

BURMA BULLETIN

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- New Delhi offers generous economic aid packages and military assistance to the SPDC in exchange for energy and counterinsurgency cooperation.
- The regime continues to restrict, harass, and detain citizens participating in peaceful protests, while it turns a blind eye to pro-junta groups demonstrating against the US and the UK.
- Harassment of NLD continues. NLD deputy leader U Tin Oo and elected MP Daw May Win Myint have their detention order extended by another year.
- SPDC announces a “peace” deal with the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council (KNU/KNLAPC), a splinter group hastily formed by Htain Maung.
- Two more cases of custodial deaths are reported, as the SPDC continues to bar the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from carrying out prisons visits in Burma.
- Burma’s record on press freedom is one of the world’s worst, say two independent reports.
- Thai soldiers and police go on a series of raids to identify, detain, and in some cases deport, over 500 undocumented migrant workers from Burma.

IN THIS ISSUE

KEY STORY

India’s quid pro quo.....1

INSIDE BURMA

Poor SPDC Army.....2

SPDC Master Plan.....3

Freedom of Assembly.....3

Crackdown on opposition....4

New Karen splinter group.....4

HUMAN RIGHTS

Karen offensive.....5

Prison conditions.....5

Freedom of information.....6

Child soldiers.....7

DISPLACEMENT

Migrant worker arrests.....7

Trafficking.....7

INTERNATIONAL

Indonesia cooperation.....8

CHRONOLOGY.....8

REPORTS.....10

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KEY STORY

INDIA’S QUID PRO QUO WITH THE SPDC

India continues to strengthen its bilateral ties with Burma’s military regime. India’s initiatives to enhance its relations with the SPDC are based on three primary considerations: 1) India’s need for energy; 2) India’s desire to quell armed resistance in its northeastern States; and 3) to counter China’s influence over the SPDC leaders.

Infrastructure and trade

In order to curry favor with Burma’s junta leaders, India is offering generous packages of economic aid. The economic aid is designed to allow the SPDC to improve its infrastructure in order to boost trade with India.

One of the key economic projects under consideration is the “Kaladan Project”. The proposed four year project will open a waterway to allow cargo vessels passage from Akyab Port to Kaletwa Port,

62 km up the Kaladan River.¹ In addition, a 222 km road has been proposed to connect Kaletwa Port and Mizoram.² The project is now pending the formal approval of the Indian government, after receiving approval from the Planning Commission of India.³ India is to provide approximately US\$103 million, as well as take on any cost overruns.⁴ Because the SPDC was unable to make funds available for the project – beyond making the land available – India agreed to provide a \$10 million soft loan.⁵

In addition to the “Kaladan Project”, India is pursuing other initiatives to increase trade with Burma. During the last three months India’s government officials have visited the Indo-Burma border areas five times to discuss new avenues to facilitate border trade. India committed to establish a new Land Customs station at Moreh in Manipur for promoting trade with Burma.⁶ India officials also agreed to address bureaucratic obstacles and harmonize cross-border financial regulations.⁷

Energy

Despite years of stalled negotiations, India continues to press the SPDC for an agreement to build a pipeline to transport natural gas from Burma’s western coast offshore fields. Speculation resurfaced in February that the SPDC will agree to the pipeline to India, forging closer economic and defense links, gaining a US\$20 million soft loan and a power station for the SPDC.

Military assistance

India’s grants of military aid are allowing the SPDC to upgrade its military equipment. However, India has conditioned the military aid on an understanding that the SPDC military attacks anti-Indian armed groups’ bases in Burma. SPDC resumed hostilities against Burma-based anti-Indian armed groups after operations had been halted by heavy rains in January. On 12 February, SPDC Army troops attacked the Khaplang faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, shelling the group’s positions in Sagaing Division and capturing the group’s base near Chuiyang Noknu village.⁸ At least 12 Naga fighters were killed in the operation.⁹ The attack was reportedly carried out using arms supplied by New Delhi.¹⁰

INSIDE BURMA

Poor SPDC Army!

Despite the massive proportion of Burma’s budget allocated to military expenditure, the SPDC Army’s rank and file continues to show signs of discontent and a low morale.

