been in on-going situation. The civilians in Yebyu and Tavoy Township, Tenasserim Division, are also forced to attend the military training school to be members in the paramilitary. At the same time, men were also arrested to be porters during the Burmese Army was launching the military offensives.

Although the New Mon State Party (NMSP), a main armed Mon political party agreed for cease-fire with the current regime in Burma, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), but the whole Mon area is not under the peaceful situation. Ethnic armed force Karen National Liberation Army

(KNLA) and a Mon splinter group, Mon National Warrior Army (MNWA), still operate the military fighting against the Burmese Army.

More porters died stepping on land-mines

(August 2003. Ye Township. Mon State)

The Burmese Army is continuously conscripting the Mon villagers as porters in their offensive against a Mon splinter group, Mon National Warrior Army (MNWA) that operates the activities in southern part of Mon State and Northern part of Tenasserim Division.

Some porters stepped on land-mines and died during the offensives, said an escaped porter who fled to border area.

A local battalion, Light Infantry Battalion No. 273 takes about 4-5 porters from each village in the southern part of Ye Township to carry the ammunition when they operate the offensive against MNWA.

The soldiers from LIB No. 273 often conscripts all ages of people to be porters and some porters died because of land-mines.

According to an 8th Standard (Grade) student from Kyonekanya village who was conscript as porter, he said that in the 2nd week of July, when many villagers were in the porter service to Burmese Army, three porters stepped on mines and a 38 year old man Nai

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Report

Militarization in Mon Area and the Suffering of the People

I. Background of Militarization

In 1988, the Burmese Army has only about 180, 000 troops, and since then it has planned to increase the troop number to 500, 000 troops to become the largest army in Southeast Asia even though Burma has not had any external threat. The purpose of the military regime, SPDC, for the increasing troop number of the Burmese Army is especially to protect their power and oppress the different remaining ethnic armed forces along Thailand-Burma border.

Since 1988, the Burmese Army has deployed more and more troops in the ethnic areas to control more areas, which were recently controlled by ethnic armed groups. On the other hand, the increased number of the Burmese troops also protect the exploitation of national resources in ethnic areas and multinational investments.

In 1990 to 1992, the Burmese Army deployed over 20 battalions in Tenasserim Division under the command of Coastal Region Command. The deployment was especially to overrun the border bases of rebel force and launch the military offensives against the rebel force, and to protect the multinational investments, especially, Thailand's fishing trawlers and UNOCAL/TOTAL petroleum companies 'Yadana' gas pipeline.

Whenever, the battalions of Burmese Army arrived into any area, they also forced the local people to involve in paramilitary force or militia force to help the local battalions. They forced the civilians to be in the implementation of 'militarization policy' of the Burmese Army.

In the situation when the Burmese Army's massively deployed troops in the rural areas, the local civilians has also faced more serious human rights violations. Later, in 2000, the Burmese Army formed more and more militia force in various areas of Yebyu Township by forcible recruitment of the local villagers and formed the village militia force. These militia groups were under the command of the battalions concerned and forced them to serve duties as the soldiers in the army. The members in the militia forces are directed by the



Headquarters of Southeast Command that implement militarization policy in Mon State

commanders of the Burmese Army to launch military patrol in their own areas to prevent any approach made by the rebel soldiers. The villagers from the villages concerned also had to pay for the salaries to those militiamen and it was a heavy duties for the villagers. Villagers had to provide them with cash and paddy.

Some villagers also escaped from the villages or communities to avoid being served in militia force. In 2001, after the members of the militia force resigned, then the Burmese Army in the area of Tenasserim Division had to form a new structure, by forcing all men in the village to serve as members of militia force on a rotation basis. The local military battalions registered all men between 18 to 40 years in the villages and ordered them to serve as militiamen without failure.

