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Arbitrary Arrest & Killing

9 VILLAGE HEADMEN ARRESTED FOR FAILING TO REPORT CNF ACTIVITIES

March 10, 2007

Lt. Colonel San Aung, commander of tactical command 2 for Chin state, based in Matupi town, southern Chin state has ordered the arrest of village headmen from from 9 villages in southern Chin state. Accordance with the order 9 village headmen were arrested on March 21, 2007 by SPDC troops for failing to report CNF activities, a local villager reported to CHRO.

There were clashed between Chin National Army an armed wing of the opposition Chin National Front and SPDC troops in Cun-nam village, all village headmen in the surrounding area were immediately arrested by the SPDC and brought to Matupi town, the headquarters of Burma army tactical 2, command in Chin state.

The clashed between CNA and SPDC troops occured on February 19, 2007 at 1:30 pm. The chairman of Si-Wa-Nu village from Mindat district reported about CNA troop's patrolling to the tactical command office in Matupi. Then, the Burmese army battalion LIB 304 and 104 from tactical command marched to Cun-Nam village where they met with CNA with CNA troops and the fight brook out.

One army officer and two other soldiers from Burmese troops were killed in the clashed according to the report. Enrage with the casualty, the SPDC troops immediately arrested Pu Thawng Ki, chairman of Cun-Nam Village Peace and Development Council. He was tied with rope to his legs and hands and tortured. The chairmen of Village Peace and Development Council from nearby villages; San Pyah village, Way Laung village, Si Wa Nu village, Lin Song village, Khaw boi village, Dar Chung village, Tingsi village were also taken to the tactical command office in Matupi town.

THREE BODIES FOUND AFTER WEEKS OF ARREST BY MILITARY

April 9, 2007: Relatives found the bodies of their loved ones two weeks after the Burmese Army arrested them on the accusation that they were paying tax to Chin rebels.

Troops of the Light Infantry battalion 140 arrested seven people in Matupi Township in Chin State in the last week of February but later they informed the relatives that three had fled from their custody. However, the bodies of Mum Hte, Khun Ling and Tin Cung were later found by villagers from nearby areas.

The rest were sentenced to three years in prison and sent to Pakkoku jail.

A list of tax payers which was left behind by the CNF troops after fighting broke out with government troops of LIB 140 led to the arrest.

"Three soldiers including one junior officer were killed in the clash and one CNF soldier was injured. Angry military personnel arrested the local headmen for not reporting (about CNF) and cracked down on the people on the basis of the list found in the CNF book," said a resident on condition of anonymity.

A Matupi resident told Mizzima that CNF has been collecting Kyat 3,000 (US\$ 2.5) per a family for the past year.

"No one dares talk about the killing in public. Everyone is scared. It is impossible to appeal for the imprisoned people. It is too dangerous. We just talk about it in our private conversation though we want justice and law to be enforced," he said.

(Source: Mizzima News)

Forced Labor:

SEVEN VILLAGES FORCED TO CONSTRUCT BUDDHIST MONASTERY

March 1, 2007

Lieutenant Colonel San Aung, commander of tactical command 2 stationed at Matupi Town in Southern Chin State, ordered villagers from seven villages to construct a Buddhist monastery during the second week of January 2007, according to a report by a member of Village Peace and Development Council.

The Buddhist monastery was designed to be built on a hill-track situated to the west-south side of Matupi Town. Lt. Col. San Aung, in January, ordered the surrounding seven villages to send two people from each village in order to construct the monastery with their own supplies and labor. The villages, which were forced into the construction project, are Valangte Village, Valangpi Village, Koe-La Village, Vapung Village, Leisin Village, Thi Boei Village, Vangkai Village. The 14 forced laborers continue to work on the construction of the monastery without rest. Although they are all Christians, they are not given a day off, even on Sunday, to practice their faith.

SPDC Forces Villagers to Construct Army Camp

March 03, 2007

On January 28, 2007, Colonel Win Hlaing of LIB- 50, based at Kanhkaw, Magwe Division positioned in Lailenpi Village, Matupi Town in Southern Chin State, forcibly

conscripted 25 villagers to construct an army camp, according to a report by the Village Peace and Development Council chairman. The 25 forced laborers are from five villages in the areas surrounding the army camp.

They were forced to start construction on January 28, 2007 and told to complete the construction of a large male boarding house within two days. Maj. Ye Myint added that if the camp was not completed in two days, the villagers would be forced to continue the construction until completion. The work time is rigidly set from 7:00 am in the morning to 6:00 pm in the evening without breaks for rest. Breakfast is set at 12:00 noon.

During the construction process, Major Ye Myint asked five people from Mala Village to cut 100 pieces of bamboo and 50 pieces of wood in a day, reported one of the forced laborers. They were asked to cut and carry bamboo and wood to a forest two miles away from the village. In addition, the villagers had to arrange for themselves all the necessary tools for the construction project as well as their own food rations. They never received any fees for their labor, according to the report by the local village chairman.

LONG FORCED LABOR PROJECT COMPELS VILLAGERS TO ALTERNATE WORK SHIFTS

April 4, 2007

Darling villagers in Matupi Township, Southern Chin State are being compelled to alternate forced labor shifts, as they have no time to work for their farms due to the long communal work order, a local villager reported to CHRO.

The location of the work-field is in the west-northern side of Matupi Town, where a car-road is under construction between Matupi and Lailenpi. The work started at the beginning of 2007 and the construction project is still going on.

“We, the Darling villagers are assigned to work between Sumsen Village and Tangu Village. As a result of long communal work, we have no time to work left for our livelihoods. That is the reason why we have come to adopt an alternating system for work,” said a local villager.

Darling Village is made up of 140 houses. 30 men are currently alternating work on the road project every three weeks. Those absent families are punished with a fine of 1,000 to 1,500 Kyats for every day absent. The money received from the fine is used to pay for the worker’s meal and curry. It is reported that all these things are undertaken on the order of Lieutenant Colonel San Aung, who is a commander of tactical II based in Matupi.

