

Summary of the Current Situation:

273 individuals are oppressed in Burma due to political activity:

19 political prisoners are serving sentences,

53 are awaiting trial inside prison,

201 are awaiting trial outside prison.

Karreni Youth Activist faces trial from inside prison for Aung San statue protest



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Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)

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ACRONYMS

ABFSU	All Burma Federation of Student Unions
CAT	Conservation Alliance Tanawthari
CNPC	China National Petroleum Corporation
EAO	Ethnic Armed Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
KHRG	Karen Human Rights Group
KIA	Kachin Independence Army
KNU	Karen National Union
MFU	Myanmar Farmers' Union
MNHRC	Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
MOGE	Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
NLD	National League for Democracy
NNC	Naga National Council
PAPPL	Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law
RCSS	Restoration Council of Shan State
RCSS/SSA	Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army – South
SHRF	Shan Human Rights Foundation
TNLA	Ta'ang National Liberation Army
YUSU	Yangon University Students' Union

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POLITICAL PRISONERS

CHARGES

**A Further Two Karenni Youth Activists
are Charged in the Hpasawng township**

On July 3, Khun Kawrio and Ko Bwe Htoo
took part in the protests objecting to the
erecting of a statute of General Aung San in

Loikaw. The two activists distributed pamphlets on the history of the Karenni State whilst objecting to a statue erected in Loikaw on Martyrs' Day at the expense of 50 million kyats (USD \$20,125). Both were charged under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code, they appeared in court on August 10

ARRESTS

Protestors Arrested in Rangoon for Calling Military Leaders "Murderous Generals"

On 31 August, some 10 protestors were arrested outside Rangoon's City Hall for demonstrating and calling for the arrest of Myanmar's Military generals. Several wore t-shirts with bearing the logo of the organization Movement for Democracy Current Forces (MCDF). One witness told *Coconuts* that the protestors were arrested around 10 minutes after they began the protest began, and they were taken to the Kyauktada Township police station. The protest is in response to the recent UN Fact Finding Mission report.

TRIAL

Updates in Reuters Reporters Case

On 4 August U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tweeted after his meeting with foreign minister Kyaw Tin in Singapore that he had called for the immediate release of the two journalists detained "for doing their job". When asked for a response on Pompeo's comments, Government spokesperson Zaw Htay said "our judiciary is independent so we must wait and see what the court decides". On August 6 in the Yangon Northern District Court Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were described as "consistently ethical" by a former teacher. On a day of defense witnesses, Ye Naing Moe, director of Yangon Journalism School, praised both reporters as curious and excellent students who had won multiple awards for stories

focussing on the underprivileged and social issues. A second witness, Thant Zin Soe, had worked with Wa Lone at a charity distributing humanitarian aid to the victims of natural disasters and described him as being consistently ethical, and "disgusted by corruption". In sum, The prosecutors presented 23 witnesses to prove its case, the defense team presented three witnesses and stressed throughout that the two journalists never violated the Official Secrets Act. On 27 August the sentencing of Wal Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo was delayed for one week after the judge allegedly fell ill.

CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT

Prisoner Numbers Increase, Exceeding Prisons Capacity

On August 20, a report was released by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw/Parliament Public Account Joint Committee regarding the rate of incarceration of prisoners for drug offenses. This report for 2016-2017 also brought to light the conditions in which all prisoners, including political prisoners, have to deal with. The number of prisoners have increased year after year, exceeding the capacity of the prisons. The average prison space ratio was 11.96 square feet for a man and 15.3sq ft for a woman, as of March 30, 2017. In addition to this, prison officers are woefully understaffed, only 2484 are currently employed out of 5326 required.

SSPP/SSA Officer Dies From Suspicious Circumstances After Release From Government Prison

On August 20 Sao Sam Myint, a district officer in the SSPP/SSA, who was only freed from a state-run prison in May 2018 died in a Mandalay hospital from apparent liver disease. Sao Sam Myint was arrested more than two years ago while traveling

from Muse to Kutkai township in northern Shan State. At the time he was serving in the SSPP/SSA liaison office in Muse. After being detained for two years in Muse on the Shan-China border starting in March 2016, he was transferred to a Lashio prison. A friend of Sao Sam Myint who only spoke to SHAN on condition of anonymity alleged he had been tortured whilst in detention and that the circumstances surrounding his death is suspicious considering the diagnosis of liver disease in a younger man who was not known to drink heavily.

FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS

88 Generation Leaders Mark 30 Year Anniversary of Pro-Democracy Uprising

On August 8 a low key ceremony was held at Yangon University to commemorate those who lost their lives in the brutal suppression that followed nationwide protests 30 years to the day. 88 Generation leaders gave speeches to some 2,000 packed attendees in the Yangon University recreation hall. The speeches largely reflected on the struggle for democracy and how the current political climate is far from perfect. Former political prisoner Ko Shell who spent 14 years in prison believes the sacrifices made by those who took part in the pro-democracy uprisings are being forgotten as the Government reconciles with a Military whilst neglecting “compensation, monuments, or other forms of redress”. Min Ko Naing, who spent 15 years incarcerated admitted the situation had

improved but that there is “still a long story when talking about judiciary sector”.

88 Generation Leader Ma Mee Mee Dies in Car Accident

On August 13 a spokesperson for the 88 Generation Peace and Open Society confirmed that prominent 88 generation leader Ma Mee Mee crashed while travelling along the Yangon-Pathein Highway in Kyaunggon township in Ayeyarwady Region. Born Thin Thin Aye, Ma Mee Mee was a well known activist who was first imprisoned in 1988 when she was just 16-years old. In total she spent 10-years imprisoned over a 20-year period in Insein, Tharrawaddy, Patheingyi, Kathar, and Shwabo prisons for her role in the pro-democracy movement. The National League for Democracy (NLD) posted a statement on Facebook saying the Party was deeply saddened by the fatal accident. Former political prisoner Ko Jimmy expressed his disbelief to the *Myanmar Times*, that “the loss was so sudden”. On August 17 thousands attended the funeral of Ma Mee Mee in northern Rangoon. Veteran activists from the 8888 generation led speeches recounting their memories of the activist.

RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Local Youths From Maingpyin and Maingpon Flee Forced Recruitment

It is reported that a majority of youths in Southern Shan State are fleeing their villagers from fear of being recruited by RCSS/SSA. A resident of Maingpyin is quoted in *Eleven Myanmar* as saying that the RCSS/SSA demands one recruit from each village “and if the village is big, they demand two”. Because of this, and fearful that their families will not be able feed their families, many youths flee to other towns. In a meeting with *SHAN*, Chairman of RCSS/SSA General Ywet Sit said that there are no forced recruitments and locals are joining voluntary RCSS/SSA. RCSS/SSA is one of 10 ethnic militias that has signed the NCA, which forbids signatories from recruiting and strengthening their armed forces.

The Border Guard Force (BGF) Beat up Two Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) Pastors in Sadon

On July 31, Mading Zaidan Bawm Ying, his wife, and Lagyi Naw Awn were beaten up by BGF troops in Sadon after the two pastor's attempted to negotiate to not have the homes of local residents destroyed while the troops were cleaning the drains. The BGF troops were forcibly destroying the residents fences while they were working on the drain in the village, without the Government's survey department or municipal authority. Mading Zaidan Bawm Ying was later detained at their base after he was beaten. He was released on bail on August 1 after the officials from Waingmaw Township and BGF officials met in Sadon to discuss his release.

Four Villagers From Pang Kut and One Villager From Ner Kay Detained by RCSS/SSA

On July 31 four residents of Pang Kut village were detained by the RCSS/SSA whilst shopping at Man San Market. Radio

Free Asia reported this is likely because of the heightening hostilities between TNLA and RCSS/SSA in Shan State. In addition to the Pang Kut villagers disappearance on July 31 artillery shells landed near the community, in the southwestern part of Namtu Township, leading to 100 people fleeing the area and seeking refuge in neighboring Hsipaw. Over 800 villagers have fled their villages as the conflict escalates between RCSS/SSA and the Northern Alliance (which TNLA is a member of). Meanwhile the Northern Alliance accused the RCSS/SSA of detaining villager Sai Teng, a native of Ner Kay village on August 2. On condition of anonymity a RCSS/SSA official told *SHAN* that they do not abduct local villagers.

TNLA Accuses Military of Raping and Torturing Female Medics Ambushed on July 11

On August 6 the TNLA released a statement accusing the Military of raping and torturing six female medics ambushed on July 11. Two TNLA soldiers and the six medics were hitching a ride in a mining company vehicle when they were ambushed by Military soldiers. In the statement, the TNLA revealed the testimony of the driver of the vehicle, the injured driver told the TNLA that he could hear women crying for help throughout the night whilst he was held captive by the Military soldiers. The Tatmadaw True News Information Team previously released a statement on July 17 that six female army medics were killed in a skirmish on July 11. Local villagers discovered the bodies of the TNLA medics and cremated them accordingly. A Ta'ang Women's Organisation spokesperson said villagers believed “they were tortured and killed and some believed they were raped”. The villagers photographic evidence was deleted on the orders of the TNLA for their “security”, though Dr David Mathieson in

Rangoon believes this evidence could have been used to pressure the Military to investigate and that it is common for ethnic armed groups to distort facts and intimidate villagers.

