

“It was ‘wait and see’ that let the regime start this new war against the Kachin. It is ‘wait and see’ that is letting them carry on attacking women and children. ‘Wait and see’ is a death sentence for us,” - Shirley Seng (Kachin Women’s Association Thailand)¹

Serious international crimes continue

In the six months since Thein Sein took office on 30 March, Burma’s regime has continued to perpetrate crimes against humanity and war crimes with total impunity. Reports of serious international crimes have increased significantly since the escalation of the ongoing Tatmadaw offensives in Kachin, and Shan States.

Rape and sexual violence

Since 30 March, there have been a total of 30 documented cases of rape of women and girls by military personnel in Burma’s ethnic areas. The majority occurred in Kachin and Shan States, where Tatmadaw soldiers gang-raped at least 28 women and girls during their ongoing military offensives against the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Shan State Army-North (SSA-N).

PROLOGUE: CRIMES COMMITTED BETWEEN THE ELECTIONS AND THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW REGIME

- At least 6 cases of rape and sexual violence perpetrated by military personnel.
- At least 10 civilians killed.
- At least 14 cases of forced labor.
- At least 1,200 prisoners forced to carry military supplies during offensives in Karen State and Eastern Pegu Division.
- At least 700 families forcibly displaced by Tatmadaw forces.
- At least 15 people subjected to arbitrary imprisonment or extended sentencing.
- At least 6 cases of torture.

- **10 April:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 574 gang-raped a 44-year-old woman in Wan Nawng Tao Village, Mongyawng Township, Shan State.²
- **14 April:** Na Sa Ka personnel gang-raped the 40-year-old wife of a former local village chairman and his two daughters-in-law in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State.³
- **29 April:** Na Sa Ka personnel gang-raped an 18-year-old girl in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State.⁴
- **2 June:** Five Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 9 gang-raped a 35-year-old woman in Wan Nar Karng Village, Kyethi Township, Northern Shan State.⁵
- **10-14 June:** Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 237 raped two women in Dung Bung Village, Momauk Township, Kachin State.⁶
- **10-14 June:** Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 141 raped three women aged between 22 and 27 in Na Lun Village, Momauk Township, Kachin State.⁷ [This incident is also reported under “Killing of civilians”]
- **14 June:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 437 raped a woman in Momauk Township, Kachin State.⁸
- **17 June:** Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 142 raped a 25-year-old woman in front of her husband in Daw Hpum Yang, Momauk Township, Kachin State⁹ [This incident is also reported under “Killing of civilians”]

¹ KWAT (10 Oct 11) Report Exposes Atrocities In Burma’s Newest War

² SWAN (14 Jul 11) Rape cases documented during Burma Army offensive in northern Shan State since 13 March 2001

³ Kaladan News (28 Apr 11) Villagers of Maungdaw North flee to Bangladesh

⁴ Kaladan News (07 May 11) Girl gang-raped by Na Sa Ka in Maungdaw

⁵ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Rape cases documented during Burma Army offensive in northern Shan State since 13 March 2001

⁶ KWAT (21 Jun 11) Kachin women demand immediate end to Burmese regime’s use of rape as a weapon of war in northern Burma offensive

⁷ KWAT (21 Jun 11) Kachin women demand immediate end to Burmese regime’s use of rape as a weapon of war in northern Burma offensive

⁸ KWAT (21 Jun 11) Kachin women demand immediate end to Burmese regime’s use of rape as a weapon of war in northern Burma offensive

⁹ KWAT (21 Jun 11) Kachin women demand immediate end to Burmese regime’s use of rape as a weapon of war in northern Burma offensive

- **17 June:** Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 141 raped four women aged between 18 and 20 in Si Bo Village, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State.¹⁰ [This incident is also reported under “Killing of civilians”]
- **18 June:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 437 raped six women, the youngest only 15 years old, in Dum Bung Village, Momauk Township, Kachin State.¹¹
- **18 June:** Three Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 139 raped a 50-year-old woman in Je Sawn Village, Mansi Township, Kachin State.¹²
- **5 July:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 513 raped three women and a 12-year-old girl in Kyethi Township, Northern Shan State.¹³
- **9 August:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 37 gang-raped and killed a 39-year-old woman and her 17-year-old daughter near Waingmaw, Kachin State.¹⁴ [This incident is also reported under “Killing of civilians”]