VILLAGERS FORCED TO WORK ON HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION

March 2, 2007

A member of the Thantlang Township Solidarity and Development Team responsible for the Hydro-Electric Power Plant planning in Northern Chin State issued an order to Mualkai villagers to provide forced laborers between December 2006 to February 10, 2007, according to an anonymous member of Village Peace and Development Council (VPDC).

For the construction of the Hydro-Electric Power Plant, Mualkai villagers have been ordered to carry a five-megawatt electric motor and construct a tank for storing water, beginning in December 2006 and continuing until the completion of the work. Mualkai power plant project reportedly spent 25 lakhs, which is three times more than the amount authorized by the State Solidarity and Peace Team.

VILLAGERS CONSTRUCT ROAD AFTER GOVERNMENT FAILS TO PROVIDE PROPER TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

April 7, 2007

Hnaring Village in Thantlang Township, Northern Chin State, have begun efforts to construct a car-road after experiencing many problems due to difficult road conditions, a local villager reported to CHRO.

The construction of the car-road started on March 8, 2007 and a group of 200 villagers have been working alternately for one week. The plan is to construct a direct car road from Hnaring to Thantlang Town and Hnaring to Kanhkaw Town. The car-road is being constructed with a 12 foot wide jeep road. The motive and expected outcome of the villager's effort in constructing the car-road is to foster better commercial relations, provide easier access to health facilities, and to resolve the lack of a government transportation system.

Conscription, Arbitrary Order & Power Abuse:

CLASS TEN STUDENTS ARRESTED FOR FORCIBLE CONSCRIPTION INTO THE BURMA ARMY

April 1, 2007

Lieutenant Colonel Aung San, tactical commander for Chin State tactic II based in Matupi Town in Southern Chin State, started arresting and conscripting class ten students who had just finished their examination on 22 March 2007, according to class ten students who fled to India to avoid conscription.

The Burma Army on March 22, 2007 around 10:00 pm at night at Sanband Road Point arrested about 20 class ten students who had just finished their examination. On the same night, 15 students of the 20 class ten students of Tui Moe Boarding School were arrested during a celebratory farewell party.

“That night, not only class ten students, but all young men outside of their homes were being arrested and some were put in the police lockup, but I am very lucky. I did not go outside that night. As the situation is very insecure for me, my father gave me money and I at once fled from town,” said one student who fled to the Indo-Burma border area.

The process of arresting students is still taking place. Some students have fled to Mizoram. Other some students who can not afford to leave Burma have run to neighboring states, according a reliable source.

MATUPI TOWN GOLDEN JUBILEE STONE PILLAR DESTROYED

March 29, 2007

The Matupi Town Golden Jubilee stone pillar was destroyed during the second week of February by the order of Lieutenant Colonel San Aung, commander of tactical command 2 based in Matupi Township, Southern Chin State, according to a local villager. The order was based on the prohibition of any stone pillar in Burma other than the Independence stone pillar.

The Golden Jubilee memorial pillar was built by Matupi Town elders on 22 March at the junction of Sanbung block. On February 16, 2007, Lt. Col. San Aung ordered the Matupi Township Sanbung block Village Peace and Development Council members to destroy the pillar.

“The order said that Matupi Town itself is in Burma, and in Burma no stone pillar is allowed to be built except the Independence stone pillar. So this stone pillar is illegal and must be destroyed at once. So we destroyed it according to the order,” said a local villager who is also a member of the Village Peace and Development Council.

The source said that Matupi Town was established as a town in 1949, and the elders of Matupi Town celebrated the Golden Jubilee on March 22, 1999. They built the stone pillar in commemoration.

TEA-FIELD SEIZED BY SPDC FOR CAMP CONSTRUCTION

March 5, 2007

In January 2007, a Burma Army officer in the rank of major of Kanhkaw LIB- 50, positioned in PaSaing Village, Matupi Town in Southern Chin State, decided to shift the location of the army camp after seizing a tea-field owned by a Satu villager, a local person reported to CHRO.

Before shifting the army camp, soldiers from LIB-50 came to Satu Village. After scrutinizing the grounds, they finally chose a 3-acre tea-field that was legally owned by U Lehe, which is situated above the village. Upon the illegal seizure of his property, U Lehe

went to the army officer claiming legal possession of his tea-field under official registration, and adding the viability of other spaces for an army camp. However the major refused to consider other locations indicating that his tea-field was the most appropriate for an army camp because of a water pipe passing under the ground of the tea-field. When U Lehe insisted on his complaint, the major said angrily that the military could do whatever it pleases because in Myanmar everything is under military control. After that, in the first week of January, five villagers from Lungsen, Pasaing (A), Pasaing (B), Lailente and Satu Village were forced to construct the army camp on the tea-field land.

The owner of a tea-field is a village-block government clerk with 20 years of service. He started cultivating his tea-field in 1974 and started planting in 1982. By an order of the Major, the Land Magistrate Office erased his name from the official registry and distributed his land to villagers in Matupi Town without giving him planting costs worth 12,000 Rs. Again in 2004, the chairman of Matupi Peace and Development Council during the first week of November issued an order to take 75 boxes of seeds worth 3,000 Kyats per box from his farm. Although he should have received 228,000 Kyats in total, he did not receive a single penny. He was greatly upset by the annexation of his 3-acre wide tea-field, according to the local person.

TWO CHILD SOLDIERS FLEE SPDC CRUELTY

March 27, 2007

Two child soldiers fled to Indo-Burma border after attending an informational training in Shwe-Kyin Town, Pe-gu Division in the first week of March with ten other child soldiers, who are all about 15 years old and were recruited in early 2007 by Colonel Lwin Oo and Battalion Commander Soe Tin from LIB 349, Military head of Shew-Bo recruitment, Sagaing Division.

The escaped child soldier, Zaw Zin Oo, said he voluntarily joined the army in 2004 without the knowledge of his parents. In the beginning, he only attended military training because he was 15 years old, but later he was sent to the frontline. When they reached villages, they drag villagers for porters, collected money, and collected taxes from civilians. The money was given to the soldiers as salary.

