

ALTSEAN

ALTERNATIVE BURMA

ALTERNATIVE A SEAN NETWORK ON BURMA
campaigns, advocacy & capacity-building for human rights & democracy

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INTERNATIONAL CRIMES IN BURMA CONTINUE: UNSC COMMISSION OF INQUIRY STILL URGENTLY NEEDED

- Since the publication of “International crimes in Burma: the urgent need for a Commission of Inquiry,” the list of the SPDC’s crimes grows longer.
- In August and September 2009, the SPDC continued to perpetrate crimes against humanity and war crimes with total impunity, highlighting the urgent need for a UN Security Council-mandated Commission of Inquiry into crimes against humanity and war crimes in Burma.
- In the two-month period, the following were documented:
 - ☒ Over 50 victims of extrajudicial killings by SPDC Army soldiers.
 - ☒ At least 42 people subjected to forced labor.
 - ☒ An additional 10,000 people forcibly displaced in attacks targeting civilians.
 - ☒ At least 109 people subjected to arbitrary arrest and imprisonment.
 - ☒ Widespread use of torture against 100 civilians in Shan state, three in Northern Arakan State and a foreign citizen in Rangoon.
 - ☒ At least seven cases of rape and sexual violence.
 - ☒ Systematic and widespread persecution of ethnic and religious communities.
 - ☒ At least 13 children were recruited as child soldiers.

Murder

- **3 August:** SPDC soldiers from LIB 514 attacked and beheaded a 29-year-old woman in Mongkeung Township, Shan State.¹
- **28 August:** SPDC Army soldiers summarily executed over 50 Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) soldiers who defected after the regime offensive against the Kokang.²

Enslavement

- **13 August:** SPDC Army LIB 273 forced two villagers from Kyauktalin, Tenasserim Division, into service as porters carrying military and food supplies for two days from Kyauktalin to Natkyizin, Tenasserim Division.³
- **8 September:** Karen Human Rights Group released a report saying that the SPDC Army and DKBA subjected villagers to widespread abuse, including forced labor as porters, minesweepers, and forced recruitment of soldiers.⁴

¹ SHAN (11 Aug 09) Teenage girl gang raped by Burmese Army personnel; SHAN (06 Aug 09) Burmese Army troops behead woman

² Kachin News Group (04 Sep 09) Burmese soldiers kill over 50 Kokang allies

³ HURFOM (10 Sep 09) LIB no. 273, forced resident to serve portering into their operation

⁴ KHRG (08 Sep 09) Abuse in Pa'an District, Insecurity in Thailand: The dilemma for new refugees in Tha Song Yang; DVB (08 Sep 09) Army abuse still rife in Karen state

- **28 September:** The commander of LIB 266 based in Thantlang Township, Chin State, ordered 40 villages to provide 40 villagers each to perform forced labor to renovate SPDC Army camps.⁵

Forced displacement

- **5 August:** SPDC officials in Myitkyina, Kachin State, notified representatives of over 60 villages that they must relocate in order to make way for a new dam project.⁶
- **Through early August:** The SPDC Army's military offensive against civilian populations in Central Shan State forced an estimated 10,000 people in Central Shan State out of their villages and burned more than 500 homes.⁷ In Laikha Township alone, the SPDC Army displaced residents from over 40 villages and killed at least three villagers and tortured over 100.⁸
- **August:** Over 200 Karen fled from Eastern Karen State and sought shelter in camps across Thailand's Tak Province after their IDP camp was overrun by the junta-sponsored Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA).⁹

Arbitrary detention

On 4 September, the Thailand-based Assistant Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) said that the number of political prisoners in Burma had reached a record-high of 2,211.¹⁰ In August and September, the SPDC intensified its crackdown on pro-democracy activists, arresting 101, including 59 NLD members, and imprisoned eight, including four NLD members.¹¹

Torture

- **7 September:** Na Sa Ka personnel from Area 8 in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, tortured two local Rohingya women to get a signed confession that their husband had fled to Bangladesh.¹²
- **20 September:** Burma-born US citizen Nyi Nyi Aung told US embassy staff who visited him in Insein prison that SPDC authorities had subjected him to torture, including severe beating, sleep and food deprivation, and denied medical attention for the injuries he sustained.¹³
- **24 September:** Na Sa Ka personnel from Kalizabanga camp in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, tortured a 17-year-old local boy who was performing sentry duty.¹⁴

Rape and sexual violence

- **2 August:** SPDC Army forces gang-raped a woman in front of her husband in Laikha Township, Shan State.¹⁵
- **5 August:** An SPDC Army Captain and other soldiers from IB 132 gang-raped a 15-year-old girl in Kehsi Township, Southern Shan State.¹⁶
- **Mid-August:** Since August 15, SPDC Army soldiers from MOC 5 in Thandaung Township, Northern Karen State, have raped four women from villages in the area.¹⁷
- **8 September:** SPDC police raped and murdered a 14-year-old Lisu girl in Mongkoe Township, Shan State.¹⁸

Persecution of identifiable groups

Rohingya and Muslims:

⁵ Khonumthung News (28 Sep 09) Forty villages undergoing forced labour

⁶ DVB (26 Aug 09) Dam forces relocation of 60 villages

⁷ Irrawaddy (13 Aug 09) 10,000 Villagers Forcibly Relocated in Shan State: Rights Groups; DVB (13 Aug 09) 500 Shan houses burned in scorched earth campaign

⁸ Irrawaddy (13 Aug 09) 10,000 Villagers Forcibly Relocated in Shan State: Rights Groups