Recruitment of child soldiers

Child soldier recruitments showed no signs of decreasing after Thein Sein took office. In July 2011, the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Rangoon said it received 424 reports of child soldiers being recruited since January.¹⁵

Killing of civilians

- **14 April:** Tatmadaw troops in Tangyan Township, Northern Shan State, killed a local fisherman suspected of being a Shan State Army-North (SSA-N) soldier.¹⁶
- **15 April:** Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 22 in Tangyan Township, Northern Shan State, beat to death a local 25-year-old man during interrogation.¹⁷
- **20 April:** Tatmadaw soldiers in Tangyan Township, Northern Shan State beat to death a local 40-year-old farmer suspected of being an SSA-N soldier.¹⁸
- **28 April:** Tatmadaw soldiers in Monghsu Township, Shan State, shot and killed two local villagers.¹⁹
- **2 May:** Tatmadaw soldiers in Nar Kar Village, Northern Tangyan Township, Shan State, shot dead three local villagers suspected of having ties to the SSA-N.²⁰
- **7 May:** Tatmadaw soldiers in Mong Gao Village, Tangyan Township, Northern Shan State, beat to death a 32-year-old villager suspected of having ties to the SSA-N.²¹
- **6 June:** Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 296 shot and killed a 44-year-old villager in Kunhing Township, Southern Shan State.²²

“My son was arrested by ward authorities and fire brigade members on 5 July around 11pm – they beat him up and sent him to Hlaing Tharyar police station and from there, he was transferred to a [Military Police] centre in Hlaing Township.

When he was in police detention, he said he would commit suicide if he were returned to the army – he was tortured when they recaptured him.”

– Mother of 15-year-old Yay Chan, who was initially recruited into the Tatmadaw in 2009 and re-arrested after he escaped from the military in May 2011.

Source: DVB (12 Jul 11) Recaptured child soldier tortured: mother

¹⁰ KWAT (21 Jun 11) Kachin women demand immediate end to Burmese regime’s use of rape as a weapon of war in northern Burma offensive

¹¹ KWAT (21 Jun 11) Kachin women demand immediate end to Burmese regime’s use of rape as a weapon of war in northern Burma offensive

¹² KWAT (21 Jun 11) Kachin women demand immediate end to Burmese regime’s use of rape as a weapon of war in northern Burma offensive

¹³ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Rape cases documented during Burma Army offensive in northern Shan State since 13 March 2001

¹⁴ KWAT (16 Aug 11) Growing numbers of displaced Kachin suffer from Burmese regime’s blockage of aid

¹⁵ Irrawaddy (14 Jul 11) Child Soldier Complaints on the Rise in Burma: ILO

¹⁶ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Update of human rights abuses committed by Burma Army reported in northern and central Shan State during Burma Army offensive

¹⁷ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Update of human rights abuses committed by Burma Army reported in northern and central Shan State during Burma Army offensive

¹⁸ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Update of human rights abuses committed by Burma Army reported in northern and central Shan State during Burma Army offensive

¹⁹ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Update of human rights abuses committed by Burma Army reported in northern and central Shan State during Burma Army offensive

²⁰ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Update of human rights abuses committed by Burma Army reported in northern and central Shan State during Burma Army offensive

²¹ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Update of human rights abuses committed by Burma Army reported in northern and central Shan State during Burma Army offensive