2 Shan Farmers Interrogated Overnight by the Military

On 3 August Military soldiers from Infantry Battalion 296 detained 20-year old Sai Jikta and 40-year old Sai Jinga whilst working in the paddy fields, both farmers are residents of Nawng Loum village. They were accused of ties to the RCSS/SSA because of their “suspicious” walkie-talkie use, a device the Military soldiers associate with armed ethnic groups. However, farmers in this region struggle to communicate with cellular phones as a resident explained that phone signal is poor in the area walkie talkies offer reliable communication. The two farmers were held at gunpoint before having black bags placed on their heads and subject to questioning overnight, there has as yet been no reports of physical torture. The two farmers were released the following day after the village headman spoke with the Military soldiers. This event occurred despite the RCSS/SSA having signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

16 Villagers from Kyaukme Township Released After 16 Days in Detention by Military

On August 8 Sai Tun Win, a Shan Nationalities League for Democracy lawmaker, successfully negotiated the release of 16 villagers detained by the Light Infantry Battalion 501 since August 5. The Military preceded to arrest 11 villagers in Paingnim and five from Eakgyi after two military soldiers were killed by a landmine when Light Infantry Battalion 501 entered Kyaukme Township. The villagers were taken to Pang Kayam village where they remained for three days. Although there is

no reports of torture, three were beaten. Sai Tun Win negotiated on the villagers behalf by meeting Colonel Aung Naing Htoo, they were thereafter released. Sai Tun Win told *SHAN* that he “promised that they were not connected to any rebellion and that they were just regular villagers”. It is not known which armed organisation laid the landmine as the KIA, RCSS/SSA, SSPP/SSA, and TNLA all have a presence in the area.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) Appeals to the RCSS/SSA to Release Six workers Held Captive for 10 years

On August 7 the MNHRC issued a statement urging the RCSS/SSA to release six young workers detained since December 28, 2010 arguing that this course of action could derail the National Ceasefire Agreement. U Yu Lwin Aung a spokesperson of the MNHRC stated that these captive workers should be freed with immediate affect, noting that it “is not in accordance with the law”. USA Brigade-759 Company 198 initially captured the 12 workers in Kyaingkhram region in Shan State, six of these have been released over the years. The workers were allegedly seized by the RCSS/SSA to demand ransom from their employers.

Organizers of Karen Martyrs’ Day Ceremony Sued

On August 12 a notification letter was sent to one senior and four other members of the Karen Nation Union (KNU). They are being sued by the Hitanda Township administration for holding the 68 Karen Martyrs’ Day on 12 August without permission. Pado Mahn Nyein Maung is the senior member of the KNU being sued, he said the Hitanda Township administration told them they could not hold the ceremony unless they removed the speech of the history of Karen martyrs. Pado Mahn

Nyein Maung told the *Irrawaddy* that he was very disappointed that the authorities want us to go behind bars for teaching the Karen people their history. This is the third time the Karen Martyrs' Day ceremony has been held in Hinthada Township and consisted of the traditional Karen wrist-tying ceremony. The Karen Martyrs' Day ceremony has been held since 1956, commemorating the death of Saw Ba U Gyi who was killed in August 1950 by the Military. On August 17 officials from Hitanda Township sought legal advice over whether to continue and sue the organizers of the Karen Martyr's Day ceremony. According to Section 21 of Ward Administration Law, requests must be made to respective administration department for public celebrations and entertainment and if celebrated without permission, the organizers can face up to six months imprisonment or a fine of K50,000 (US\$33) or both.