- Desertions from the SPDC Army continue in Arakan State. According to an army report, an estimated 110 soldiers from 10 SPDC Army battalions stationed in Rathidaung, Buthidaung, and Akyab deserted in December 2006 alone. A large number of soldiers also deserted from three Buthidaung-based SPDC Army battalions - LIB 233, 234, and 263.¹¹ On 2 February, an SPDC Army deserter was killed during a gunfight between three deserters from LIB 537 and SPDC Army troops near Ray Myat Village in Rathidaung Township.¹²
- In February, military authorities resorted to setting up people’s militias along border areas in an attempt to overcome a shorthanded SPDC Army in Arakan State. The SPDC Army planned to recruit 30 villagers in all village tracts in Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships to form a 1,000-

¹ AFP (02 Feb 07) India to invest in Myanmar port

² The Telegraph (01 Feb 07) Hope floats for Mizo waterway

³ Financial Express (04 Feb 07) Govt to spend \$100 million on linking Mizoram-Myanmar

⁴ The Telegraph (01 Feb 07) Hope floats for Mizo waterway

⁵ Financial Express (04 Feb 07) Govt to spend \$100 million on linking Mizoram-Myanmar

⁶ Hindustan Times (03 Feb 07) Jairam for more trade at Northeast borders

⁷ The Financial Express (19 Feb 07) North-eastern states seek third trade point at Pangasu Pass in Mizoram

⁸ Telegraph (12 Feb 07) Myanmar heat back on NSCN-K

⁹ BBC (22 Feb 07) Burma captures Indian rebel base

¹⁰ Assam Tribune (16 Feb 07) NSCN(K) confirms Myanmar army action

¹¹ Narinjara News (01 Feb 07) Desertion from Burmese Army on the rise

¹² Narinjara News (06 Feb 07) Deserter killed in encounter with army in Arakan

member strong militia.¹³ Since the beginning of February, the SPDC Army has also been conducting a new recruitment drive for the armed forces with the use of posters in all townships in Arakan State.¹⁴

The SPDC master plan

As the SPDC says it hopes to conclude the National Convention's proceedings by the end of 2007,¹⁵ the regime pushes forward with its plan to ensure the presence of military and Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) personnel in key administration posts at the central and local level.

- Posts in the local administrations have become much coveted jobs. U Shwe Tha Maung, a former ward chairman in Pauktaw Township, Arakan State, paid 1.2 million kyat as a bribe to the Township chairman to be reappointed to his position.¹⁶
- SPDC authorities in Chin State increased salaries to township and village chairmen in a bid to lure candidates into filling those positions.¹⁷
- Hundreds of military officers are being reassigned to civil service positions. Those who have not risen past the rank of captain by age 30, major by the age of 45 or colonel by 55 are being moved to government administration posts.¹⁸

Freedom of assembly: pro-junta yes, anti-junta no

While the regime turned a blind eye to pro-junta groups demonstrating in Rangoon from 30 January to 1 February against the United States and the United Kingdom,¹⁹ the SPDC continue to restrict, harass, and detain citizens participating in peaceful gatherings:

- **6 February:** a group of activists attending a regular Tuesday prayer for political prisoners at Rangoon's Shwedagon pagoda were doused with water by pagoda officials. Loudspeakers were used to disrupt the group's prayers.²⁰ Two weeks later, on **20 February**, the activists were again surrounded and threatened with violence by dozens of USDA members and pagoda security personnel. The group was ordered not to show up again at the pagoda.²¹
- **12 February:** SPDC authorities prevented a demonstration at the Shwedagon Pagoda by activist Tun Tun, who tried to display a picture of General Aung San.²² On the same day, SPDC local authorities banned a dinner organized by the pro-democracy United Nationalities Alliance (UNA) to mark Union Day. Foreign diplomats, members of the NLD and the "88 Generation Student" group, veteran politicians, and ethnic leaders were expected to attend the event.²³
- **22 February:** about 25 people took part in a 30-minute demonstration in downtown Rangoon, calling for improved health care and education, better pension benefits, and lower prices for food staples. Nine people taken into custody by the local police in connection with the protest were released on 27 February.²⁴ Three journalists who were covering the event were also briefly detained.²⁵

¹³ Narinjara News (14 Feb 07) Burmese Army forms people's militias in border area

¹⁴ Narinjara News (23 Feb 07) Poster campaign to recruit for army

¹⁵ Irrawaddy (15 Feb 07) Junta hopes to complete constitution drafting this year

¹⁶ Narinjara News (07 Feb 07) Village chairman forced to pay 1.2 million in bribe for new post