“I thought that I’d be serving the country by joining the army, but when I saw the regime torturing civilians with my own eyes, I vouched that I’d run away from the regime, and I fled here,” said Zaw Zin Oo.

The battalion commander, Soe Tin, forced the child soldiers to perform 24-hour duty in turns. They also had to attend military training. Although the standard government soldier’s salary is 25,000 Kyats, they received only 15,000 Kyats. If they fell asleep, they were beaten and tortured and told that soldiers have a duty to watch the nation 24 hours a day.

LOCAL VILLAGERS FORCED TO BUY RICE-SEED BY SPDC

April 7, 2007

The Chairman of Falam Township Peace and Development Council, U Zaw Win Htay, in January 2007 issued an order to all Village Blocks in Falam Township to buy Shweyinaye rice-seed for plantations throughout the region, a local villager reported to CHRO.

According to an order from the mainland authorities, the township authorities are forced to buy rice-seed from mainland Burma. The rice-seed is then stored at Falam Town and all Village Blocks must then purchase 21 tins each of the rice-seed for their plantations.

The market price of the rice-seed for one tin is 7,500 Kyats. This forced order of planting rice-seed, which is not at all suitable within the geographical climate of Falam Township, has left local villagers in great despair.

SPDC SOLDIERS DEMAND CHICKEN FROM VILLAGERS

March 01, 2007

On January 03, 2007, Captain Nyun Hlaing of LIB-50, stationed at Lailenpi Village, Matupi Town in Southern Chin State, forcibly ordered the chairman of Lailenpi Village, Pu Kharku, to bring five chickens immediately to the army camp, according to a report by a local person.

Capt. Nyun Hlaing forced Pu Kharku to bring five chickens to the army camp at 6:00 pm at night. According to the order, Pu Kharku collected the chickens from his villagers and went himself to hand over the chickens to Capt. Nyun Hlaing on January 03, 2007.

The cost of a chicken at the current rate is 2,000 Kyats. The total cost for five chickens is about 10,000 Kyats. The villagers get nothing for their chicken.

INSECTICIDE USAGE ON RICE CAUSES PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEMS

March 6, 2007

In January 2007, storage rice in Minhlah Village, Kaylay Township of Sagaing Division was contaminated by an insecticide sprayed on it by the Government. The villagers had to stop consuming the rice from the storage due to stomach problems caused by the rice, according to a report by a local person. Because the insecticide-contaminated rice threatened villager's health, the villagers are forced to buy rice from Kalay Myo.

In 2006 and in previous years, the Minhlah villagers could sufficiently sustain themselves on the rice produced by their village, and they could even sell surplus rice to Kalay Myo. However this year, villagers are now facing a rice shortage due to the lack of relief and intervention from the government, according to a village chairman.

Minhlah Village has about 80 families and their livelihood is dependent on farming and rice cultivation. Because of the insecticide, they need to wash the rice five to seven times before cooking. If they do not wash it several times, it could affect their stomach.

70,000 KYATS SEIZED FROM COW TRADER BY BURMA ARMY

April 4, 2007

Four soldiers from LIB-269 based in Tidim Town, Northern Chin State, seized 70,000 Kyats from a cow trader on the border area between Chin State and Mizoram, India, a trader reported to CHRO.

The incident took place on December 3, 2006 between Hnahthial Village and Tihu stream in Falam Township. According to the trader himself, the soldiers demanded 70,000 Kyats as a tax and he was threatened with arrest if he did not pay the demanded amount of money.

The cow owner is Pu Ral Dum of Zamual Village in Falam Township. He bought his flock of five cows for 2,000 to 30,000 Kyats each.

BURMA ARMY DEMAND CHICKENS AND FORCED PORTERS

April 6, 2007

The Burma Army of LIB-269, based in Tiddim Town, Northern Chin State, demand chickens from villagers whenever the military operations are lunching in the cantonment area. They also demand porters, according to a local villager.

On February 14, 2007, two army officers and seven of their men demanded porters to carry supplies between Zawngte Village and Singai Village, which is a day's journey. The number of villagers being used as porters is five and they are forced to carry military armaments and rations. Moreover, the villagers are required to provide two chickens for the army captain and one chicken for the sergeant. However, the villagers are never paid for their labor, a local person reported to CHRO.

GOVERNMENT THREATS TO PRIVATE BANK CAUSES GREAT PUBLIC LOSS

March 3, 2007

Of private banks opened in Kalay Myo Town of Sagaing Division, a private bank called Taungzalat Bank owned by Pu En Kap fell into bankruptcy due to threats by the military government, according to a report from an anonymous correspondent trader. Only Chins have been depositing money into Taungzalat Bank.

A woman who put her money into the bank said, "I deposited two lakhs and my father's twelve lakhs in that bank, which had an interest rate of 5% in 2000. But I received the interest only up to October 2003. After that, I could not get anymore, I could not

withdraw the capital or the interest.” A Christian clergyman also known to deposit money worth thousands of lakhs into Taungzalat Bank could not get back his money.

Billions of kyats are estimated to be held in savings in the bank. Most of the staff and employees are Chin. It is believed that the bank owner, Pu Eng Kap, received threats and harassment from the government.

PHOTOS OF NAKED WOMEN DISCOVERED IN A RESIDENCE OF HAKHA TACTIC COMMANDER’S CLOSE ACQUAINTANCE

March 5, 2007

Naked photos of Hakha women were discovered by police at the house of Tu Yah, who is a trusted acquaintance of Colonel Tin Hla, tactic commander of Hakha military tactic 1 of Northern Chin State, a local person reported to CHRO.

Although the exact investigation date is unknown, the attempted arrest of Tu Yah at his house occurred in 2006 during the rainy season. Tu Yah was serving in GE military service. He was able to avoid arrest at the time because the police only discovered naked pictures of women while searching his house.

Tu Yah is very familiar with Col. Tin Hlah and he often used to drive for him. Taking advantage of his relationship with Col. Tin Hlah, Tu Yah behaved disrespectfully towards other government authorities and would “spend money like water”, according to an inside source.

