



Federation of Trade Unions Kawthoolei

Solidarity, Responsibilities, Rights

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FTUK News Release No 4/06 Regarding Human Rights violations by SPDC troops in Toun-Goo district, Karen State.

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Toun Goo district

Currently, SPDC troops positioned in Toungoo district have still been practicing various forms of forced labor on local villagers in two townships of Tan Ta Bin and Than Daung. They increased its military camps in hill region of Karen State and forced the villagers to transport food and military supplies, constructing road and bridge, extortion on villagers for various means and forcibly demanding villagers to supply them with bamboo and woods for their military camps and other human rights abuses.

Forced Labor on the prisoners

On October 7, 2006, SPDC troops of Southern Command Commander General Ko Ko brought 600 prisoners from Myit Kyi Na, Myaung Mya and Insein prisons and sent them to Local Military Operation Command (LMOC-15) positioned at Bu Has Kee military based. They forced them to carry food and military supply for the army in the front line from Baw Ga Li Gyi (Kler La) to Bu Has Kee military based. Mostly, the prisoners were the people in urban areas in towns and cities, and had no experience to carry heavy load and travel in the mountainous region. They came out from jail recently and they were weak and not strong enough to climb the mountains and carry things for the army. Moreover, it was hard, muddy, slippery and difficult to travel in raining season. They did not have extra clothes or plastic water proof sheets to cover themselves in rainy season. It was very cold at night in mountain region, but they did not have blanket or extra clothes to use it. As a result, they suffered with common cold, dysentery but they did not receive medical treatment. When they asked for medicine, the soldiers said that the medicine was only for the soldiers. Even they were tired for carrying for the army, they were not provided with enough food and other food supplies. As a result, if they could no longer walk and carry things for the army they were seriously beaten, scolded them to walk and finally kicked them down in the valley and killed them. The prisoner porters were in bitter situation and facing with various kinds of atrocities committed by the SPDC troops in the jungle. The prisoners were ill and inhumanity treated by the troops. Some were so unbearable of the atrocities of the SPDC troops that they decided to flee for their survival.

Photo 1 & 2- A Prisoner Porter used to carry supplies by the Burma Army in Toungoo District. He escaped from Bu has Kee military based and his wounds were treated and he was cared for by the local people. They gave him money and when he left them, he was recaptured and killed by the Burma Army. Prisoners Porter's wounds as a result of carrying supplies for Burma Army. (Photos by FBR)



Extortion on the villagers

SPDC Troops of Southern Command Commander General Ko Ko gave instruction to light Infantry Division (LID 66) Commander Maung Maung Aye to extort money from the villagers of Baw Ga Li Gyi (Kler La) village tract such as Kler La, Kaw Soe Ko, Ler Ko, Wa Tho Ko, Klay Soe Kee, Kaw Thay Der, Ku Plaw Der, Peh Kaw Der, Maw Ko Der, Deh Doe, Gar Mu Der and Maw Pa Der to pay one prisoner porter for 20,000 Kt per each. The villagers of twelve villages have to pay porter fees for 600 prisoners' porters making a total of 1200,000 Kt monthly to the military officers. Thus the villagers in this area faced with difficulty to find money to support the porters. Moreover, the villagers were also prohibited by SPDC troops to go to the forest to look after their cardamom plantation because of security reason.

Since September 1, General Ko Ko gave instruction to LIB 439 to construct sentry posts from Pyin Ga village to Taw Ma Aye village and demanded villagers to take guard along the road. After finished the sentry posts, the Commander demanded villagers to take guard for the road, but the villagers said that they did not have time for taking guard, thus the troops extorted them to pay the troops with money for security matter. Pyin Gah villagers have to pay 250,000 kyat and Taw Ma Aye villagers have to pay 150,000 Kyat monthly.

Aug 10, 2006; LID 66 positioned at Baw Ga Li (Kler La) and Than Daung, Township forcibly extorted the villagers of Gar Mu Der, Doh Doh, Maw Ko Der to pay porters fees and cost of transportation of military supplies from Baw Ga Li Gyi to Bu Has Kee military camp. They extorted 30, 000 kyat per each village.

September 21, 2006: Commanders of LID (66) based at Baw Ga Li Military Head quarter who are Division Commander General Maung Maung Aye, G2 Col Wai Pyo Ming, GQ Col Myo Tune, HQ Col Tun Tun Win, G3 Col Zaw Ming Tak / Nying Tain demanded from the villagers of Baw Ga Li village tract with 1,000 durians and 10,000 mangoes teen for their families and the villagers had to fulfill their demands. They paid nothing for the expense.

Forced labor

Aug 5, 2006 SPDC troops of LID 66, TOC 662, LIB- 10 Bn Commander Myo Tun forcibly demanded 700 rattan poles from the villagers of Ku Thay Der, Kaw Lor Kah, S' Bar Lor Kee. The troops provided no supply for the cost.

Aug 10, 2006; SPDC troops of LIB 73 forcibly demanded 40 villagers of Shah Zee Bo to clear grass and bush around the military camp located at Shah Zee Bo. The troop provided no supply for the villagers.

On August 11-18, 2006, LID 66, LIB led by Major Tun Tun Lay forced the villagers of Thit Say Taung to construct the military camp at Thit Say Taung village and to make fence surrounding the camp. They forcibly demanded 360 villagers and required 2000 bamboo poles to construct the new military camp. The total cost including bamboo and labor cost was 33,00000 Kyat and the villagers have to pay the total cost of the construction. Moreover, 8 villagers of Baw Ga Li Gyi has to transport food supplies from Baw Ga Li Gyi to Thit Say Taung military based once for every 3 days.