Because of this new order, the villagers have less and less time to do work or cultivate in their paddy farms or fruit plantations or rubber plantations. Additionally the Burmese Army has also restricted the movement of the local villagers or farmers to cut their supporters to rebel armies. The Burmese Army believed that the local civilians are supporting the rebel armed force and therefore, they need to cut all supports from the civilians to the rebel armies. Movement restriction against the livelihood has created great suffering of 'food-shortage problems' in the rural areas of southern part of Burma.

In the context of SPDC's militarization policy, the regime's armed faction, Burmese Army tried to put the similar duties that they have to the civilians to defense the State or take responsibility in the area. They believed the civilians must know how to fight against the internal enemies, especially the rebel armed forces; and foreign invaders. Therefore, the Burmese Army has forced the villagers to attend the basic military training schools that lasted for two weeks to one-month. After training school, they equipped them with small guns and forced them to patrol in their own areas, outside of their villages and sometimes even to the suspected rebel bases in jungles.

However, there were too many soldier escapees in the Burmese Army and the soldier number did not reach to the set number that required by SPDC. Therefore, SPDC also collected the names of the men between 18 and 40 years old and forced the villagers from some villages to attend the military training schools.

In some cases, the military commanders came into villages and asked some number of young villagers to be in the army. Sometime, the village headmen also provided the civilians from other areas, who came and worked in their areas to perform their duties of serving in the army. Sometimes, the young villagers, who were selected by the Burmese Army to involve in the Army also fled from their villages to avoid being from a soldier.

II. Militarization after May 30 Killing Incident

May 30 massacre of NLD members in Depayin, upper part of Burma showed the real brutal picture of SPDC and the Burmese Army, which means they did not want any peace and national reconciliation in the country and wants to grip in power as long as possible. The recent political 'talks' was just for a show to the international community to believe to the regime that they were proceeding to 'national reconciliation' and 'restoration of democracy'.

After the regime found that there was popular of 'Daw Aung San Suu Kyi' and the people support to NLD, they had had concerns there must be no support after they are not in the power seats like the current situation. With this concern, the regime and the Burmese Army did not want to abandon their political power and transfer to the 1990 election winner NLD.

After May 30 killing or massacre in Depayin, the regime has been afraid of the possible demonstration in countrywide and if there is the nationwide pro-demonstration, the Burmese Army also planned to response in violent way like against the pro-demonstrators in 1988 pro-democracy uprising.

First, the SPDC and the Burmese Army tried to dividing up the people, by organizing the government servants to be their supporters. They have instructed the government servants that they are not relating to any political parties and must be faithful to the government or regime. The local military concerned also instructed the government servants that they must not support the political party especially NLD and other ethnic political parties.