According to the local person, the police officer said it was an unbelievable and shameful thing to see so many naked photos of well-known Hakha women. SPDC is reportedly notorious of exploiting ethnic women and the local suspect the SPDC authority in Haka of funding a great deal of money to exploit local Chin women.

Refugee:

MURDERED REFUGEE GIRL LAID TO REST

By Salai Za Uk Ling

11 April 2007 – Kuala Lumpur: Dally Sui Hlei Par, a 7 year-old refugee girl who was found murdered and mutilated a week after she went missing on March 20 was finally laid to rest in Kuala Lumpur this afternoon.

More than 500 Chins and local sympathizers attended the emotional funeral and burial service at Cheras Christian cemetery. Funeral goers braved the drizzling rain to pay their

last respect to Dally whose decomposing body was discovered under the bushes near the family's home with both her hands severed at the wrists.

Dally's peers and classmates sang an emotional farewell song dedicated to her memory.

Like other refugee and undocumented children, Dally didn't have access to formal primary education in Malaysia. Chin refugee children receive informal education in community schools run by groups such as Chin Students Organization and Chin Women's Organization.

Dally is the fourth person to die of a violent death in the Chin community in Malaysia in less than three months. On New Year's Eve, two Chin youths were brutally stabbed to death by assailants. No suspect has been apprehended in the case. On 20 January 2007, another Chin youth was dead after falling off a high rise building under construction in downtown Kuala Lumpur. More than 87 Chins have died in Malaysia since 2004, according to Kuala Lumpur-based Chin Christian Fellowship.

CHIN COMMUNITY MOURNS THE TRAGIC DEATH OF DALLY SUI

By Amy Alexander

6 April 2007- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Dally Sui was a young seven-year-old Chin girl who loved to sing and dance, watch cartoons, and eat traditional Burmese food. As her family prepared to be resettled to the United States, she was excited to begin a new life in America.

But all these hopes of a new life for Dally Sui ended after she went missing from her family's home in Cheras around 7:00 pm on 20 March, just hours before the family's scheduled departure from Malaysia. In the midst of a farewell prayer service and celebrations. Most of her days were spent indoors playing with her only friend, her 10 year old sister Iang Hlei Sung. After surviving five years in Malaysia, Dally's family was finally scheduled to be resettled to Indianapolis, Indiana on 21 March 2007.

Now the family struggles to find a way to pay for the funeral of their youngest member. Her body is still kept in HUKM hospital in Cheras. Meanwhile her death has heightened concerns in the Chin community about the safety of their children in Malaysia. Dally's death came amidst an increasing lack of protection for refugee children by the Malaysian government. Within this past month, at least six children have been rounded up and detained by Malaysian immigration authorities. Two children are reportedly sick inside Semenyih detention center. Twelve years old Ngun Za Tial and her brother Bawi Lian Thang (Age 10) were arrested from their bed during a midnight raid by immigration in Jinjang. There has also been an increase in the number of violent crimes against refugees and undocumented migrants. These crimes often go unreported due to fear of the authorities, uninvestigated, and unpunished.

Despite the tragedy, Dally's family will proceed with their plans to resettle to the U.S, bringing along with them the undying memory of Dally Sui. Celebrations, the family realized

Dally Sui was absent from the festivities and a search began. They filed a missing person's report with the Cheras police around 2 am on 21 March. The search did not end until 27 March when her body was found.

The devastating discovery occurred around noon last Wednesday when 57-year-old Mohd Din Awang found the body of a small girl later identified as Dally Sui lying in some undergrowth. She was wearing a green tee shirt, shorts, and earrings. Her shoes were carefully placed next to her lifeless body. It was just four kilometers from her parent's flat in Taman Maluri, Cheras.

Evidencing a brutal end to a beautiful young life, both of Dally's hands were severed at the wrist. Despite police efforts, her hands remain unaccounted for. There were no other wounds on the body, leaving police to believe that she may have died from blood loss. Meanwhile, the search for Dally's killer continues.

Dally Sui leaves behind her father, Uk Thang, her mother, Tuan Thloui Chin, and two siblings, her brother Za Lian Ceu, age 13, and her sister, Iang Hlei Sung, age 10. The Chin community in Malaysia remains in mourning over the loss of such a young life. After finding Dally's body, the community came together with Dally's family and prayed.

Dally barely had a chance to begin living life before it was all stolen away. Life in Malaysia for seven-year-old Dally is far from ideal. Dally Sui and her family made the difficult journey to Malaysia in 2002 after fleeing from the oppressive Burma military regime. They came to Malaysia in the hopes of finding safety and peace. Life in Malaysia, however, has been difficult for Dally's family. Unrecognized and unwelcome by the Malaysian government, refugees are unable to work, receive an education, access healthcare services, or find acceptable living accommodations. Dally's father had to support his family through odd jobs. Unprotected and vulnerable to harassment, detention, and potential deportation by the Malaysian authorities, Dally and her sister were rarely allowed to leave their house, which was shared with three other families. Most of her days were spent indoors playing with her only friend, her 10 year old sister Iang Hlei Sung. After surviving five years in Malaysia, Dally's family was finally scheduled to be resettled to Indianapolis, Indiana on 21 March 2007.

Now the family struggles to find a way to pay for the funeral of their youngest member. Her body is still kept in HUKM hospital in Cheras. Meanwhile her death has heightened concerns in the Chin community about the safety of their children in Malaysia. Dally's death came amidst an increasing lack of protection for refugee children by the Malaysian government. Within this past month, at least six children have been rounded up and detained by Malaysian immigration authorities. Two children are reportedly sick inside Semenyih detention center. Twelve years old Ngun Za Tial and her brother Bawi Lian Thang (Age 10) were arrested from their bed during a midnight raid by immigration in Jinjang. There has also been an increase in the number of violent crimes against refugees and undocumented migrants. These crimes often go unreported due to fear of the authorities, uninvestigated, and unpunished.

Despite the tragedy, Dally's family will proceed with their plans to resettle to the U.S, bringing along with them the undying memory of Dally Sui.