Regional NLD Chairman Pursues Charges Against Those Who Defame State Counsellor

On August 15, Thein Zaw, chairman of Magwe NLD regional office, issued a letter which called for regional bodies to take legal action against people who use facebook to defame Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Thein Zaw released this letter as an internal order only after it was publicly disseminated, he defended his viewpoint, stating that "we respect freedom of expression and understand rights in a democracy" and that they would "not sue everyone...". The problem for Thein Zaw's critics is that, as he said, "these instructions [are already] to have the rule of law". Nyan Win, a Central Executive Council (CEC) member said "headquarters had nothing to do with the letter". Kyaw Min Swe, executive director of the Myanmar Journalism Institute, said the notice issued by Thein Zaw restricts freedom of expression. As Radio Free Asia reported,

the Government has repeatedly used Article 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law to prosecute perceived defamation against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. In July 2016, a court in Magwe charged a planning official from Salin township over Facebook posts in which he referred to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as the wife of a "kalar". In October 2016, a NLD member pressed charges against two villagers near Myanmar's capital Naypyidaw for allegedly insulting Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, reportedly calling her a "hag" who deserved to be murdered. And most recently, on August 14 Kyauktan Township Police Station in Yangon filed a lawsuit against San Oo under section 8(f) of the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens. Section 8(f) stipulates that "No one shall unlawfully interfere with a citizen's personal or family matters or act in any way to slander or harm their reputation". San Oo is accused of saying abusive words against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi over high rice prices on August 12.

Namkham Youth Network Condemns TNLA for Arresting Ethnic Shan Woman.

On August 17, the TNLA arrested Nang Moe Hom by gunpoint. The youth group claims that the woman is accused of informing on two TNLA soldiers who attempted to collect taxes in the area, and then the two soldiers were detained by the Military. The TNLA has acknowledged detaining the ethnic Shan women without giving a reason. TNLA spokesman Major Tar Aike Kyaw said "All I can say is that she violated our law. Therefore, we detained her". The family of the women denies she ever informed on the TNLA soldiers. Namkham Youth Network leader Sai Shwe Thein said the detention of Mo Hwan was a violation of her human rights and could create ethnic tensions between the Shan and Ta'ang.

Military Suppress Mon Revolution Day Celebrations

Signboards announcing the 71st Mon Revolution Day have been ordered to be removed on the grounds that they advocate rebellion against the central government amid the ongoing peace process. The mon-language signboards read “if you dare to do rebel, you will gain freedom”. Ethnic Mon usually gather in their townships to celebrate Revolution Day. After that, they often travel to other townships to pay their respects before statues of Mon leaders who sacrificed their lives for the revolution. Nai Htor Pana Ong, a committee member who helped to organize the celebrations, said that this is the first time the Military has raised objections to the Mon celebrations of the Revolution Day. He went on to say “his committee had come up with a different slogan each year advocating support for [the] Mon Revolution and had not had any problem with the Tatmadaw in the past”.

UN Fact Finding Mission Calls For Burma to be Referred to International Criminal Court

On August 27 the OHCHR released its report in which it recommended senior Military leaders be investigated and prosecuted for crimes against humanity, and war crimes in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states. The fact finding mission recommended that Burma be referred to the International Criminal Court for investigation of Genocide and crimes against humanity. The mission was created by the UN Human Rights Council in March 2017. The UN report found that crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine states include murder; imprisonment; enforced

disappearance; torture; rape, sexual slavery and other forms of sexual violence; persecution and enslavement. The investigators highlighted the role Facebook had played, describing it as “a useful instrument for those seeking to spread hate”. In an immediate (and pre-planned) response to the report, Facebook announced that it had banned 20 individuals and accounts in Myanmar, including that of the Tatmadaw chief.

Government Refuses to Allow Committee for Shan State Unity (CSSU) to Hold Meeting

The Government has denied the CSSU permission to hold a scheduled two-day meeting in Taunggyi, Shan State. The CSSU is a coalition of civil society organizations, political parties and two armed groups, the RCSS and the SSPP. The organization holds periodic meetings as a forum for all ethnic Shan leaders to discuss politics, economic and social issues, security, and issues relating to land and the environment. A director of the government’s National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) informed the chairman of the CSSU yesterday by phone that the government would not allow the September meeting to proceed. The NRPC was set up by the NLD and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to conduct peace negotiations with ethnic armed groups on behalf of the government. The CSSU was previously barred from holding the meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, last July after the Thai authorities reportedly came under pressure from the Burmese government. Chairman of the Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, Sai Aik Pao, said “They informed me that the NRPC wouldn’t allow the CSSU meeting to take place and they did not give any reason”.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

The Government is to Update its International Organisation (ILO) Initiatives

On August 17 it was announced a report will be released early next month by the ILO criticising the Government for being “weak” in implementing the Labour Organization Law, the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law and the Special Economic Zone Law. These laws are meant to improve the conditions of workers and protect their civil and political rights. Labour Minister U Thein Swe said the government will comply with the order of the ILO. In 2000, the ILO imposed sanctions against Myanmar due to weaknesses in application of its convention related to forced labour. The *Myanmar Times* believed the ILO’s sanctions clearly impacted Myanmar’s development for more than one decade. The sanctions were only lifted in 2013.