August 22, 2006; SPDC Troops of IB 73 led by Major Aung Kaing forcibly demanded the villagers of Shah Zee Bo to cut and collect 150 bamboo poles, Yeh Shey villagers - 50 bamboo poles, Zee Pyu Gone villagers- 200 bamboo poles and Taw Kra villagers- 50 bamboo poles. The troops provided no supplies for the villagers.

August 23, 2006. SPDC Troops of LID 66 forcibly demanded the villagers of Kaw Thay Der to provide 850 bamboo poles. In order to fulfill the demands of the troops, the villagers faced with shortage of bamboo in the jungle. The bamboo that grown naturally nearby Kaw Thay Der area were nearly gone. So they faced with difficulty to get bamboo to fulfill the SPDC demands. As a result, they had to buy bamboos from the other villagers that grown in their garden. The villagers themselves had to pay the price of the bamboo for the troops. Due to various reasons of extortion, forced labor and human rights violations by the SPDC troops in Toungoo district, the native people could no longer stay in their own villages and had to abandon their villages and left for Thai-Burma border for their survival.

Aug 23,2006: SPDC Troops of LID 66, IB 35, Bn Commander Kyaw Sein forcibly demanded 40 villagers of K'Weh, 15 villagers of Ler Gaw Doh Deh Kah, 30 villagers of Ler Gaw Doh Deh Koh, 30 villagers of Ku Thay Der, 15 villagers of Sbah Law Kee, 15 villagers of Kaw Law Kah, 15 of K'Thaw Pweh totally 160 people.

Aug 26, 2006; SPDC troops of LIB 6 led by Major Aye Lwin forced the villagers of Ku Thay Der, Kaw Law Kah, Shar Law Kee, to send one person from each house hold to construct the military camp at the Ku Thay Der military camp.

Aug 26, 2006, SPDC troops of LID 66, TOC 661, LIB 10 Commander forcibly demanded 20 villagers (male and female) of Kaw Thay Der to cut bamboo and repair Naw Soe military camp.

September 1, 2006; SPDC troops of LIB 10 Bn Commander Soa Mya Naing gave order to the Head of Ye Tho Gyi village to send two persons for every three days to Naw Soe military camp to help the troops for cooking, fetching water, collecting fire wood, cutting bamboo, cutting wood, transporting, sending message for the troops.

September 4, 2006: SPDC troops of LID (66) troops gave order to villagers of Baw Ga Li to collect 700 bamboo poles and 80 wood posts to construct a new military camp.

September 5, 2006: SPDC troops of LID 66 based at Baw Ga Li (Kler La) demanded villagers of Kler La, Kaw Thay Der, Klay Soe Kee, Kaw Soe Ko, Wa Tho Ko, Ler Ko to collect 800 bamboo poles to repair the military camp. The villagers also faced with difficulty to find bamboo, because the camp was set up for many years and the bamboo were almost gone.

Sept 5, 2006, Troops of LID 66, TOC 663, LIB 5 led by Captain Zaw Win forcibly demanded 20 villagers of Ler Gee Ko, 30 of K'Weh, to carry food supply from Than Daung to K'Weh military based. There were 12 women porters included the porters.

August 31, 2006, SPDC troops of LID (66) based at Baw Ga Li (Kler La) camp forcibly demanded the villagers of Maw Thay Der – 500 bamboo poles, Kaw Soe Ko – 500 bamboo poles, Kler La – 1000 bamboo poles, Ler Ko – 500 bamboo poles, Kaw Thay Der – 500 bamboo poles, and K'lay Soe - 500 bamboos.

Started from September 1, 2006, LID Commander gave instruction to the trucks owners of Ye Tho Gyi and Baw Ga Li to transport 15 sacks of rice and other military supplies when the trucks return from Toungoo. There will be voluntarily for helping the military and no need to pay the expense.

September 4, 2006: SPDC troops of LID (66) troops gave order to villagers of Baw Ga Li to collect 700 bamboo poles and 80 wood posts to construct new military camp.

September 5, 2006 SPDC: troops from LIB(10) demanded Naw Ah Mu car to transport the bamboos from Kaw Thein Der to Kler lah. It was for the voluntary helping the army and no need to pay the expense.

September 5, 2006, SPDC troops from LMOC 15 / 16 and LID (66) started to transport food supplies from P' Let Wa military camp to front line out posts at Klaw Mee Der, Kler Lah and Naw Soe military based in Tun Ta Bin township.

September 7, 2006, SPDC troops of LID (66) demanded the Naw Ah Nu car to transport food supplies from Baw Ga Li Gyi to Kaw Thay Der military based as for voluntary helping the troops.

September 19, 2006: Southern Command, LIB (439) based at Shar Zee Bo camp, Commander, Kyaw Soe Win forcibly demanded the villagers to transport ration for military from Shar Zee Bo to Te Loe and Mae Tin Hta village. There were 15 villagers of Shar Zee Bo, 15 of Yeh Shan and 15 of Taw Gone village, totally 45 people.

September 19, 2006; SPDC troops of LID (66) Commander Maung Maung Aye gave order to the villagers of Ye Tho Gyi (Kaw Thay Der) to collect one bamboo from each household and send to the LID 66 headquarter. So villagers of Ye Tho Gyi cut and sent 150 bamboo poles to the military camp. Currently, the troop is constructing new military at Thit Say Taung beside the road.

September 21, 2006 LMOC (16) based at Tate Pu military camp forcibly demanded 59 villagers of Tate Pu village to carry food supply for the army Bu Has Kee camp.