MALAYSIA DEPORTS OVER 40 CHIN ASYLUM SEEKERS

By Salai Za Uk Ling

6 April 2007 – Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia on Tuesday deported over 40 Chins along with many more refugees from Burma to the border of Thailand. Two deportees, both under 18, who managed to sneak back in on Wednesday said there were two loads of bus containing about 90 people deported from Semenyih camp. They said the majority of those deported to the Thai-Malaysia border consisted of Chins. Four Kachins were among the deportees. The rest are Burmans and Rohingyas as well as other ethnic nationalities whom they couldn't identify.

"The majority of people being detained at Semenyih camp are Chins and more people may be deported soon as the center is extremely overcrowded" said Kip Hlei Thang, one of the two deportees interviewed by Chinland Guardian this morning. Semenyih detention camp, located about one hour from Kuala Lumpur, is one of the most overcrowded detention facilities in Malaysia where conditions are reported to be harsh.

"Around 300 to 400 inmates are housed in a room of about 50 by 25 feet. We had to literally sleep right next to each other on the floor without any blankets or bedding," said another deportee Than Bil.

The two deportees said that there are around 20 Chins who were recently whipped after being convicted of illegal entry to Malaysia. "We saw about 20 fellow Chins in our cell who were freshly whipped. They were in so much pain and unable to sleep on their backs and literally crying from pain," they said. The two were arrested at Malaysian administrative capital of Putrajaya on March 4 while returning from their worksite.

In a separate incident, Chan Nawn (23) recently arrived back in Kuala Lumpur after having served as a slave laborer on a fishing boat for more than three years in Thailand. He was arrested in 2004 in Malaysia and deported to the Thai border where he was sold to Thai fishermen. "I tried working as a construction worker here in Malaysia for a week after I came back, but I couldn't tolerate the itchiness of my skins when I sweat. I developed a skin rash from being splashed by sea waters while being on the fishing boat," Chan Nawn explained.

According to Kuala Lumpur-based Chin Refugee Committee, there may be as many more than 800 Chin refugees being detained at various detention centers across Malaysia. The Committee has report the arrest of over 400 Chin refugees since the beginning of 2007.

RELA RAIDS CONTINUE IN MALAYSIA

By Amy Alexander

12 March 2007- Once again, the Jalan Imbi neighborhood of Kuala Lumpur falls prey to yet another immigration raid conducted by the highly controversial People's Volunteer Corps (RELA) early this morning. This is the second raid to take place at Jalan Imbi in a six-month period as Malaysian authorities continue to target asylum seekers and refugees in immigration crackdowns. Jalan Imbi is largely inhabited by refugees and asylum seekers from Burma's Chinland and hosts the Chin Refugee Center run by the Chin Refugee Committee, which received a Malaysian human rights award last year.

The raid began around 1:00 am and continued for several hours. Forty-eight Chin asylum seekers from Burma, including ten women, have been taken to Seminyah detention camp, where they will await deportation.

Among those arrested and detained is, Salai Ni Kio, a resettled refugee visiting from Denmark on valid travel documents. According to our sources, the Malaysian authorities have confiscated his travel documents and are refusing to release him. The Danish Embassy has been notified about the situation.

This latest raid comes amidst mounting concern over the security of refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia following recent statements by high-level government officials indicating that the government does not recognize the powers of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and it will not recognize refugees.

On 1 February 2007, Malaysia's Home Affairs Minister, Datuk Seri Radzi Sheikh Ahmad reportedly criticized the UNHCR for getting in the way of the operations of agencies such as RELA and the Immigration Department. The Minister further indicated that Malaysia "accepts UNHCR's presence, but not their powers." At the beginning of this month, Foreign Minister Syed Hamid further reiterated that Malaysia will not recognize refugees.

The Malaysian government has come under criticism by several human rights groups for their actions against refugees and asylum seekers. Just three days ago, the Malaysia-based human rights group, SUARAM, issued a press statement denouncing the recent arrests of newborn refugee babies and their families by the Malaysian authorities. SUARAM also filed complaints on 31 October 2006 with SUHAKAM, the Malaysia Human Rights Commission, against RELA for misconduct and abuse against refugees and asylum seekers.

Hundreds of thousands of Chins have fled from Chin State to escape severe ethnic and religious persecution committed by the military regime. Currently, there are over 20 thousand Chin asylum seekers and refugees living in Malaysia. Although the Chin people come to Malaysia in search of security, the Malaysian government refuses to recognize or provide any protection to the Chin population. Instead, the Chin people are at constant risk of harassment by the authorities, arrest, detention, and deportation. In addition, they are unable to work, receive an education, access healthcare services, or find acceptable living accommodations.

MALAYSIA ARRESTS MORE REFUGEE BABIES

By Salai Za Uk Ling

7 March 2007 – Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian immigration today placed in custody a newborn refugee baby and mother in what is a third of such arrest in two weeks.

The detention came amidst mounting concerns over security for refugees and asylum seekers in the country following public remarks by Malaysian Home Minister Radzi Sheik Ahmad saying that his government doesn't recognize the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and accused the international agency of interfering in arrests by law enforcement of "illegal immigrants."

Yesterday, another new born child and her parents were arrested only a few hours after they were discharged from a hospital in Kuala Lumpur where hospital staff had advised them to register the child with the immigration office. According to a brother of the detained father, the child was born only a night before when they were detained. "The baby was born at midnight in Chowkit Hospital just the night before they were placed in custody," he told Chinland Guardian.

Last week, another new born refugee baby was arrested with her parents when they attempted to register the birth with the immigration office in Damansara in Kuala Lumpur. The mother who delivered the child by operation was reportedly bleeding at the time of detention. The father was also just discharged from hospital earlier in the day where he was treated for temporary paralysis of the limbs.

In all incidents, at least one of the parents have been recognized by UNHCR or registered with the office as Persons of Concerns (PoC).

According to Chin Refugees Committee, an organization that won a human rights awards in Malaysia last year, the number of arrests of refugees and asylum seekers have significantly increased in the last few months in Malaysia. The CRC records reveal more than 300 arrests only since the beginning of 2007.