¹⁷ Khonumthung News (09 Feb 07) Junta decides to pay salaries to woo people in Chin State

¹⁸ Irrawaddy (16 Feb 07) Burma Reassigns Army Officers to Administration Posts

¹⁹ Mizzima News (01 Feb 07) Junta allows demonstrations against US, UK in Rangoon

²⁰ DVB (07 Feb 07) Shwedagon prayer campaigners soaked by officials

²¹ Mizzima News (20 Feb 07) Tuesday prayer goers nearly beaten up by pro-regime mob; DVB (21 Feb 07) Special police threaten Tuesday prayer activists

²² Irrawaddy (13 Feb 07) Aung San Commemorated at Children's Day Events in Rangoon

²³ Irrawaddy (12 Feb 07) Burma's "Union Day" marked at NLD headquarters

²⁴ Mizzima News (26 Feb 07) Junta arrests seven more demonstrators; Mizzima News (27 Feb 07) Junta releases nine demonstrators

²⁵ AP (23 Feb 07) Myanmar Cracks down on protestors

Despite such climate of intimidation, peaceful political activities by activists and ordinary citizens continued throughout February across Burma:

- **“Open heart” campaign:** the “88 Generation Students” group indefinitely extended its letter-writing campaign as a result of increasing interest across Burma. The campaign was initially due to end on 4 February.²⁶
- **Union Day celebrations:** on 12 February, about 800 pro-democracy activists, including members of the Committee Representing the People’s Parliament (CRPP), the NLD, the “88 Generation Student Groups” and ethnic political leaders, marked the 60th anniversary of Union Day at the NLD headquarters in Rangoon. The CRPP issued a statement calling on the regime to solve the country’s problems. The statement also demanded the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, her deputy, Tin Oo, and ethnic leaders.²⁷
- On the same day, 60-year-old former political prisoner Ohn Than staged a solo protest outside the party’s headquarters. He called for the 1990 election to be honored and for the convening of a parliament with elected lawmakers.²⁸

SPDC crackdown on opposition intensifies

As the SPDC pursues its strategy of legitimizing the USDA as a new political actor, it continues to heavily crackdown on the NLD and other pro-democracy political forces in the country.

- **7 February:** state-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar issued a threat to the NLD, suggesting its contacts with Western governments could lead to its demise. "People believe that the days of NLD, which relies too much on big Western nations, are numbered," the newspaper said.²⁹ The threat follows a prior attack on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in January. [See *January 2007 Burma Bulletin*.]
- **13 February:** SPDC extended by one year the house arrest of Tin Oo, deputy head of the NLD, despite calls by the party and the international community to release him.³⁰
- **15 February:** SPDC refused to give a timetable for the release of Daw Aung San Su Kyi and other political prisoners, Indonesia’s FM Hassan Wirajuda said following a closed-door morning meeting with SPDC Foreign Minister U Nyan Win.³¹
- **15 February:** SPDC police chief Brig-Gen Khin Yi summoned CRPP’s chairman Aung Shwe and secretary Aye Tha Aung at the Police Force office in Rangoon and warned them against releasing political statements.³²
- **21 February:** jailed NLD elected MP Daw May Win Myint, 57, had her 10-year prison sentence extended by 12 months.³³
- The SPDC is also hindering the reorganization of Arakan State’s and Akyab Township’s NLD by barring Arakan NLD members from traveling to the state capital Akyab to attend the party’s meetings.³⁴

Karen splinter group rewarded with TVs for “peace agreement”

On 11 February, in a highly orchestrated SPDC public relations event, a ceremony was held in Hto Kaw Koe village, Karen State, to recognize a peace agreement between Htain Maung’s newly formed

²⁶ DVB (05 Feb 07) 88 Generation Students extend Open Heart campaign

²⁷ Irrawaddy (12 Feb 07) Burma’s “Union Day” marked at NLD headquarters

²⁸ IHT (12 Feb 07) Myanmar junta chief accuses foreigners of trying to stir up racial conflict

²⁹ Hindustan Times (07 Feb 07) Days numbered for Myanmar’s NLD: report

³⁰ AP (13 Feb 07) Myanmar Extends Opposition’s Detention; Bangkok Post (14 Feb 07) Burma extends opposition house arrest