- **7 June:** Tatmadaw LIB 283 fired mortar shells into Mae T'lar Village, Kawkareik Township, Karen State, and killed a seven-year-old-child.²³
- **10-14 June:** Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 141 killed three women aged between 22 and 27 years in Na Lun Village, Momauk Township, Kachin State.²⁴ [This incident is also reported under "Rape and Sexual Violence"]
- **12 June:** Tatmadaw troops killed a 30-year-old local villager during an attack on an SSA-N base at Kawng Sao Merng Village, Hsipaw Township, Northern Shan State.²⁵
- **14 June:** An unidentified Tatmadaw battalion shot and killed four villagers from Hsipaw Township, Northern Shan State, while they were working on a farm.²⁶
- **16 June:** Tatmadaw LIB 501 troops shot and killed a 35-year-old villager in Hsipaw Township, Northern Shan State. On the same day, Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 67 shot and killed a 13-year-old girl and a 70-year-old woman in Hsipaw Township.²⁷
- **17 June:** Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 142 killed a 25-year-old woman in Daw Hpum Yang, Momauk Township, Kachin State.²⁸ [This incident is also reported under "Rape and Sexual Violence"]
- **17 June:** Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 141 killed a mother of four in Si Bo Village, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State.²⁹ [This incident is also reported under "Rape and Sexual Violence"]
- **18 June:** Three Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 139 killed a 50-year-old woman and her granddaughter in Je Sawm Village, Mansi Township, Kachin State.³⁰
- **31 July:** Tatmadaw troops from IB 58 killed two local villagers in Hpakant Township, Kachin State.³¹
- **9 August:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 37 killed a 39-year-old woman and her 17-year-old daughter near Waingmaw, Kachin State.³² [This incident is also reported under "Rape and Sexual Violence"]
- **11 August:** Tatmadaw troops from IB 105 shot and killed a 15-year-old boy during military operations against KIA Battalion 12 forces near Pang Sak Village in Mansi Township, Kachin State.³³
- **16 August:** Tatmadaw troops from IB 130 in Mantong Township shot and killed a 27-year-old local villager suspected of being an SSA-N supporter.³⁴
- **20 August:** Tatmadaw troops from IB 74 shelled Gawoo Village in Mansi Township, Kachin State, killing a six-year-old girl.³⁵
- **25 September:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 282 killed two local villagers during a counter-insurgency operation in Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division.³⁶

Forced labor

In June, the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Committee on the Application of Standards said that the regime had failed to make any "substantive progress" towards ending forced labor in Burma.³⁷ After Thein Sein took office on 30 March, reports continued to surface of incidents of forced labor. Tatmadaw soldiers also continued to force villagers, including Buddhist monks, to act as human shields.

²² SHAN (08 Jun 11) 3 villagers shot by Burma Army soldiers

²³ KHRG (16 Jun 11) Tatmadaw shelling kills one child, injures another in Mae T'lar village

²⁴ KWAT (21 Jun 11) Kachin women demand immediate end to Burmese regime's use of rape as a weapon of war in northern Burma offensive

²⁵ SHAN (13 Jun 11) Shan army loses another base

²⁶ SHAN (16 Jun 11) Newsflash

²⁷ SHAN (08 Jun 11) 3 villagers shot by Burma Army soldiers; SHAN (16 Jun 11) Newsflash

²⁸ KWAT (21 Jun 11) Kachin women demand immediate end to Burmese regime's use of rape as a weapon of war in northern Burma offensive

²⁹ KWAT (21 Jun 11) Kachin women demand immediate end to Burmese regime's use of rape as a weapon of war in northern Burma offensive

³⁰ KWAT (21 Jun 11) Kachin women demand immediate end to Burmese regime's use of rape as a weapon of war in northern Burma offensive

³¹ Kachin News Group (01 Aug 11) Burmese army brutally kills a Kachin farmer; Mizzima News (01 Aug 11) Civilian shot dead, one civilian arrested by government troops in Kamaing

³² KWAT (16 Aug 11) Growing numbers of displaced Kachin suffer from Burmese regime's blockage of aid

³³ Kachin News Group (16 Aug 11) Innocent teenage boy shot dead by Burmese soldiers; Kachin News Group (24 Aug 11) Burma Army IB. No. 105 killed innocent boy