Health Ministry Issues New for Health Care Guidelines for Prisons

On August 22 the Health and Sports Ministry launched 22 chapters of new standard operating procedures in Naypyitaw, the focus is to give prisoners better access to medical facilities and services. Any attempt at improving conditions for prisoners is hampered by overcrowding which makes prisons ideal transmissions sites for communicable diseases. For the MNHRC, international NGOs and civil society groups overcrowding is the most important factor negatively impacting inmates’ health. For AAPP the neglect of issue of overcrowding in Burma’s prison constitutes torture.

INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

Amnesty Granted for 33 Student Inmates who Passed the Matriculation Examination

DEVELOPMENTS

On August 19 the Prisons Department announced that five prisoners who passed their matriculation exams with distinction

would be released, whilst 28 who passed without distinction had their prison terms reduced, the examinations took place in March. Nay Myo Aung and Nyam Lin Aung were released from Yangon's Insein prison, whilst Lu Pan, Zin Min Tun, and Tun Ko Ko were released from Mandalay's Obo prison. Quoted in *The Irrawaddy*, the deputy director of the Prisons Department, Min Tun Soe said there will continue to be class and exams for prison inmates and that "if released before graduating, they can continue these studies at university". Director General of the department, Thein Oo, said that the "primary goal is to rehabilitate prisoners by providing them education while in prison so they become disciplined and productive members of society".

LAND RIGHTS

**Over 3000 Acres of Unused Land
Returned to Farmers in Mandalay**

On August 4 a ceremony was held at Tada-U Township. Vice President Henry Van Thio presided over the ceremony in which

a total of 3019 acres of farmlands seized by the Department of Civil Aviation have been returned to 1087 farmers. 28,576 acres of farmland was initially seized for the airport project in 2013, though since then 9,000 acres have been returned. Henry Van Thio admitted that the seizure of lands led to farmers struggling to earn a living and that in response “the government has tried to find justice in accordance with the law by setting simple policies and work programmes”. Though he reasoned that this land confiscation and others more often than not lead to enhanced security initiatives, and an expansion of the private sector.

Residents Object to Upper Yeywa Dam Project

On August 23 Local residents submitted a letter of objection to union-level parliaments to halt Upper Yeywa dam project. Nan Lao Kham from Tar Long Village said “we have submitted to the State Hluttaw MPs, the state government, and respective departments several times, but there haven’t been any effects. Now, we have made the demands to Naypyidaw”. The local residents submitted the letter to the parliaments after 11 MPs visited this project in Tar Long Village, Hsipaw Township on August 11. The Upper Yeywa dam project, which is under construction in Kyaukme Township, is located between Eastern Tar Long Village under Hsipaw Township and Western Tar Long Village

under Kyaukme Township. The letter from the local residents describes lack of transparency since the implementation of the dam project and failure to consult with local residents before the construction of the dam started in 2008. It also stated that the local residents have opposed strongly as they were only informed in 2014 about resettlement.

Lands Confiscated From Farmers in Taungoo, Ottwin, and Kyukgyi Townships Returned

On August 25 a ceremony was held to return more than 480 acres of confiscated land to farmers in Bago Region. The ceremony was attended by the Chairman of the Central Committee for Re-scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands Vice-President Henry Van Thio. In his opening speech, Vice-President Henry Van Thio said: “Ministry of Defence will return 481.93 acres of confiscated land to 123 farmers in Taungoo, Ottwin and Kyukgyi Townships and give temporary land ownership documents (land form 3) to them. The Sub-Committee for Re-scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands are formed with parliamentarians and farmer representatives at regions, districts, townships and village-tracts. Respective sub-committees are working to return confiscated lands to landowners in accordance with the land law”.