Rights group in Malaysia have regularly protested against arrest of children and vulnerable women and accused the government of breaching its obligations under the UN treaties protecting asylum seeking children and women.

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP DENOUNCES DETENTION OF BABIES AND VULNERABLE REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA

By Amy Alexander

12 March 2007- In response to the recent arrests and detentions of newborn babies and their refugee parents by the Malaysian authorities, Malaysia-based human rights group,

SUARAM, issued a statement criticizing the government's action and urging the government to recognize the rights of refugees.

In the 9 March press statement entitled, "Broken Promises: Respect Rights of Vulnerable, Release Baby Detainees, SUARAM called on the Malaysian government to respect their international obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women and to "immediately and unconditionally release all children and parents."

SUARAM issued the statement after three new-born babies and their families within a three week period were arrested when they attempted to register the births with the immigration office in Malaysia. The arrests occurred despite the fact that in each instance at least one parent has been recognized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or registered with the office as Persons of Concerns (PoC).

These particularly callous arrests came on the heels of recent statements by high-level government officials indicating that the Malaysian government will not recognize refugees or the powers of the Office of the UNHCR in Malaysia. SUARAM highlighted such statements as a reflection of "Malaysia's total disregard for fundamental human rights..." and urged the government to "cooperate and work together with the Office of the UNHCR in protecting refugees."

To the press release issued by SUARAM, please visit www.suaram.net.

MALAYSIAN LAWYERS CALL FOR AN END TO RELA AMIDST INCREASING ABUSES

By Amy Alexander

21 March 2007- Around noon local time today RELA raided construction site in Bukit Bintang and rounded up about 1000 workers including nearly 300 Chins. Those caught in the midday round-up included many UNHCR recognized refugees. As of this evening, it remains unclear just how many persons were arrested.

In a separate incident yesterday, a team of immigration officers raided the home of Uk Nawl and Biak Thluai, two UNHCR recognized Chin refugees living in Jinjang Utara, taking away their two children, Ngun Za Tial (age 12) and Bawi Lian Thang (age 10). These types of abuses by enforcement personnel occur on a regular basis in Malaysia . However, RELA and its controversial tactics are receiving more and more criticism by influential members of Malaysian society.

On 17 March 2007 , the Malaysian Bar called for RELA to cease its operations citing allegations of torture and other human rights violations perpetrated against undocumented migrants by RELA's untrained civilian force. The Malaysian lawyers called for a repeal

of the legislation that enabled the creation and maintenance of non-professional law enforcement groups, such as RELA.

Although RELA is composed of untrained civilian volunteers, RELA forces have been given extensive enforcement powers that have translated into increased abuses against undocumented migrants. Not only is RELA able to bear and use firearms, they are also empowered to conduct search and seizures, arrests, and enter premises all without a warrant. Further increasingly the likelihood of abuses, RELA officers receive monetary incentives of 80 RM for each undocumented migrant they arrest.

The Malaysian Bar in their Annual General Meeting unanimously called for the revocation of all four existing Proclamations of Emergency in Malaysia . In addition, they demanded that Malaysia respect its obligations under the April 1999 Bangkok Declaration on Irregular Migration, which entails humane and equal treatment of all persons in Malaysia , including migrants and refugees. Finally, the Bar urged the Malaysian government to ratify certain international instruments, such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and also the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Advocacy & Campaign

Presentation by Salai Za Uk Ling
of
Chin Human Rights Organization

**at the Launching of Christian Solidarity Worldwide's Report "Carrying the Cross:
Burma's military regime's restriction, discrimination and persecution of Christians
in Burma"**

Wilson Room , UK Parliament

Westminster , London

January 23, 2007

Distinguished Members of Parliament, friends and ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening!

I am here before you today as a Chin national and as a member of an organization that has been monitoring human rights situations in Chin State for the last twelve years to beseech your support and solidarity, and to draw your attention to the plight of our people. Chin Human Rights Organization is a non-profit and non-governmental organization committed to protecting and promoting the rights of Chin people and to restoring democracy and respect for human rights in Burma .

Before I go onto talking about the status of religious freedom in Chin State , I would first like to commend Ben Rogers and the Christian Solidarity Worldwide for the very excellent report and for having been good friends of the persecuted Christians in Burma . You truly are the voice for the voiceless – the most forgotten people in Burma .

Many of you, I gather, have been familiar with the situations in Burma and the atrocities and the various forms of human rights violations in that country. We often heard or read in the news about atrocities in Burma 's eastern frontiers such as Karen, Karenni and Shan States and the imprisonment of the country's democratic icon Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Aside from the Annual International Religious Freedom Report by the United States government and the 2004 CHRO report, there has been virtually no international publicity or highlights of the violations, discriminations and persecutions suffered by Burma's religious minorities such as Christians and Muslims at the hands of one of the most paranoid and brutal regimes.

Chin State is perhaps the one area in Burma in which the junta's policy of persecution against Christian is expressed in the most obvious and violent ways. Over the past decade, the regime has destroyed several churches and deliberately removed crosses placed on hilltops, disrupted worship services, and physically assaulted and tortured pastors and Church leaders. The regime also imposed strict discriminatory and restrictive rules on the activities of Christian churches, while it openly promotes Buddhism through various means.

As the CSW report attests, the persecution of Christians in Burma is systematic, as can be seen in Chin, Kachin, Karen and Karenni States where there's a significant Christian population. And this represents part of a larger policy of the regime to create a uniform national identity in which Burmese is the only language and Buddhism the only accepted religion. This is the mentality of the regime and its approach to making Burma "a modern and developed nation". No one should need more convincing of the fact that Burma 's military junta is intent on destroying the culture, religion and ethnic identities of non-Burman ethnic groups. And there should be no doubt that Burma 's military regime is guilty of religious persecution against Christians and cultural genocide against the various ethnic groups in the country.