³⁴ Mizzima News (24 Aug 11) Palaung civilian shot dead on the spot by government troops

³⁵ Mizzima News (23 Aug 11) Calling us 'insurgents' makes political dialogue difficult: KIO

³⁶ Irrawaddy (28 Sep 11) Burmese Army Kills Two Civilians in Raid; Mizzima News (28 Sep 11) Villagers accidentally shot as government troops fire at armed group

³⁷ International Labor Conference, 100th session, Special sitting to examine developments concerning the question of the observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), 15 June 2010 and Recommendations

- **11 April:** Tatmadaw troops in Tangyan Township, Northern Shan State, forcibly recruited 17 local women to be porters.³⁸
- **30 May:** Tatmadaw forces from LIB 563 based in Three Pagodas Pass, Kyainnseikyi Township, Karen State, forced 10 villagers to porter food supplies.³⁹
- **6 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 373 forced 34 villagers from Aplon and Myaing Thayar Villages in Kyainnseikyi Township, Karen State, to porter military supplies and walk ahead of troops as human shields and minesweepers.⁴⁰
- **18 June:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 437 forced men from three households to work as porters in Dum Bung Village, Momauk Township, Kachin State.⁴¹
- **22 June:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 269 forced four villagers from Haimual Village, Falam Township, Chin State, to carry military supplies.⁴²
- **23 July:** Na Sa Ka personnel from Area 6 in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, forced about 100 local villagers to repair a fishing dam.⁴³
- **9 August:** Tatmadaw soldiers from the Hakha-based LIB 266 in Chin State forced three high school students to carry military rations.⁴⁴
- **18 September:** Tatmadaw soldiers in Kyethi Township forced at least 10 local Buddhist monks to act as human shields during an operation to deliver supplies to troops in conflict areas.⁴⁵
- **20 September:** Tatmadaw troops force about 20 villagers from Mongkawng Village, Kyethi Township, Northern Shan State, to act as human shields.⁴⁶

Forced displacement of civilians

Tatmadaw troops continued to force people to flee their homes as part of military offensives in Shan State.

- **19 April:** Tatmadaw troops from IB 43 burned 70 homes in seven villages in Mong Pieng Township, Eastern Shan State, because they believed the residents had provided support to the Shan State Army-South (SSA-S).⁴⁷
- **23 August:** Tatmadaw troops burned down five houses in Wan Phwee Village, Kyethi Township, Northern Shan State, because they suspected residents were SSA-N supporters.⁴⁸

These reports reflect an ongoing trend of forced displacement in ethnic regions. On 25 October, the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) said that between August 2010 and July 2011 the regime forcibly displaced at least 112,000 people in Eastern Burma.⁴⁹

Arbitrary detention and imprisonment

Under Thein Sein's regime, authorities continued to subject activists and media persons to arbitrary arrest and imprisonment.

- **3 April:** Special Branch police in Rangoon arrested Nay Myo Zin, a volunteer with the NLD-supported blood donation group, while on his way to donate blood at a hospital in Thingangyun

³⁸ SHAN (22 Apr 11) Junta army has women porters lead the way in war zone

³⁹ IMNA (31 May 11) Ten Villagers Forced to Porter for LIB No. 563

⁴⁰ IMNA (08 Jun 11) Dozens of Villagers Forced to Porter in Three Pagodas Pass; Mizzima News (08 Jun 11) Villagers forced to serve as human shields and porters by Burmese soldiers

⁴¹ KWAT (21 Jun 11) Kachin women demand immediate end to Burmese regime's use of rape as a weapon of war in northern Burma offensive

⁴² Chinland Guardian (23 Jul 11) Soldiers Forced Villagers to Carry Military Rations

⁴³ Kaladan News (25 Jul 11) Border administration force extracts forced labor from villagers

⁴⁴ Khonumthung News (08 Sep 11) Government employees forced to work on holidays in Chin State

⁴⁵ DVB (21 Sep 11) Shan monks used as human shields; Irrawaddy (19 Sep 11) Fighting Continues in Kachin State