³¹ DPA (15 Feb 07) Myanmar refuses to give timetable of release Suu Kyi

³² Irrawaddy (16 Feb 07) Police Chief Warns Burma’s Opposition Alliance; DVB (16 Feb 07) Burma’s police chief threatens opposition alliance

³³ DVB (22 Feb 07) NLD member’s prison term extended

³⁴ Narinjara News (19 Feb 07) Burmese regime bars reformation of NLD in Arakan

group, the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council (KNU/KNLAPC) and the SPDC. The ceremony, which awarded Htain Maung's group with TVs, household goods, and building materials, was attended by high-level SPDC officials including Military Affairs Security Chief, Maj Gen Ye Myint and Southeast SPDC Military Commander, Brig Gen Thet Naing.³⁵ Htain Maung formed the KNU/KNLAPC the day after the KNU Central Committee removed him from his position the Commander of the KNLA 7th Brigade on 30 January.³⁶ [See ALTSEAN-Burma's briefer "*The KNU 7th Brigade defection: SPDC's propaganda over substance*".]

Htain Maung's efforts to engage the SPDC in peace talks had started in early January. The "peace" agreement was nothing more than meaningless agreement between the SPDC and a strawman, as KNU reports indicated that only 60 soldiers remained loyal to Htain Maung.³⁷

In deciding to abandon the KNLA, Htain Maung overestimated his powerbase in the KNU and misread the commitment of Karen people to genuine reforms. At the Karen Unity Seminar in the beginning of February, Htain Maung's new group was condemned by 67 representatives from 24 Karen organizations that attended.³⁸

HUMAN RIGHTS

Karen offensive: atrocities ongoing

The regime's military offensive in Karen State continued throughout February. 121 people were displaced and 60 villagers were forced to carry military supplies by SPDC Army troops in Nyaunglebyin District. In Kyauk Kyi Township, SPDC Army burned extensive areas of farmland and extorted money from villagers to repair the local army camp.³⁹

On 12 February, the **Karen Women's Organization** released "State of Terror", a report that documents over 4,000 incidents of human rights abuses perpetrated by the SPDC in Karen State. Building on the findings of their 2004 report "Shattering Silences", the new report primarily focuses on the testimony of women and girls who have survived and witnessed acts of violence.

Death and suffering in Burma's prisons

As the SPDC continues to bar the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from carrying out prisons visits in Burma, conditions of detentions remain very poor and well below internationally accepted standards. The SPDC's claims that prison conditions are improving are belied by several reports:

- Political prisoners in Mandalay prison are being denied access to physical exercise, books and healthcare.⁴⁰
- Long-term political prisoner Ko Thet Oo's condition is worsening and he needs immediate medical help.⁴¹
- In Len Tlang prison camp in Falam Township, Chin State, prisoners are forced into labor for eight hours a day, routinely tortured, and denied proper medical attention, according to an inmate who escaped from the camp.⁴²

In February, two more cases of custodial deaths occurred in Burma's prisons:

³⁵ NLM (12 Feb 07) Kayin National Union (KNU)/Kayin National Liberation Army (KNLA) Peace Council's victory of peace welcoming ceremony held

³⁶ Irrawaddy (08 Feb 07) Break-away Karen soldiers return to KNU fold

³⁷ Irrawaddy (08 Feb 07) Break-away Karen soldiers return to KNU fold

³⁸ Irrawaddy (05 Feb 07) Bo Mya's wife rejects role in Karen splinter group

³⁹ Free Burma Rangers (26 Feb 07) Burma Army Attacks and Mortars Villages, Destroys Property, Extorts Villagers' Property and Continues to Re-Supply Camps in Northern Karen State

⁴⁰ DVB (06 Feb 07) Mandalay political prisoners refused healthcare, exercise

⁴¹ DVB (16 Feb 07) Political prisoner's wife demands access to medical aid

⁴² Khonumthung News (12 Feb 07) Concentration camps in Chin state deprived of health care

- Myint Thein, a 20-year-old resident of Maaupin town, Irrawaddy Division, died after being taken into custody by the local police on 10 February for interrogation. Police told family members that he had died of malaria. The body shown to family members however had clear signs of torture and Myint Thein's wife denied her husband was suffering from malaria.⁴³
- Lin Lin Naing, an 18-year-old man from Okepo village, Pha-do district, in Pegu Division died in custody after being arrested on 8 February by local police. Police reportedly told local hospital staff that Lin Lin Naing had committed suicide while in custody.⁴⁴

Freedom of information: still no progress

In February, two independent organizations' reports once again revealed why Burma's record on press freedom continues to be one of the world's poorest.