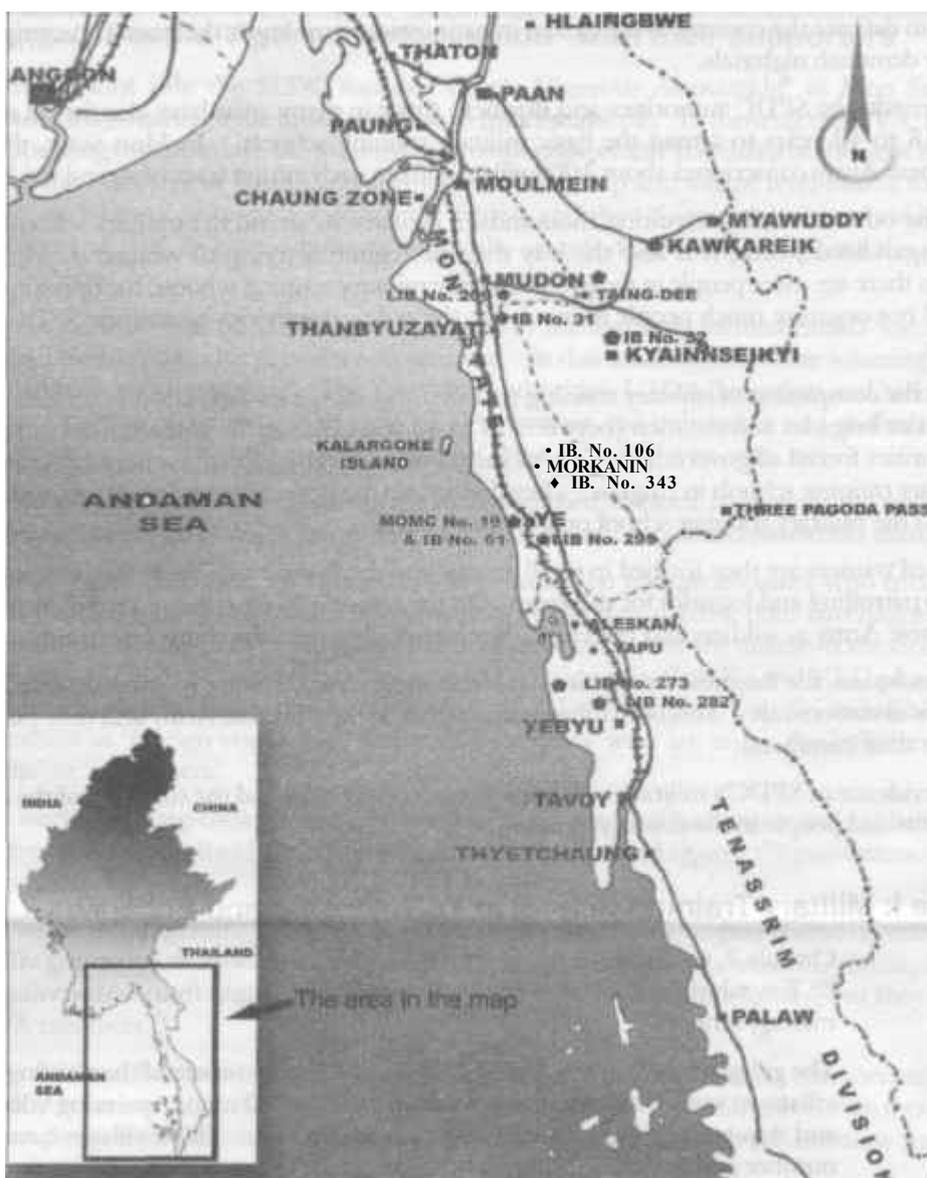
Additionally, SPDC and Burmese Army also tried to organize other Government sponsored NGOs such as Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Women Affairs Committee to be their supporters. Among many other groups, USDA is their main supporting organization, which is formed with the former BSPP members and the generations of these BSPP leaders.

The regime and Burmese Army also organized local village headmen, monks and members of State fire brigades, (Burmese Army) veteran groups to be their supporters. Local authorities or the commanders of

Burmese Army regularly met with the people from these groups and explained to them that the NLD and its leaders Daw Aung San Suu Kyi tried to create violence and destroy the 'rule of law' in the country. This is the regime's objective of SPDC to tar the important role of the main opposition party, NLD.

With a concern that there will be anti-government demonstration, first SPDC tried to form anti-strike groups. In order to form anti-strike or anti-demonstration, the authorities or the commanders of Burmese Army forced thousands of USDA members, local village leaders to attend 2 weeks basis military training schools.

The military training began on June 2, only two days after the massacre in upper Burma. From June to August 2003, the



Location Map of Southern Burma and Troop Deployment of Burmese Army

Burmese Army has trained hundreds of local Township and village leaders, USDA members and members of Town and village militia force. In the training, they also forced the trainees how to equip the small guns and how to confront with the demonstrators.

Accordingly to the instruction, the members of anti-strike members need to confront with demonstrators and if necessary, they need to shoot them. Soon after training, the authorities and local Burmese Army military battalions equipped guns to the trainees and formed them as groups.

As SPDC's plan, if there is a demonstration, those members of Anti-strike groups will prevent the demonstrations and confront against the demonstrators. If necessary, they need to shoot down the demonstrators with guns equipped by the army. In tactics, the Burmese Army or Burmese soldiers wants to avoid confronting against the civilians. However, the commanders of Burmese Army in the areas said that they would involve in against the demonstrators when the Anti-strike groups are unable to control the situation.