⁴⁶ DVB (21 Sep 11) Shan monks used as human shields

⁴⁷ SHAN (27 Apr 11) 7 villages in Shan East burnt down by Burma Army soldiers

⁴⁸ SHAN (24 Aug 11) Newsflash; Mizzima News (24 Aug 11) Palaung civilian shot dead on the spot by government troops

⁴⁹ TBBC (25 Aug 11) Displacement and poverty in South East Burma/Myanmar

Township.⁵⁰ On 26 August, the Rangoon Northern District Court sentenced him to 10 years in prison under the Electronics Act. The regime accused him of sending articles critical of the regime to Burmese exiled media.⁵¹

- **19 May:** A court in Minhla Township, Magwe Division, sentenced farmers Than Oo, Htun Min Lwin, Aung Lin, Khin Maung San, and Kyaw Nyunt, to prison terms ranging from eight to 12 years. The military-owned Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings and Htoo Trading, owned by regime crony Tay Za, filed a complaint against the five farmers for trespassing on land the two companies had confiscated from them to build a factory.⁵²
- **19 July:** Police in Tatkon, Mandalay Division, arrested NLD member Aung Hla Myint aka Pho Htaung under the Immigration Act. Police accused Pho Htaung, a Muslim, of traveling to Meikhtila to attend a Martyr's Day ceremony without first requesting permission from the authorities.⁵³ In August, a court in Meikhtila Township, Mandalay Division, sentenced him to 16 months in prison under the Immigration Act.⁵⁴
- **10 September:** Police in Akyab, Arakan State, arrested a local taxi driver for playing political songs produced by a Burmese exiled group.⁵⁵ On 19 September, a court in Akyab sentenced him to a 65,000-kyat (about US\$80) fine.⁵⁶
- **14 September:** Rangoon Eastern District Court sentenced photographer Sithu Zeya to an additional 10 years in prison under the Electronics Act for online distribution of material that could "damage tranquility and unity." Sithu Zeya will now serve a total of 18 years in prison.⁵⁷
- **20 September:** Police in Rangoon arrested a 46-year-old activist who demonstrated against the Myitsone dam project.⁵⁸
- **26 September:** Police in Akyab, Arakan State, detained a local resident to force his brother Zaw Chay aka Zaw Zaw to surrender. Police suspected Zaw Chay was involved in organizing activities for the anniversary of the crackdown on the Saffron Revolution.⁵⁹

Tatmadaw soldiers in Kachin and Shan State arbitrarily detained a large number of local villagers during their military operations against the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Shan State Army-North (SSA-N).

- **24 April:** Tatmadaw soldiers in Tangyan Township, Shan State, arrested a local 30-year-old villager.⁶⁰ [This incident is also reported under "Continued use of torture"]
- **2-5 July:** About 200 Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 64 and LIBs 513 and 577 detained more than 90 local villagers during military operations in Monghsu Township, Northern Shan State.⁶¹
- **26 August:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 504 in Wan Phwee Village, Kyethi Township, Northern Shan State, detained and severely beat four local villagers suspected of having ties to the SSA-N.⁶²
- **19 September:** It was reported that Tatmadaw troops from LIB 387 in Momauk Township, Kachin State, detained 12 local villagers suspected of providing support to the KIA.⁶³

⁵⁰ Mizzima News (04 Apr 11) Blood donation group volunteer arrested in Rangoon; DVB (05 Apr 11) Ex-army captain arrested, interrogated

⁵¹ AP (30 Aug 11) Myanmar sentences ex-army captain to 10 years for sending information to dissident groups; AFP (30 Aug 11) Myanmar jails man for 10 years for web article; Irrawaddy (26 Aug 11) Nay Myo Zin Sentenced to 10 Years; Mizzima News (27 Aug 11) Former military officer sentenced to 10 years in prison under Electronics Act; DVB (29 Aug 11) Ex-army captain sentenced to 10 years