- On 1 February, **Paris based Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF)** in its 2007 annual report on press freedom in Asia said:
 - SPDC's internet policies are even more repressive than China's and Vietnam's. The military junta filters opposition websites. It keeps a very close eye on Internet cafes and bans internet communications such as Google's Gtalk.
 - Privately-owned press is still subjected to censorship. News on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the socio-economic crisis, national and international events routinely go unreported.
 - Security services have stepped up surveillance of the press. Civilians have reportedly also been trained to identify international media "informers".
 - The junta has stepped up its telephone tapping capacity.⁴⁵
- On 5 February, the **New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)** in its report "Attacks on the Press in 2006" said:
 - Burma's media environment remains one of the most repressive in the world second only to North Korea on its most censored countries list.
 - With seven journalists behind bars, Burma was the fifth leading jailor of media professionals in 2006.
 - Censorship and harassment of the local media were pervasive in 2006. SPDC maintained and in some cases even intensified restrictions on the media.
 - Reporting on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her party, debates about government policies, news that unfavorably reflected upon the junta are all strictly prohibited.
 - The junta stepped up its campaign to counter critical news about its leadership and human rights record by harassing journalists who provided information to foreign and exile-run media in neighboring countries.⁴⁶

RSF and ICJ's findings were promptly confirmed by a two incidents reflective of the junta's attitude towards freedom of information:

- **8 February:** SPDC military intelligence authorities detained eight people who organized a public literacy seminar in a Buddhist monastery in Paungtalei Township, Pegu Division. According to unconfirmed reports they were all arrested under Section 5J of the 1950 the Emergency Provision Act and subsequently sentenced by a local court to three months in prison.⁴⁷
- **22 February:** Burmese correspondents Myat Thura of the Kyodo news agency, Sint Sint Aung of Nippon TV, and May Thagyan Hein of Myanmar Dhana economic magazine, were detained for

⁴³ Mizzima News (07 Feb 07) Rights activists vow to expose suspected custody killing

⁴⁴ DVB (22 Feb 07) Pegu man dies after night in police custody

⁴⁵ AFP (01 Feb 07) Press freedom improving in Asia despite censors, attacks: report; Mizzima News (02 Feb 07) Burma continues its iron grip on media: RSF

⁴⁶ Irrawaddy (07 Feb 07) Burma a leading jailor of journalists, report says; DVB (06 Feb 07) Burma's media still heavily shackled, says watchdog

⁴⁷ Mizzima News (23 Feb 07) MI detains eight for organising literacy seminar; Irrawaddy (22 Feb 07) Three People Reportedly Jailed for Organizing Literary Event

five hours at the Aung Tha Pyay police guest house after being arrested while they were covering a peaceful demonstration in Rangoon.⁴⁸

Child soldiers: SPDC denial continues

At the 6th meeting of the SPDC Committee for the Prevention of Recruiting Child Soldiers, the Committee Chair Lt Gen Thein Sein repeated the junta's denials that the SPDC Army uses forced conscription or child soldiers.⁴⁹ On 7 February, Thein Sein hosted a meeting of diplomats and representatives of the UNDP, UNICEF and ICRC to hear the committee repeat its claims that the SPDC has no child soldiers.⁵⁰

Burma is currently on a UN black list of twelve countries that currently have children bearing arms. On 6 February, 10 of these countries signed up to the "Paris Commitment" to take action to protect children from being recruited as child soldiers, and to prosecute recruiters or commanders of child soldiers. The SPDC did not take part in the meeting.⁵¹

DISPLACEMENT

Burmese migrant workers rounded up in Thailand

In Chiang Mai and Mae Sot, Thai soldiers and police went on a series of raids to identify, detain, and in some cases deport, undocumented migrant workers from Burma.