Responding to international criticisms, the State Peace and Development Council often refers to the fact that "Buddhism, being a peaceful religion, is against force-promoting its faith." There is no illusion about this statement being true. It is NOT the Buddhist faith or the larger Buddhist community in Burma , but the military regime that manipulates religion as a tool to achieve political ends at the expense of other religions.

Friends, imagine living under a government that burns down your church, desecrate your religious symbols, humiliate your pastors and punishes you for no other reason than because you have a different faith and distinct identity. These are all ongoing as we speak. Just the other day, I spoke to a prominent pastor in Chin State who told me that in one village populated by Chin Christians, a Buddhist monk backed by the military burned down a local church and ordered Christians out of the village.

We need strong international condemnation of the regime, to tell the Generals in Naypyidaw their actions are unacceptable. Burma must be persuaded to accede to all relevant international human rights treaties including the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Convention on the Elimination of all kinds of Racial Discrimination. More importantly, we ask the British government to call for the UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom to investigate persecution of Christians in Burma.

CHIN ACTIVISTS MET MALAYSIAN CABINET MINISTER

By Salai Elaisa Vahnie

31 March 2007: A team of Chin activists on Wednesday met with Tan Sri Bernard, a senior cabinet Minister at his office in the Malaysian administrative capital of Putrajaya. The advocacy team held a historic meeting with the Minister of Prime Minister's Office as they try to highlight the plight of Chin refugees in Malaysia and to update on political situations in Burma .

Representatives of Chin Human Rights Organization accompanied by Malaysia-based Chin Refugee Committee made appeals, on behalf of Chin and other ethnic refugee communities, to show sympathy to those coming to escape political turmoil in Burma .

“The Minister was receptive and was convinced that those from Burma are here due to intolerable conditions and political repression at home,” says Victor Biak Lian. “He assured us he will bring the issue to the Cabinet meeting on Thursday,” he says.

The team members included Victor Biak Lian (CHRO), Salai Za Uk Ling (CHRO) and Philemon Sang of Chin Refugee Committee. The historic meeting took place as Chins and other Burmese refugees in Malaysia brace for worsening security problems as the Malaysian government launches a full-scale crackdown on “illegal immigrants” in the country.

“The meeting couldn't have come at a better timing because security condition for refugees is probably at its worst now,” says Salai Za Uk Ling of CHRO who is also serving as Refugee Desk Coordinator for Malaysian human rights organization SUARAM.

In an unrelated incident, a dead body of a 7 old Chin refugee girl Delly who went missing from her parent's home on 20th March was found by police. Her decomposed body was found under a bush with both hands severed from the wrists. The girl went missing one day before she and her family were to depart for the United States on a resettlement program.

“This tragedy underlies the kind of security problems being encountered by the Chin communities in Malaysia on daily basis. Just in the last couple of weeks, several

members of the Chin community have been assaulted and robbed by local thugs,” says Salai Za Uk Ling.

Press Release

CHRO COMMENDS MALAYSIA FOR ITS STANCE ON BURMA; URGES COMPASSION TOWARDS BURMESE REFUGEES

20 April 2007: CHRO welcomes Malaysia’s recent statements indicating a refusal to defend Burma in future engagements on the international stage. To further this objective, CHRO calls on Malaysia to protect and respect the rights of the thousands of Burmese refugees living within its borders.

On 19 April 2007, Malaysia’s Foreign Ministry Parliamentary Secretary, Ahmad Shabery Cheek, told reporters that Malaysia along with other ASEAN members agreed not to shield Burma from attacks “if it was bombarded at any international forum.” Justifying this position, Shabery recognized the continued illegitimacy of Burma’s military rulers indicating that Burma failed to show any progress towards reform.

Despite Malaysia’s hard foreign policy stance on Burma’s military regime, Malaysia’s domestic policy fails to recognize or provide any sort of protection to the very people who have suffered under Burma’s rule- the Burmese refugee community. Tens of thousands of Burmese refugees and asylum seekers, including some 23,000 from Burma’s Chinland, have found themselves in Malaysia after being forced from their homes at the hands of Burma’s military regime.

Although a signatory to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and a sitting member of the UN Human Rights Council, the Malaysia government has consistently refused to protect refugees and asylum seekers living within their borders. Rather, the Burmese communities in Malaysia have been the regular target of security abuses, immigration raids and round-ups, increasing violent crimes committed in impunity, and abuses against the most vulnerable members of their community, including women and children.

Immigration raids targeting Burmese communities occur on an almost weekly basis in Malaysia, typically conducted by the highly controversial, untrained and often abusive Peoples’ Volunteer Corp., also known as RELA. Malaysian immigration detention facilities currently hold about 2,000 Burmese asylum seekers and refugees, about half of which are Chins. Of particular concern to CHRO are the continuing arrests of pregnant women and minors. At this time, CHRO is aware of five pregnant Chin women who were recently arrested, two of whom were forced to give birth in detention. All five are remain in detention despite their vulnerable states. According to CHRO’s sources, there are also about 20 Chin children, some as young as less than a month old, detained in Malaysian detention facilities.

For Malaysia to make good on its foreign policy initiatives towards Burma, Malaysia should first look at domestically and make good on its promise to respect the basic human rights of refugees and asylum seekers who are the victims of Burma's military regime.

For more information, please contact:

Salai Za Uk Ling, CHRO's Advocacy Officer for Malaysia at 60-1737455 46

And CHRO's legal consultant Ms. Amy Alexander in Thailand at 66-852-302609

ASEAN WILL NOT DEFEND MYANMAR AT INT'L FORA - AHMAD SHABERY

KUALA LUMPUR, April 19 (Bernama) -- Asean will not defend Myanmar at any international forum following the military ruler's adamant not to restore democracy in that country, the Dewan Rakyat was told Thursday.

Foreign Ministry parliamentary secretary Ahmad Shabery Cheek said Malaysia and other Asean members had made a stand not to defend Myanmar if the country's issue was raised at any international conference.

"Now Myanmar has to defend itself if it was bombarded at any international forum," he said when winding up the debate on the Supplementary Supply Bill (2006) 2007 at committee stage for the Foreign Ministry.