⁵² DVB (23 May 11) Farmers given lengthy jail terms

⁵³ DVB (22 Jul 11) Arrest dampens Martyrs' Day jubilation

⁵⁴ Irrawaddy (26 Aug 11) Nay Myo Zin Sentenced to 10 Years

⁵⁵ Narinjara News (23 Sep 11) Three-Wheeler Driver Fined 65,000 Kyat for Playing Political Song

⁵⁶ Narinjara News (23 Sep 11) Three-Wheeler Driver Fined 65,000 Kyat for Playing Political Song

⁵⁷ AP (15 Sep 11) Myanmar court sentences independent journalist to 10 more years in jail; Irrawaddy (14 Sep 11) VJ Handed 10 More Years; DVB (14 Sep 11) DVB VJ given additional 10 yrs in jail; RSF (14 Sep 11) Jailed reporter's total sentence increased to 18 years; VOA (15 Sep 11) Burmese Court Extends Press Photographer's Jail Term; CPJ (15 Sep 11) Burmese journalist given additional 10-year sentence

Mizzima News (15 Sep 11) DVB journalist sentenced to additional 10 years in prison

⁵⁸ AFP (20 Sep 11) Myanmar arrests anti-dam activist in rare protest

⁵⁹ Narinjara News (29 Sep 11) Ailing Youth Detained in Lieu of Activist Brother in Arakan's Capital

⁶⁰ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Update of human rights abuses committed by Burma Army reported in northern and central Shan State during Burma Army offensive

⁶¹ SHAN (07 Jul 11) Newsflash

⁶² SHAN (05 Sep 11) Newsflash

⁶³ Mizzima News (19 Sep 11) Burmese government troops arrest 12 Kachin villagers

The regime also continued to subject Muslim Rohingya to arbitrary detention, torture, and extra-judicial killings [See below “Persecution of Muslim Rohingya”]

Continued use of torture

Regime authorities and Tatmadaw soldiers continued to torture local villagers in ethnic areas as part of their offensive against the Shan State Army-North (SSA-N) and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA).

- **24 April:** Tatmadaw soldiers in Tangyan Township, Shan State, tortured a local 30-year-old villager.⁶⁴ [This incident is also reported under “Arbitrary detention and imprisonment”]
- **2 May:** Tatmadaw troops in Tangyan Township, Shan State, tortured four local villagers because they believed they provided support for SSA-N soldiers.⁶⁵
- **8 May:** Tatmadaw soldiers in Tangyan Township, Shan State, tortured a local 32-year-old villager during interrogation.⁶⁶
- **22 May:** Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 67 in Mongyai Township, Shan State, tortured six local villagers during interrogation.⁶⁷
- **22 May:** Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 67 in Wan Barng Hoong Village, Mongyai Township, Shan State, tortured a villager because they suspected he had ties to the SSA-N.⁶⁸
- **23 May:** Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 67 in Nar Saai Village, Mongyai Township, Shan State, tortured two villagers during interrogation.⁶⁹
- **21 June:** Police in Nongmung Township, Kachin State, tortured 12 local villagers because they believed they had ties to the KIA.⁷⁰
- **16 Aug 11:** Regime-backed militia in Three Pagodas Pass, Kyainnseiki Township, Karen State, detained and tortured two local villagers suspected of having ties to an armed group.⁷¹

In addition, Na Sa Ka personnel in Northern Arakan State continued to torture Muslim Rohingya. [See below “Persecution of Muslim Rohingya”]

Persecution of Muslim Rohingya

Muslim Rohingya in Northern Arakan State continued to face systematic discrimination at the hands of the regime, which resulted in the denial of their fundamental human rights. Regime authorities continued to subject Rohingya to arbitrary arrest and imprisonment,⁷² torture,⁷³ extrajudicial killings,⁷⁴ restriction of movement,⁷⁵ limitations on permission to marry,⁷⁶ extortion,⁷⁷ and harassment.⁷⁸