- **15 February:** 100 Thai soldiers from Infantry Division 17 arrested 215 migrant workers without papers at garment factories in Mae Sot. Those arrested were charged with illegal entry and sent to a local immigration office for deportation.⁵²
- On the same day, another factory was raided at 6 am and 300 people were taken to a nearby field, and separated according to those who had documentation, and those who did not. It is not known what happened to those that didn't have papers, but it is likely that they will be, or already have been, deported to Burma.⁵³
- **20 February:** Thai police arrested 29 workers at an employment site in Chiang Mai.⁵⁴
- **21 February:** police returned to the same spot and arrested another 40 and detained them at an immigration camp ready for deportation.⁵⁵

Moe Swe of the Yaung Chi Oo Burmese Workers Association pointed out that it was employers that are responsible for acquiring the permits for their workers, saying, "The authorities are taking action only against migrant workers with no permits, but they never target employers."⁵⁶

The SPDC against traffickers

In an effort to demonstrate to the international community that it is addressing the massive outflows of people from its borders, the SPDC amplified its propaganda campaign by claiming that it has created 30,000 jobs abroad for its people, through local employment agencies and bilateral agreements.⁵⁷

⁴⁸ Mizzima News (22 Feb 07) Japanese news agency reporter detained by police in Burma; Mizzima News (23 Feb 07) Reporters released after five-hour detention

⁴⁹ AP (02 Feb 06) Myanmar junta says Western allegations of child soldiers are untrue

⁵⁰ NLM (07 Feb 07) Secretary-1 briefs foreign diplomats on activities of Committee for Prevention of Recruiting Child Soldiers

⁵¹ AFP (06 Feb 07) First joint commitment by 58 countries to end use of child soldiers

⁵² Irrawaddy (15 Feb 07) Thai authorities target Burmese migrant workers

⁵³ Irrawaddy (15 Feb 07) Thai authorities target Burmese migrant workers

⁵⁴ Mizzima News (22 Feb 07) Dozens of Burmese migrants arrested in Chiang Mai

⁵⁵ Mizzima News (22 Feb 07) Dozens of Burmese migrants arrested in Chiang Mai

⁵⁶ Irrawaddy (15 Feb 07) Thai authorities target Burmese migrant workers

⁵⁷ Xinhua (22 Feb 07) Myanmar generates 30,000 jobs abroad for country people in past few years

According to a report in the SPDC mouthpiece New Light of Myanmar, there are only 300,000 migrant workers from Burma in Thailand. Thai estimates are closer to one million. The SPDC acknowledged that the majority of them do not hold work permits, but blamed human traffickers and “unscrupulous” Thai employers.⁵⁸

Two trafficking court proceedings also concluded this month, with life-sentences handed out in both cases.

- **7 February:** Rangoon East District Court sentenced three brothers, one to life imprisonment and the other two to ten years for trafficking four women and two children to a neighboring country.⁵⁹
- **18 February:** Yamethin District Court, Mandalay Division, sentenced 33 human traffickers to life imprisonment, for allegedly trafficking 49 young women to China and forcing them into marriages.⁶⁰

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Indonesia seeks cooperation with the SPDC

On 14-15 February, Indonesia and the SPDC held their first meeting of a joint commission aimed at strengthening bilateral ties in Jakarta.⁶¹ During the two day meeting Indonesian FM Hassan Wirajuda and his SPDC counterpart Nyan Win agreed to seek cooperation in fields of politics, economy, energy and military. On security matters, Indonesia committed to offering training and education for SPDC military officers.⁶²

FEBRUARY CHRONOLOGY

1	At the 6 th meeting of the Committee for Prevention against Recruitment of Minors, Gen Thein Sein denies that the SPDC Army uses forced conscription
1	18 Rohingya arrested in Ranong, Southern Thailand and charged with illegal entry.
1	Karen organizations gather for the 5th "Karen Unity Seminar".
1	Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council sends delegation to establish Hto Kaw Koe village tract in Karen State as a 'ceasefire zone'.
2	SPDC Army deserter is killed during a gunfight between three deserters and SPDC Army troops near Ray Myat Village in Rathidaung Township, Arakan State.
2	Unknown attacker throws hand-grenade into a group of people celebrating Mon National Day in Three Pagodas township injuring two people.
4	SPDC FM Nyan Win voices support for Iran's right to access civilian nuclear technology during a meeting between with Iran's Ambassador to Burma, Mohsen Pak Ayeen.
5	Rangoon-based weekly journal The Voice criticizes official censorship regulations, saying that restrictions on news stories are still being imposed.
5	Six porter prisoners escape from the Light Infantry Battalion 117 during operations in Karenni State.
6	A group of politicians and activists attending a regular Tuesday prayer meeting for political prisoners at Rangoon's Shwedagon pagoda are harassed by pagoda officials.
6	SPDC abolishes its traffic police force to establish a new body comprised of better educated recruits.
6	The Kachin Independence Army denies reports of plotting an unsuccessful assassination attempt on former KIA member Lasang Awng Wa. The Lasang Awng Wa group arrests ten men in connection with the assassination attempt.
7	State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar threatens the National League of Democracy, suggesting its contacts with Western governments could lead to its demise.
7	Rangoon East District Court sentences three brothers for trafficking four women and two children.
8	Nasaka authorities begin demolition of a Muslim village n Taungbro, Arakan State in order to build 120 new houses for model villagers to be relocated from other areas of Burma.