In 1988's popular demonstration in Burma, the Burmese Army had 'bad name' for killing thousands of demonstrators in the main cities' streets. Now, SPDC and the Burmese Army plan to avoid such situation and but manage Anti-strike groups to confront these demonstrators violently.

In July, the SPDC authorities and Burmese Army propagandized that American and other foreign armed forces could probably invade Burma via Mon State, Karen State and Tenasserim Division. The authorities and commanders of Burmese Army propagandized about foreign invasion, as they pointed out about Iraq war. Then, they claimed that if there is foreign invasion to Burma, every citizen has responsibility to defense their sovereignty as in form of 'people force'. SPDC claims that to show patriotism and to know the way

how to defend the country, every citizen in nationwide must know the basic arm equipment and how to use other demolish materials.

As a result, the SPDC authorities and Burmese Army in many areas have also forced the local men between age 18 to 40 years to attend the basic military training schools. In Mon State, the authorities and the Burmese Army conscripted about 1000 villagers from each village tract to attend the basic military schools.

On the other hand, by recruiting thousands of civilians to attend the military schools and providing them propagandized words, it is also the way that the regime is trying to weaken the democratic oppositions. When there are more people in the grounds of the military training schools, the opposition's political activities could not organize much people to involve in the political activities against the SPDC regime and Burmese Army.

After the completion of military training to Town and village leaders, USDA members, militiamen, firemen from fire brigades and the men (between 18 to 40 years old) in the communities in June and July, then the authorities forced all government servants including medical workers, teachers, office staff to attend the basic military training schools in August. They divided up the government servants in groups and forced them to attend the military training school on a rotation basis.

Trained trainees are then formed in small groups and the Burmese Army in the area nearby gave them duties to do patrolling and logistics for the army. On the rotation basis, these trained civilians have to do help the Burmese Army as soldiers and therefore, they are totally under the control or command of the army.

In conclusion, the Burmese Army tried to recruit all citizens to involve in army although it has about 400,000 troops in nationwide. This is a 'militarization' plan of the Burmese Army and they plan to put every citizen under their command.

The evidence of SPDC's military training schools, recruitment and the suffering of the civilians, government servants and people in the country as below:

Case I: Military Training School in Ye Township and Escapees

On July 2, the local Burmese Army's LIB No. 343 bases in Aru-taung village, northern part of Ye Township, Mon State, forcibly recruited 500 villagers from 4 Mon villages to attend the basic military schools.

The villages which are under the LIB No. 343 order to attend the training schools are: Sonatha village to send 100 men; Sanpya village to send 100 men; Apa-raing village to send 100 men; and Aru-taung village to send 200 men respectively. Those villages have different population number and have 200-500 households in each village. The army conscripted 100 men from small villages and 200 men from big villages.

Because of this order, some men in the village fled to village monasteries to robe as monks and some also fled into New Mon State Party (NMSP) controlled area to escape from the recruitment. The local battalion planned to provide one-month long military training school and recruited about 1000 villagers from each village tract.

According to an escape, most villagers would not like to join or attend training schools, but they were forced to attend these schools.

One village tract has about 3 to 10 villages due to the geographical situation. Although the authorities or the local military battalions planned to recruit about 1000 villagers from each village tract in Township and collected the name of all men in Aru-taung village tract to attend training school. However, most young men are in the neighboring country, Thailand, as migrant workers and so that the authorities just have the names of the men, but they could not really recruit them all.

Some men who were in the list as the trainees, also fled to the monasteries and robed as monks. According to the Buddhist tradition, if someone robed to be monk, he can avoid any recruitment by the army. Therefore, the Burmese Army could not recruit them to be trainees.

The objectives of the training are: to know how to equip basic arms and to break up the crowds or demonstrators if there is a pro-democracy demonstration occur in Burma like in 1988. These villagers are formed as 'Anti-strike' groups after the training.