⁶⁴ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Update of human rights abuses committed by Burma Army reported in northern and central Shan State during Burma Army offensive

⁶⁵ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Update of human rights abuses committed by Burma Army reported in northern and central Shan State during Burma Army offensive

⁶⁶ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Update of human rights abuses committed by Burma Army reported in northern and central Shan State during Burma Army offensive

⁶⁷ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Update of human rights abuses committed by Burma Army reported in northern and central Shan State during Burma Army offensive

⁶⁸ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Update of human rights abuses committed by Burma Army reported in northern and central Shan State during Burma Army offensive

⁶⁹ SWAN (14 Jul 11) Update of human rights abuses committed by Burma Army reported in northern and central Shan State during Burma Army offensive

⁷⁰ Mizzima News (15 Jul 11) Kachin villagers file complaint accusing police of torture

⁷¹ IMNA (23 Aug 11) TPP Town People’s Militia beats residents

⁷² Kaladan News (08 Apr 11) Nasaka commander illegally extorts money from villagers; Narinjara News (09 Apr 11) National Security personnel harass Rohingya in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (30 Jul 11) Unruly activities of Nasakas collaborators in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (29 Jul 11) Border security force continues to extort money in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (26 Aug 11) Nasaka Arrests Three Muslims for Extortion; Kaladan News (12 Aug 11) Nasaka officers disturb Mosque-goers in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (26 Aug 11) Nasaka Arrests Three Muslims for Extortion; Kaladan News (26 Aug 11) Elder brother arrested for his younger brother’s love affairs; Kaladan News (30 Aug 11) Border security force squeezes youth for money; Kaladan News (03 Sep 11) Border security force looting money from Rohingyas; Kaladan News (07 Sep 11) District court sentence 13 Rohingya in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (19 Sep 11) State Immigration and Population chief forces magistrate to imprison 9-Rohingya in Akyab; Narinjara News (14 Sep 11) 9 Muslims Sentenced to Prison for Traveling to Central Burma from Arakan State

⁷³ Kaladan News (08 Apr 11) Nasaka commander illegally extorts money from villagers; Kaladan News (08 Apr 11) Nasaka commander illegally extorts money from villagers; Kaladan News (12 Aug 11) Nasaka officers disturb Mosque-goers in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (11 Jul 11) Nasaka’s arbitrary extortion of money continues in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (12 Aug 11) Nasaka officers disturb Mosque-goers in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (02 Sep 11) Rohingya celebrates Eid-ul-Fitr amid not festivity in Maungdaw

Domestic and international support for CoI grows

UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana first recommended that the UN consider establishing a Commission of Inquiry (CoI) into serious international crimes in Burma in March 2010.⁷⁹ On 23 May, Ojea Quintana declared that he would continue to push for the establishment of a CoI at the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly.⁸⁰

On 22 June, in a video message to the US House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also reiterated her support for a CoI. Daw Suu said that such a commission should identify what human rights violations had taken place in Burma and make recommendations to ensure that these violations would not occur again in the future.⁸¹

As of 30 September, 16 governments have voiced support for the creation of a CoI. They include Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Slovakia, the UK, and the US.⁸² The US repeated calls for the establishment of a CoI following visits to Burma by US Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Joseph Yun and Senator John McCain in May and June respectively.⁸³

Commission of Inquiry has strong preventive value

The main purpose of establishing a Commission of Inquiry (CoI) is to obtain the truth behind allegations of serious international crimes. The CoI should also make a wide range of recommendations related to justice, reparations, and guarantees of non-recurrence. The creation of a CoI should thus be considered part of a long-term effort to end impunity in Burma. It should provide a basis for national reconciliation and sustainable peace in the country, as justice is a fundamental part of any transition to democracy. The creation of a CoI also has a strong preventive value. Holding Burma's regime to account for human rights abuses may deter future violations and promote respect for the rule of law. It could also promote discipline and professionalism among the armed forces and law enforcement officials as well as improve relations with the civilian population.