⁵⁸ Bangkok Post (22 Feb 07) 80,000 to 1 mln Burmese workers here; DVB (22 Feb 07) Tackling trafficking takes more than propaganda

⁵⁹ Xinhua (20 Feb 07) Myanmar sentences 3 more human traffickers

⁶⁰ AP (20 Feb 07) 33 human traffickers given life imprisonment in Myanmar; NLM (19 Feb 07) 33 human traffickers sentenced life imprisonment

⁶¹ AFP (13 Feb 07) Indonesia, Myanmar to hold first meeting of joint commission

⁶² The Hindu (16 Feb 07) Indonesia, Myanmar to cooperate on economy, politics

8	Lin Lin Naing, an 18-year-old man from Okepo village, Pha-do district, in Pegu Division dies in custody after being arrested by local police.
8	SPDC military intelligence authorities detain eight people who organized a public literacy seminar in a Buddhist monastery in Paungtalei town, Pegu Division.
8	A man is killed by the explosion of his own time bomb which he was planting inside the Jamil Mosque in Kyauktaka town, Pegu Division.
8	More than 60 soldiers leave Brig Gen Htain Maung's Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council and return to the KNLA's 7th Brigade.
8-9	SPDC authorities force residents in Ein Meh township, Irrawaddy Division to build a road between Phyin Thalet village and Shan Su village.
10	New Mon State Party officials in Three Pagodas Pass Township arrest drug smuggler and seize 8,834 amphetamine tablets.
11	Myint Thein, a 20-year-old resident of Maaupin town, Irrawaddy Division, dies in police custody.
11	SPDC Ministry of Information announces that a peace agreement has been reached with the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council.
12	SPDC Army troops resume their offensive against the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang), shelling the group's positions in Sagaing Division and setting a battalion camp ablaze.
12	Committee Representing the People's Parliament marks the 60 th anniversary of Union Day with an appeal to the regime to solve the country's problems.
12	About 800 people attend ceremony to mark Union Day 60 th anniversary at the National League for Democracy's headquarters in Rangoon.
13	SPDC extends by one year the house arrest of National league for Democracy's deputy leader Tin Oo.
13	SPDC authorities prevent a solo demonstration at the Shwedagon Pagoda by activist Tun Tun, who tries to display a picture of Aung San.
13	A court in Rangoon's Sanchaung Township postpones by one day its hearing of a defamation case leveled by activist Naw Ohn Hla against more than 123 editors and publishers.
13	A new HIV/AIDS awareness centre in Pakhutku, Magwe Division is closed down by SPDC officials after 3 days of operation.
14	13th national-level meeting of border authorities of Burma and India held in Naypyidaw. Matters under discussion include security issues, measures to prevent drug trafficking, border management, border trade and trans-border development plans.
15	Indonesian Foreign Minister Hasan Wirajuda says his visiting Burmese counterpart Nyan Win, told him that Burma "hopes to finish drafting the constitution by the end of the year."
15	SPDC police chief Brig-Gen Khin Yi warns leaders of the Committee Representing the People's Parliament against making political statements.
15	Rangoon's Sanchaung Township court again postpones to 27 February the hearing of a defamation lawsuit leveled by activist Naw Ohn Hla against 123 publishers and editors in Burma.
15	Thai military and police arrest nearly 500 migrant workers from Burma from four garment factories on the outskirts of Mae Sot.
15	Indonesia commits to offering training and education for SPDC military officers during Indonesia/Burma joint commission meeting in Jakarta.
16	Muse anti-narcotics police and SPDC Army personnel raid drug factory in Shan State's Mong Ko township.
16	Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, UN Special Rapporteur on Burma calls on the SPDC to release detained opposition leaders.
18	Bangladesh Border security arrest 14 people from Burma at the India-Pakistan border.
18	Yamethin District Court sentences 22 human traffickers to life imprisonment.
19	Seven Bangladeshi men attack a 15 year old Rohingya girl and her mother and brother as she returns to camp after giving evidence of gang rape in Cox's Bazaar Court.
20	The Chin National Council issues a statement urging the SPDC to engage in political dialogue with the opposition and release all political prisoners.
20	Dozens of members of the junta-backed Union Solidarity and Development Association and pagoda security personnel surround and threaten to beat activist gathered at Rangoon's Shwedagon pagoda for their regular Tuesday prayer.
20	Thai police arrest 29 migrant workers in Chiang Mai.
21	Malaysia's government backs away from police proposal to confine 2.5 million migrant workers to their living quarters.
21	The hearing of an appeal lodged with the Kaw Hmu court in Rangoon on behalf on jailed farmer Daw Khin Win is postponed until 27 February.
21	Around 40 migrant workers arrested in Chiang Mai.
21	Pro-democracy groups begin a three-day strategic meeting on the Thai-Burma border.