Case II: SPDC formed "People Vigorous Association" with their supporters

In the first week of July, the SPDC formed "People Vigorous Association" in Mon State. Forming with a new name of the group was just to trick the people. In forming this PVA, new SPDC supporting organization, the local military commanders and Township authorities have conscripted the members of USDA and members of Township and village level militia force. This is the special force or organization for the regime and they claimed that they would use these members of PVA as commandos in anti-strike or anti-demonstration against the pro-democracy oppositions.

They forced the members of USDA and members in the formerly formed militia force in villages and Townships to attend two weeks training. In this training, they were selecting the persons who really supported them. The Township authorities, USDA Executives and Military Intelligence (MI) has some records of each USDA member and militiaman and so that they really know who have been really working hard for the regime and who were not.

With the recommendation of MI officers in the area concerned, the local authorities and military commanders selected some USDA members and some militiamen to attend two weeks training.

During the training, they were instructed that there would be foreign invasion, who tried to occupy Burma (Myanmar) and so that PVA members needed to defend their sovereignty in anyway to not fall into the hands of foreigners. The trainers were mostly the military commanders from Regiment of Public Relations and they accused Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and NLD planned to bring foreign forces to occupy Burma. They also called Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all NLD active members as 'foreign vagues' or 'destructive elements' who are under the influence of 'imperialists' or 'westerners'.

After two weeks harsh psychological and physical training, the local authorities and MI believe that they are strong enough to fight against the foreign invasion and against the pro-democracy demonstrators in any place.

After two weeks training, some are also selected for another two weeks higher course of military training. For some of them, who are physically strong, are selected to attend this course, and the trainers who train the commando force, trained them to be like 'commando', but they are still as PVA members.

SPDC and the local Burmese Army's battalions concerned trained these PVA members to be 'commandos' in various parts of Burma and they are permanently recruited in army, even though they are not put in military column. However, PVA is considered as a part of Burmese Army to defend the State sovereignty by the regime.

According to the source, the trainees (of PVA force) from lower Burma (Pegu Division, Mon State, Karen State and Tenasserim Division) are sent to upper Burma and the trained PVA members from upper Burma are against sent to lower Burma, as the regime concerns those PVA members would flee from their battalions, if they face hardship. On the other hand, if there is really a demonstration in the area, the native PVA would not agree to shoot their own native civilians. This is another reason why the SPDC does not deploy any PVA members in their area.

The authorities and MI recruited about 300-500 members for PVA in each Township and trained them to be regime-supporters and commando for Burmese Army. The army also counted this number in PVA in the whole country and they are also used as members of Burmese Army.

Due to recruitment for PVA members, some USDA members and village militiamen also escaped from their communities and then to Thailand. When asked an escaped USDA member, he explained that when he joined USDA initially, he did not think the authorities will put them in army. They thought they need to engage in development works in their own communities. He added that when he knew that the Burmese Army was trying to use the organizational members to involve in violence and in Army, then he planned to flee from the country.

However, many people in Burma believe that USDA members are opportunists. By joining USDA, they could be free from conscription of forced labour and free from the regular taxation. If the regime has economic change or work contract, the USDA would receive profit from these. USDA members also have authority to collect crops and cash tax from the civilians.

Now, while they are facing serious situation to involve in army and act as soldiers, they escape from the recruitment.

Case III: Government servants are forced to attend military training schools

Since in mid-July, the Township authorities in every Township in Mon State collected the names of all government servants and have forced them to attend the basic military training. Accordingly to the ideology of SPDC, the government servants are all under the command of the regime, when necessary, they also needed to confront the pro-democracy demonstrators who tried to tar the image of the country. SPDC also instructed that when there was foreign invasion, they also needed to confront foreign force.

They instructed all servants, women and men, including health workers, school teachers, administration office staff, firemen from fire brigades and other servants from various offices were forced to attend the basic military training schools. They said that it is necessary for all servants to know how to handle small arms and to know the methods of confronting demonstrators violently.

Most government servants are educated persons and even they would not like to attend training schools and involve in violence, however, they could not against the order. Township authorities forced all government servants between 18-60 years old to attend the training group by group.

