


Tortured Political Prisoner Profile

NAME:	U Lahpai Gam			
GENDER:	Male	Ethnicity	Kachin	
OCCUPATION:	Farmer/Herdsman	Age:	~ 54	
LAST ADDRESS:	Shwe Tset Kachin Baptist Church (IDP camp)			
ARREST DATE:	2012: June 14			
SECTION OF LAW:	2012: Section 17(1) of the 1908 Unlawful Association Act and Articles 3 & 4 of the 1908 Explosives Act			
NAME OF PRISON:	Myitkyinar Prison			

IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:

Not known.

CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:

Currently serving 20 years in Myitkyinar Prison.

BRIEF BACKGROUND:

Lahpai Gam had fled his village in Waing Maw Township in the northern part of the Kachin State due to conflict in the area. He was staying with his family at an IDP (Internally Displaced Person) camp administered by the Shwe Tset Kachin Baptist Church. He had received permission to work as a herdsman outside of the camp in order to earn money for his family. He was arrested while working outside of the camp.

ARREST DETAILS:

He was eating lunch with co-workers on June 5, 2012, in a field near Tar-Law-Gyi, Kachin State, when he was tortured by soldiers from Battalion No. 37 and accused of being a KIA soldier. He was detained three days later in the Tar-Law-Gyi Police Station and further sent into the custody of Battalion No. 37 and the Military Affairs Security (MAS) Intelligence Branch Office, where he was interrogated and tortured after denying accusations of being a KIA soldier. Six days later he was sent to the State Police Force Office where he remained for five days before being taken to Police Station No-1. The following day he was sent to Myitkyinar Prison.

On November 15, 2013, he was sentenced to two years imprisonment under Section 17(1) of the 1908 Unlawful Association Act.

On December 19, 2013, he was sentenced to an additional five years under Articles 3 & 4 of the 1908 Explosives Act, accused of partaking in a bomb plot in the Kachin State.

On January 30, 2014 the United Nations Working Group On Arbitrary Detention ruled that Laphai Gam's detention was arbitrary and in contravention of Articles 13, 18, 19 and 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It called for his immediate release.

On June 5, 2014, thirteen more years were added to his sentence for a total of twenty years.

DETAILS OF TORTURE:

On June 5, 2012, while eating lunch he was hit in the head with the barrel of a gun by soldiers from Battalion No. 37. Then his hands were tied behind his back and he was taken to a monastery. He was detained separately but remained in eyesight of his co-workers. He was punched in the face by the soldiers after denying accusations of being a KIA soldier. He was then taken by three soldiers to a stream where he was forced under water. Then the three soldiers placed bamboo on his calf and jumped on the bamboo, smashing it. The following day he was taken

with Brang Yung by boat to a grain field. He was tortured with bamboo again in the same way. When he denied having guns, the soldier fired shots in the air, threatening to kill him. He was then forced to dig a hole and threatened that he would be buried in the hole. The following day he was sent to the Myitkyinar MAS office where he was kicked and punched after denying more accusations of being a KIA soldier. MAS members then beat his back with the trunk of a guava tree. He was also blindfolded, tied with an iron rope, and forced to perform the Manaw Dance, a traditional Kachin dance, while reciting the Manaw song. The following day he was forced to strip naked and have sex with Brang Yung. The following day, MAS members forced his fingerprints on the official paperwork before sending him to the State Police Force Office. During his entire stay at the MAS office he was constantly beaten with a cane and iron stick.

Profile prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on April 10, 2015