⁹ Irrawaddy (21 Aug 09) 30 More Karens Flee Hlinebwe; DVB (06 Aug 09) More Karen refugees flee to Thailand

¹⁰ Mizzima News (04 Sep 09) Political prisoners on the rise in Burma: AAPP; Mizzima News (04 Sep 09) Former air force officer sentenced to two years

¹¹ See Altsean Burma August-September 2009 Burma Bulletins

¹² Kaladan News (14 Sep 09) Two Rohingya women tortured in Nasaka camp

¹³ AP (25 Sep 09) American claims mistreatment in Myanmar prison; AP (26 Sep 09) U.S. Issues Formal Myanmar Complaint; Mizzima News (24 Sep 09) US embassy protests maltreatment of detained citizen; DVB (24 Sep 09) US citizen arrest a 'political smear campaign'; DVB (24 Sep 09) US detainee in Burma allegedly beaten

¹⁴ Kaladan News (28 Sep 09) Sentry tortured brutally in Maungdaw

¹⁵ SHAN (07 Aug 09) Burmese Army personnel gang-rape Shan woman

¹⁶ SHAN (11 Aug 09) Teenage girl gang raped by Burmese Army personnel

¹⁷ Free Burma Rangers (04 Sep 09) Burma Army Troops Rape Four Women as Abuses Continue Against Villagers in Northern Karen State

¹⁸ Kachin News Group (21 Sep 09) Teenage Lisu girl gang-raped and murdered by Burmese policemen

- **11 August:** Na Sa Ka personnel in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, arrested a 45-year-old local Rohingya on charges of allowing two workers to stay overnight at his house.¹⁹
- **17 August:** Na Sa Ka personnel in Northern Arakan State arrested eight local Muslims who returned from a prayer at a local mosque.²⁰
- **30 August:** Na Sa Ka from Area 8 in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, arrested two local Rohingyas for repairing a mosque.²¹
- **1 September:** Na Sa Ka personnel from Area 5 arrested five local Rohingyas farmers following a clash with Natala villagers.²²
- **25 September:** Na Sa Ka personnel in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, severely beat a local 18-year-old Rohingya boy.²³

Monks:

- **5 August:** SPDC authorities in Yenanchaung, Magwe Division, barred monks at the Myat Saw Nyi Naung pagoda from reciting sutras during a full moon religious ceremony.²⁴
- **11 August:** Plain clothes policemen in Rangoon's Bahan Township arrested and forcibly disrobed 36-year-old monk U Sanda Dika.²⁵
- **27 August:** SPDC authorities arrested an assistant chief monk from Shwe Zaydi Parli University monastery in Yenanchaung Township, Magwe Division.²⁶
- **28 August:** SPDC authorities arrested a young monk from Mandalay monastery in Pakokku, Magwe Division.²⁷
- **29 August:** SPDC authorities in Chauk Township, Magwe Division, arrested U Thumana, a monk from Pakokku.²⁸
- **29 August:** Special Branch police arrested abbot U Gaw Thita, as he landed at Rangoon International airport from Taiwan.²⁹
- **30 August:** SPDC authorities in Chauk Township, Magwe Division, raided the room of the head monk U Yaywada of Ngwe Taung monastery.³⁰
- **Early September:** The SPDC stepped up surveillance of monasteries in Rangoon, Pakokku in Magwe Division, Myingyan in Mandalay Division, and Akyab in Arakan State.³¹

Child soldiers

- **1 August:** SPDC Army recruited six Rakhine youth from the Indo-Burma border area in Chin State.³²
- **17 August:** SPDC Army IB 32 forcibly recruited five youths from Three Pagodas Pass in Karen State.³³
- **21 September:** The family of two children, aged 16, in Pegu Division filed a complaint with the ILO alleging that the SPDC Army forcibly recruited the children and then punished them for trying to escape.³⁴

¹⁹ Kaladan News (13 Aug 09) Nasaka's surprise checks upsets villagers in Maungdaw

²⁰ Kaladan News (21 Sep 09) Curfew for security on Maungdaw border

²¹ Kaladan News (14 Sep 09) Two Rohingyas women tortured in Nasaka camp

²² Kaladan News (07 Sep 09) Clash between Rohingyas and Natala settler in Maungdaw

²³ Kaladan News (28 Sep 09) Student severely beaten by Nasaka in Maungdaw

²⁴ Irrawaddy (06 Aug 09) Burmese Authorities Ban Chanting of Metta Sutta

²⁵ Mizzima News (04 Sep 09) Political prisoners on the rise in Burma: AAPP

²⁶ Mizzima News (01 Sep 09) Monks under close surveillance

²⁷ Mizzima News (01 Sep 09) Monks under close surveillance

²⁸ DVB (03 Sep 09) Monks intimidated close to 2007 anniversary

²⁹ Mizzima News (08 Sep 09) Abbot returning from Taiwan arrested

³⁰ Mizzima News (01 Sep 09) Monks under close surveillance

³¹ Irrawaddy (05 Sep 09) Security Tight on Anniversary of Monk-led Uprising; Kaladan News (07 Sep 09) Security beefed up in major religious places in Akyab; Narinjara News (27 Sep 09) Burmese monks demonstrate in Dhaka on 2nd anniversary of Saffron Revolution; Narinjara News (09 Sep 09) Security Tightened in Sittwe for Ottama Day; Irrawaddy (17 Sep 09) Eight Democracy Activists Arrested

³² Narinjara News (04 Aug 09) Six Youths Conscripted into Burmese Army

³³ Kaowao News(31 Aug 09) Burmese Army recruit escapes with injury

³⁴ DVB (23 Sep 09) Child soldier sentenced for deserting