

Political Prisoner Profile

NAME:	Mar La (aka Laring)			
GENDER:	Male	Ethnicity:	Kachin	
OCCUPATION:	Farmer	Age:	~ 30	
LAST ADDRESS:	Shwe Tset Kachin Baptist Church (IDP camp)			
ARREST DATE:	2012: June 14			
SECTION OF LAW:	Section 17(1) of the 1908 Unlawful Association Act			
NAME OF PRISON:	Myitkyinar Prison			
RELEASE DATE:	October 7, 2014			

IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:

Not known.

CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:

Mar La was released on October 7, 2014, as a part of a presidential amnesty under Article 204(a) of the Consitution.

BRIEF BACKGROUND:

He was living with his family in the IDP (Internally Displaced Person) camp administered by the Shwe Tset Kachin Baptist Church. He was arrested as he was working outside of the camp in Tar-Law-Gyi, Kachin State.

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 (Kachin Independence Army) 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 Brach Office, where he was interrogated and tortured after denying accusations of being a KIA soldier.

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

On June 5, 2014, his sentence was extended an additional three years for a total of five 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 where he was punched and kicked in the face by soldiers wearing boots. The soldiers also squeezed bullets in between his fingers until they were wounded. When he denied accusations of being a KIA soldier, he was beaten again when three soldiers smashed bamboo sticks on his calf. While in MAS custody he denied further accusations of being a KIA soldier and was beaten on the head with sticks.

***Profile prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on October 30, 2014*.**