22	Hong Kong-based Asian Human Rights Commission condemns the Burmese judicial system for failing to hold fair trials and deliver justice to victims of human rights violations.
22	About 25 people take part in a demonstration in Rangoon, calling for improved health care and education, better pension benefits and lower prices for food staples. Nine protesters are taken into custody.
22	Three Burmese reporters are arrested while covering a protest against the military junta in downtown Rangoon. They are all released after five hours.
23	A staff member of the Burmese embassy in South Korea is arrested by Korean immigration officials at Seoul International Airport after trying to use another person's passport to leave the country.
23	UN Special Rapporteur on Burma Paulo Sergio Pinheiro calls on the SPDC to immediately grant access to and guarantee the safety and freedom of movement aid workers and groups in Karen State.
25	SPDC reports 229 narcotic-drug-related cases processed in January 2007. Three hundred thirty-one people including 54 women were sentenced to prison in connection with the cases.
26	SPDC Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe and SPDC Sec 1 Lt Gen Thein Sein meet with visiting Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan.
26	Thai police in Mae Sot takes into custody 10 people campaigning for peace in Burma.
26	Sanchaung Court once again postpones its hearing of a defamation case leveled by activist Naw Ohn Hla against more than 123 editors and publishers.
26	Bird flu detected in western Rangoon.
27	SPDC and ILO agree on procedure for victims of forced labor to seek redress.
27	Nine demonstrators detained in connection with the 22 February Rangoon protest are released.

REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN FEBRUARY 2007

“Attacks on the Press in 2006”, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

<http://www.cpj.org/attacks06/asia06/bur06.html>

CPJ’s annual report analyzes media conditions in 120 nations and documents press freedom abuses worldwide.

“2007 Annual Report”, Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF)

http://www.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/rapport_en_bd-4.pdf

RSF’s annual survey reports on press freedom in 98 countries and includes the main violations of journalists’ rights in 2006 and regional aspects of media and Internet freedom.

“Turning treasure into tears”, EarthRights International

http://www.earthrights.org/files/Burma%20Project/report-_turning_treasure_into_tears.pdf

The report documents human rights violations and environmental harm at the hands of SPDC and its business partners as they mine for gold, log forests, and construct a dam in Shwegyin Township, Pegu Division.

“State of Terror”, Karen Women’s Organization

http://www.womenofburma.org/Statement&Release/state_of_terror_report.pdf

Documents the ongoing rape, murder, torture and forced labor experienced by women living in Karen State.

“Burma Army Attacks and Mortars Villages, Destroys Property, Extorts Villagers’ Property and Continues to Re-Supply Camps in Northern Karen State”, Free Burma Rangers

<http://www.freeburmarangers.org/Reports/2007/20070225.html>

Report on SPDC Army attacks in Mon and Kyauk Kyi Townships in Nyaunglebyin District, Northern Karen State in February 2007.

“Update of the Current Situation in Northern Karen State”, Free Burma Rangers

<http://www.freeburmarangers.org/Reports/2007/20070205.html>

Report on the atrocities committed against Karen civilians by the SPDC Army in Northern Karen State in January 2007.