References

POLITICAL PRISONERS CHARGES

- **A Further Two Karenni Youth Activists are Charged in the Hpasawng township**

(8 August 2018 - Kantarawaddy Times) (24 August 2018 - BNI/Burmese) (29 August 2018 - BBC/Burmese)

ARRESTS

- **Protestors Arrested in Rangoon for Calling Military Leaders “Murderous Generals”**
(31 August 2018 - DVB)

TRIAL

- **Updates in Reuters Reporters Case**
(22 August 2018 - Myanmar Times) (22 August 2018 - BBC/Burmese)
- **SSPP/SSA Officer Dies From Suspicious Circumstances After Release From Government Prison**
(20 August 2018 - BNI/Burmese) (23 August 2018 - Shan Herald News Agency)

FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS

- **88 Generation Leaders Mark 30 Year Anniversary of Pro-Democracy Uprising**
(6 August 2018 - DVB) (6 August 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese) (7 August 2018 - Mizzima) (8 August 2018 - Radio Free Asia) (8 August 2018 - Frontier Myanmar) (8 August 2018 - Myanmar Times)
- **88 Generation Leader Ma Mee Mee Dies in Car Accident**
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RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

- **Local Youths From Maingpyin and Maingpon Flee Forced Recruitment**
(1 August 2018 - DVB/Burmese) (1 August 2018 - Eleven/Burmese) (2 August 2018 - Eleven Myanmar)
- **The Border Guard Force (BGF) Beat up Two Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) Pastors in Sadon**
(2 August 2018 - Kachin News Group) (1 August 2018 - BNI/Burmese) (1 August 2018 - BNI/Burmese) (24 August 2018 - BNI/Burmese)
- **Four Villagers From Pang Kut and One Villager From Ner Kay Detained by RCSS/SSA**
(1 August 2018 - RFA/Burmese) (3 August 2018 - Network Media Group) (6 August 2018 - Shan Herald Agency News) (6 August 2018 - Radio Free Asia)
- **TNLA Accuses Military of Raping and Torturing Female Medics Ambushed on July 11**
(7 August 2018 - Network Media Group) (7 August 2018 - BNI/Burmese) (13 August 2018 - Frontier Myanmar) (13 August 2018 - Frontier Myanmar)
- **2 Shan Farmers Interrogated Overnight by the Military**
(7 August 2018 - BNI/Burmese) (8 August 2018 - Shan News)
- **16 Villagers from Kyaukme Township Released After 16 Days in Detention by Military**
(9 August 2018 - BNI/Burmese) (10 August 2018 - Shan Herald Agency News)
- **Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) Appeals to the RCSS/SSA to Release Six**

workers Held Captive for 10 years

[\(8 August 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 August 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 August 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(10 August 2018 - Eleven Myanmar\)](#) [\(10 August 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(10 August 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(14 August 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

- **Organizers of Karen Martyrs' Day Ceremony Sued**
[\(13 August 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(13 August 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(14 August 2018 - Karen Information Center\)](#) [\(14 August 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 August - Myanmar Times\)](#)
- **Regional NLD Chairman Pursues Charges Against Those Who Defame State Counsellor**
[\(15 August 2018 - Radio Free Asia\)](#) [\(15 August 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(15 August 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(16 August 2018 - Eleven Myanmar\)](#)
- **Namkham Youth Network Condemns TNLA for Arresting Ethnic Shan Woman.**
[\(19 August 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(20 August 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(21 August 2018 - Frontier Myanmar\)](#) [\(21 August 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 August 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
- **Military Suppress Mon Revolution Day Celebrations**
[\(24 August 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(24 August 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(28 August 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
- **UN Fact Finding Mission Calls For Burma to be Referred to International Criminal Court**
[\(27 August 2018 - BBC\)](#) [\(27 August 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(27 August 2018 - Frontier Myanmar\)](#)

- **Government Refuses to Allow Committee for Shan State Unity (CSSU) to Hold Meeting**
[\(28 August 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(28 August 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(29 August 2018 - Shan Herald Agency for News\)](#) [\(29 August 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

LEGISLATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

- **The Government is to Update its International Organisation (ILO) Initiatives**
[\(17 August 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#)
- **Health Ministry Issues New for Health Care Guidelines for Prisons**
[\(23 August 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(24 August 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

- **Amnesty Granted for 33 Student Inmates who Passed the Matriculation Examination**
[\(19 August 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(20 August 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(20 August 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)

LAND RIGHTS

- **Over 3000 Acres of Unused Land Returned to Farmers in Mandalay**
[\(8 August 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#)
- **Residents Object to Upper Yeywa Dam Project**
[\(24 August 2018 - Network Media Group\)](#) [\(24 August 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)
- **Lands Confiscated From Farmers in Taungoo, Ottwin, and Kyukgyi Townships Returned**

(26 August 2018 - Eleven Myanmar)

(26 August 2018 - DVB/Burmese)

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