⁷⁴ Kaladan News (01 Sep 11) Nasaka shoot Rohingya youth for a quid of betel; Kaladan News (02 Sep 11) Nasaka killed another villager in Maungdaw

⁷⁵ Kaladan News (19 Sep 11) State Immigration and Population chief forces magistrate to imprison 9-Rohingya in Akyab; Narinjara News (14 Sep 11) 9 Muslims Sentenced to Prison for Traveling to Central Burma from Arakan State

⁷⁶ Kaladan News (30 Jul 11) Unruly activities of Nasakas collaborators in Maungdaw

⁷⁷ Kaladan News (08 Apr 11) Nasaka commander illegally extorts money from villagers; Narinjara News (09 Apr 11) National Security personnel harass Rohingya in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (29 Jul 11) Border security force continues to extort money in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (30 Jul 11) Unruly activities of Nasakas collaborators in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (26 Aug 11) Nasaka Arrests Three Muslims for Extortion; Kaladan News (26 Aug 11) Nasaka Arrests Three Muslims for Extortion; Kaladan News (30 Aug 11) Border security force squeezes youth for money; Kaladan News (03 Sep 11) Border security force looting money from Rohingya

⁷⁸ Narinjara News (09 Apr 11) National Security personnel harass Rohingya in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (03 May 11) Nasaka entering villagers' houses at night in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (10 Aug 11) Nasaka forces villagers to massage officers at night; Kaladan News (12 Aug 11) Nasaka officers disturb Mosque-goers in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (17 Aug 11) Village sentry posts increased in Maungdaw; Kaladan News (26 Aug 11) Elder brother arrested for his younger brother's love affairs

⁷⁹ Reuters (11 Mar 10) U.N. rights envoy seeks Myanmar war crimes inquiry; AFP (11 Mar 10) Myanmar abuse may be crimes against humanity: UN expert; AFP (12 Mar 10) UN urges war crimes probe in Myanmar; DVB (11 Mar 10) Burma war crimes probe gets UN backing; Irrawaddy (11 Mar 10) Quintana Recommends UN War Crimes Commission on Burma; Irrawaddy (11 Mar 10) Quintana Recommends UN War Crimes Commission on Burma

⁸⁰ DPA (23 May 11) UN envoy says inquiry needed over rights abuses by Myanmar

⁸¹ AFP (22 Jun 11) Suu Kyi urges US effort for rights probe; NLD (23 Jun 11) Testimony of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made before US Congress; VOA (22 Jun 11) Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi Asks for US Support for Rights Inquiry; Irrawaddy (23 Jun 11) Suu Kyi Urges US Support for CoI

⁸² BCUK (25 Mar 10) UK Government supports Burma regime referral to International Criminal Court; Irrawaddy (08 Apr 10) Czech Supports UN War Crimes Inquiry on Burma; New Zealand Parliament (22 Apr 10) New Zealand Parliament Order Paper and Questions: Questions for written answer; UNHRC (08 Jun 10) Human Rights Council holds General debate on human rights situations that require the Council's attention; CFOB (02 Sep 10) Canada to Support UN Commission of Inquiry on Burma; EPCB (07 Sep 10) European MPs welcome Hungary support for Burma crimes inquiry; Mizzima News (21 Sep 10) Dutch, New Zealanders back UN inquiry on junta abuses; ; Mizzima News (25 Sep 10) Ireland weighs in on UN inquiry into Burma abuses; Mizzima News (29 Sep 10) Lithuania joins chorus seeking UN inquiry on Burma abuses Chinland Guardian (04 Feb 11) Belgium Supports Commission of Inquiry into Burma's Rights Abuse; BCUK (10 Mar 11) Denmark and Latvia support UN Burma Inquiry

⁸³ Irrawaddy (17 Jun 11) US Vows to Continue Pressing for Burma CoI; AFP (25 Jun 11) US will support UN-backed Myanmar rights probe; VOA (25 Jun 11) US Signals Support for Burma Investigation; US Department of State (25 Jun 11) Daily Press Briefing