In the first week of August, Mudon Township authorities recruited 800 government servants in all offices and provided them with one-month long basic military training school by grouping them into two groups. In Mudon Town, there are a city hall and a football ground and all trainees were put in the city hall and were trained in football ground. City hall was used as training camp and football ground was used for training grounds.

Training was called "State Defense Training" and servants were trained how to use rifle guns and how to equip the guns. They are also trained how to use grenades and mortars.

Accordingly to a servant, the trainers (who were military trainers in the area) train them to run for one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening for physical fit. And then, they are taught them how to use rifle gun and other necessary arms. In mid-day time, other trainers came and taught about the important role of Tatmadaw (the name of Burmese Army in Burmese language) in the history, the role of Tatmadaw in the future politics, how the NLD's attempt in destroying the country's image, and other propagandized information. Then, by pointing out the war in Iraq, the trainers also explained to trainees that there would be foreign invasion to the country and therefore, they need to defense the country.

Therefore the training's aim was to defense the State from foreign invasion and to confront the pro-democracy demonstrators. In Mudon Township, the authorities grouped the government servants into two groups and training them for one-month training for each group. Training also had to buy the uniform with their own money and they had to pay 2950 Kyat for one set of uniform from the army before they attended training.

Not only the government servants in Mudon Township were forced to attend training, but the servants from other Township in Mon State, such as Thanbyuzayat, Kyaikmayaw, Ye, Chaung-zone, Paund, Moulmein and other Townships. Normally, the training for the servants always lasted for one-month because the SPDC tried to organize all servants to be their supporters.

Training excluded to only some servants who were selected and attended in the SPDC's Political University in Rangoon (which is known as Paung-gyi University). Because they were already taught about the politics of SPDC and the important role of Burmese Army.

III. Use of Trainees after Training

The SPDC formed various organization or force after the military training and put every trainee in those organizations, to help the regime in anti-strike or anti-demonstration for the regime. The main groups that formed by the SPDC after May 30 incident are:

1. Anti-Strike Group,
2. People Defense Force,

3. People Vigorous Association,
4. Paramilitary Force

The detail formation and the inclusion of the trainees are as below:

1. **Anti-Strike Group:** SPDC Township authorities included the members of USDA members, Town ward and village leaders, militiamen local firemen in these groups. The groups are formed on the basis of village tract and Town Ward. They are mainly trained how to confront against the pro-democracy demonstrators. They were also trained how to use the guns and they also have rights to shoot to the groups of the demonstrators if necessary. When they could not enable to control to control the crowds or the demonstrators, the troops from Burmese Army would involve in crashing the demonstration. They also have responsibility to monitor the activities of the NLD and other opposition groups. They always need to communicate with Township authorities or MI officers to inform the situation development in their native areas.
2. **People Defense Force:** This force is formed to defense foreign invasions. This force includes local militiamen, policemen, firemen and USDA members. When there is no threat from foreign invasion, they will not be active. If the State or the Burmese Army required them, they must hold guns like soldiers and must go to front-line to fight against enemy. They also needed to get information about the rebel groups (both cease-fire and non-ceasefire groups) and informed to the local military battalions. They also needed to report the security situation of their native areas to the concerned Burmese Army's commanders. They are ordered to keep local-made arms or equipment if necessary to fight back foreign invasions in guerrilla tactics like Vietnam War.
3. **People Vigorous Association:** The slogan of this association is they must die to defense the sovereignty. This association includes USDA members and local militiamen who are loyal to the Burmese Army accordingly to the record of Township authorities and recommendations by MI officers. This force will be mainly used as soldiers, but are placed to stay outside of their native areas. They are considered as part of Burmese Army and they are under the command of Burmese Army. Some of their members, who are physically strong, are trained as 'commandos' to use in the battle-fields to fight against foreign invaders. They are paid with salaries like soldiers in Burmese Army. They have main responsibility to fight against the external enemy.
4. **Paramilitary Force:** Most trainees are put in this force after the completion of the training schools, so that this is the biggest force. Paramilitary Force is formed under the direct command of the local Burmese Army's battalions and they normally use this force to help them in various activities. Most trainees, who are not included the above-mentioned groups, are put in the Paramilitary Force and this force is under the command of the concerned Burmese Army's Strategic Command in the area.