He was replying to queries from Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang (DAP-Ipoh Timur) on the next course of action to be taken by Malaysia and Asean on the stubborn Myanmar military junta who had refused to cooperate with the emissaries sent by the United Nations and Asean to bring back democracy in that country.

Lim had said Malaysia must play a proactive role in pursuing regional initiatives to bring about a change in Myanmar and support efforts to bring the situation in Myanmar to the UN Security Council's attention.

Shabery said Myanmar, after embracing Asean for nine years and widely expected to change its stand, did not show any inkling to change.

He said Malaysia would nevertheless continue to pursue efforts to convey its stand on restoring democracy in Myanmar to the military ruler though previous initiatives had been futile.

CHRO CONDEMNS SUMMARY EXECUTIONS OF THREE CHIN VILLAGE HEADMEN

12 April 2007
Ottawa, Canada

Chin Human Rights Organization condemns the extrajudicial execution of three village headmen in Southern Chin State by troops from Burma Army Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 104 and LIB 304 under Tactical Operation Command II based in Matupi headed by Colonel San Aung.

The murdered victims were Hung Ling (25) Chairman of Village Peace and Development Council for Mindat Township's Cun Nam Village, Maung Khe (32) VPDC Chairman of Rezua Township's Lung Phunu Village and Ting Co, Chairman of Rezua Township's Sangseh Village.

The village headmen were summarily executed after being accused of failing to report troop movement of Chin National Army/Chin National Front, an armed group opposed to the ruling military junta. They were also accused of sympathizing and providing financial assistance to the armed opposition group. The order to summarily execute anyone suspected of sympathizing or providing help to armed opposition group was issued by Chin State's Tactical Operation II Commander Colonel San Aung in 2004. Two other villagers Khin Maung Oo and Tin Ceu from Sangseh village were disappeared.

The arbitrary execution of the three village headmen is a violation of the right to life and a person's right to due process of the law under article 3 and 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Moreover, the disappearance of Khin Maung Oo and Tin Ceu is a state-enforced disappearance in contravention of the UN Convention against Enforced Disappearance.

"It is a norm rather than exceptional practice within the Burma Army to summarily execute anyone suspected of being anti-regime. Too many cases of summary executions have been carried out with impunity against ethnic communities across Burma. This kind of arbitrary killing is meant to teach a lesson to the public that the price of dissent is death" says Salai Bawi Lian Mang, Director of Chin Human Rights Organization.

Chin Human Rights Organization urges Burma's State Peace and Development Council to immediately cease execution of civilians without judicial trial and to investigate the summary killing of the three headmen. CHRO also calls for the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions to conduct an independent investigation into extrajudicial and summary killings of civilians in Burma.

For more information please contact:

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Date: 30 April 2007

**CHIN COMMUNITY AND STUDENTS AROUND THE WORLD JOINED CHRO
IN CONDEMNING SPDC FOR SUMMARY EXECUTIONS OF THREE CHIN
VILLAGE HEADMEN**

Van Biak Thang

Date: 30 April 2007

Chinland Guardian (www.chinlandguardian.com)

Chin communities and Chin student organizations around the world seriously condemned the arbitrary executions of three Chin village headmen on 07 March 2007 and expressed a grave concern for the sudden disappearance of the other two villagers.

According to reports from The village headmen, Maung Khe (32) of Lung Phunu village, Hung Ling (25) of Cum Nam village, Ting Co of Sangseh village in southern Chin State, were summarily executed by the junta's troops from Burma Army Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) No. 104 and LIB, No. 304 under Tactical Operation Command II based in Matupi Township headed by Colonel San Aung after being accused of failing to report the movement of Chin National Front/Chin National Army in respective villages.

Chin Community in Norway, Victoria and Melbourne Chin Community Australia, Chin National Community – Japan, Chin Students' Union - India, and Chin Students Organization-Malaysia also sent their sympathy messages to the bereft families and raised a serious concern and worry for the disappearance of the two villagers, Khin Maung Oo and Tin Ceu of Sangseh village. As of today, it is not yet known their whereabouts.

The military junta has accused of and persecuted many innocent Chin civilians for housing and giving aids to the armed group. "It is a norm rather than exceptional practice within the Burma Army to summarily execute anyone suspected of being anti-regime. Too many cases of summary executions have been carried out with impunity against ethnic communities across Burma. This kind of arbitrarily killing is meant to teach a lesson to the public that the price of dissent is death," says Salai Bawi Lian Mang, Director of Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO).

The Chin communities and student organizations urged Burma's military regime to immediately cease this kind of executions of civilians without judicial trials and endorsed CHRO's call for the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions to conduct an independent investigation into extrajudicial and summary killings of civilians in Burma.

Back Cover Poem

AN ELEGY FOR DALLY

Van Biak Thang

A distant knell echoed 'long the horizon
Like a whisper that blows a hollow horn;
Tears dropped and hearts ached in silent pain
Over a tragic brutal loss of a seven-year old girl,
So sweet and lovely, Dally Sui Hlei Par.

She loved to play, pray and her stories share:

How she wanted to be free and live to care
When the family's to the States fly in hours
All her dreams but turned into a nightmare
Vanishing like a puff of smoke into breezy air

Her delicate hands severed and body decayed
But a pair of her slippers, safe and sound, aside lay
Why a life, so innocent and hopeful, deserve this
whilst even squirrels ran around in the twilight?
O what an act, so cruel, vicious and deliberate!

Her parents had then to flee the regime's country
In desperate search of peace, freedom and safety
Away from the junta's heartless oppression,
Torture, forced labor and religious persecution,
And at last to Malaysia as an unwelcome refugee.

A nation worldwide sung a mournful dirge, untimely,
To a breathless daughter in grief and agony
Lying helplessly between a land of fear and cheer.
Though no tombstone yet be found in a foreign's hand
Her name has well been written in her dreamland.

[This verse is dedicated to a seven-year old girl, Dally Sui Hlei Par, who was found dead in the bushes after a week long search in Malaysia. For more information about her, please visit www.chinlandguardian.com]