Strategic Command divides the trainees into 8 groups under its command and the commanders would use them for various purposes to help the Burmese Army's operations. They are also included in the structure of Strategic Commands in every area. On a rotation basis, about 30 members of trainees would be under the supervision of the Command concerned for one week time and they must be along with a battalion in the area to involve in the tasks of launching military patrol, taking security in their own area and working for the basic construction and cooking in the battalion base. After one week, another one group of 30 trainees would replace.

In the structure of 'Paramilitary Force' under the command of Strategic Command, trainees again divided into 8 groups and they consists of (1) local militia unit; (2) information collecting unit; (3) public relations unit; (4) logistic unit; (5) relief and resettlement unit; (6) transportation unit; (7) construction unit and (8) entertaining unit. This formation is quite similarly to the structure of Burmese Army.

During the military training, the trainees are trained to learn how to use 24 types of arms and equipment. Then, accordingly to the reliable source, the Burmese Army and SPDC authorities also planned to provide management training to the trainees. To have easily in the control, the Burmese Army also appointed the leaders or commanders for each group, and they just order through these leaders or commanders.

IV. The suffering of the civilians

Forcible recruitment of the civilians to involve in armed force is one type of 'slavery' to militarization formulated by the regime SPDC and Burmese Army. This is one type of forced labour, by using labour of the civilians without their desires to serve in army.

Many villagers dissatisfied to the authorities and Burmese Army for the constant recruitment for the army. However, no one speak out against the regime's policy. If they against the policy of the regime, they can be arrested and detained. Because of the harsh oppression, no one can refuse for attending the military' schools. First, the civilians who are forced to attend training had to abandon their works at least two weeks to one-month. More villagers or civilians in the rural areas are farmers and when they had to attend the training school, they had to totally abandon their farms or fruit plantations or rubber plantations. They lose their income and crops from these farms or plantations.

The authorities or Army did not provide them any payment or money during they were in the training schools. In the tradition of ethnic Mon and other ethnic families, the men lead the families and mainly provide income to their families concerned. Hence, while the men are in the military training schools, it is difficult for the women who remained at homes could not find available income. Many poor families faced quite difficult situation to have enough food and daily income while their husbands were attending training. Although the military training is not so hard for farmers, who have been hardly worked in their farms, but it is too hard for the government servants who have been worked normal works in office, schools, hospitals and other institutions.

Some female servants cry because they face hardship and are not interesting in training, said by a servant from Kyaikmayaw Township.

"Some even men (government servants) are physically unable to attend training while women are crying because they said that they are not soldiers."

The servants were encamped for many days and they were instructed they need to fight foreign invaders. Many servants faced various hardship during in the military camp in terms of food, shelters and most of them disappointed. They believed that the duties to fight back against the foreign invaders are only for the soldiers under the Ministry of Defense. Even the foreign force really come to Burma, they are unable to fight them because they are women and they are not strong enough to do so.

During the civilians were forced to attend training schools group by group, the villagers in the villages and civilians in Town were also ordered by the local authorities and police to not group at nighttime. Normally, in Mon traditions, the young or elderly Mon people always meet each other in early time at night (from 7: 00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.) and talk as 'recreation'. Grouping of the civilians are also restricted at nighttime and if the police or authorities found the group of people, they would arrest and punish them.

As an instance,

On August 22 night, while 4 young men were talking in the middle of Kamawet village, Mudon Township, Mon State, the village's police officers also came and arrested them, because the police said they would not allow any grouping at nighttime. They were detained for 6 years in police station and later were released after paying 13000 Kyat fine to the police officer.

Accordingly to the police source, they arrested 4 young men with a reason to stop them having contacts with opposition groups (especially NLD and NMSP) in the area. The police are ordered to carefully monitor the grouping and planning for political defiance against the regime.

The SPDC authorities and local police officers have been careful for anti-government demonstration. Therefore, they barred gathering at nighttime with a concern that the young men having contact with opposition and planned for anti-government campaign.

While the Burmese Army is providing military training to the civilians, many battalions of Burmese Army from outside of Mon State also came and deployed troops in Mon areas. In first week of July, with a

**Information on HURFOM and
Invitation for Feedbacks from Readers**

Dear Readers,

Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) was founded in 1995, by a group of young Mon people. The main objectives of HURFOM are:

- To monitor human rights situations in Mon territory and other areas southern part of Burma,
- To protect and promote internationally recognized human rights in Burma,

In order to implement these objectives, HURFOM has produced "The Mon Forum" newsletters monthly and sometimes it has been delayed because we wait to confirm some information. We apologize for the delay.

However, we also invite your feedbacks on the information we described in each newsletter and if you know anyone who would like to receive the newsletter, please send name and address to our address or e-mail as below:

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With regards,

Director
Human Rights Foundation of Monland

propagandized information that there would be foreign invasion, about 10 military battalions deployed in the southern part of Mon State with heavy artillery and equipment.

Troop deployment started since on July 1 and put their bases along the motor road between Thanbyuzayat and Ye Town in Mon State. (See in the map). In each village along the motor road, the Burmese Army deployed 50 to 200 troops and they separate in the villages.

While the soldiers are in Ye and Thanbyuzayat Townships, they also looted the livestock raised by the villagers and some commanders also tried to rape Mon women in the villages.

As an instance,

On July 4 night, one low-rank commander of Burmese Army, Sergeant Hla Win, from LIB No. 355 (which has origin base in Karen State) attempted to rape a Mon woman, Mi San Aye (34 years old) in Waekarat village in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State.

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Hein died on the spot while the other two men's leg were cut.

Before Nai Hein died for 3-4 days, a woman Mi Aye Thar was also hit by a land-mine and died on spot.

Various battalions of Burmese Army operated the military operations for the whole and villagers have been conscripted as porters for the whole year to uproot the rebel activities in the area.

The Burmese Army ordered to the local village headmen to provide them with necessary porters on the regular basis. They forced them to pay porter fee if they could not provide the required number of porters. Depending on the household number in the

villages, the village headmen had to provide 3 to 5 villagers as porters whenever the Burmese Army arrived into their villages.

The Burmese Army also try to cut foods from the civilians to the rebel soldiers. The Army also issued the order that if they found someone sleep at the farms at night time, that farmer must be killed.

Although the regime, SPDC, has ordered the local military battalions to not use civilian porters during the military offensives as they have agreed to ILO to eradicate forced labour, however, the local military commanders do not really respect the order.

Ye and Yebyu Townships are also considered as 'Black Area' by the Burmese Army and they could violate any rights of the people, because most people in this area are suspected as 'rebels' or 'rebel-supporters'.



The slogan of SPDC to defend the sovereignty along the main road

Under the militarization policy of the regime, the Burmese Army planned to put all civilians into army and created more suffering to them. Along with die militarization policy, almost civilians are forced to be under the command of the army.

V. Conclusion

The militarization policy is directly against the democratization in Burma. Although the regime is saying they are moving toward for the democratization, but in reality, they have tried to control all civilians under their commands. Almost civilians in Burma lose individual rights and they could not make their own decisions. All the days they are under the order of the Burmese Army and regime authorities.

On the other hand, the regime and Burmese Army now is trying to create more 'confrontation' against the democratic opposition groups rather than 'negotiation'. They prepare to be ready for more attacks if there is a demonstration or political activities in the country. They have not cared much for the international condemnation for the massacre in Upper Burma which is well-known 'Depayin Massacre'. After this bloody crash down against the pro-democracy force, the regime has not cared to commit another crack down violently, if the pro-democracy force tries to held the demonstration and conduct trips for the political organizing activities.

