

# SEPTEMBER CHRONOLOGY

## Summary of the Current Situation:

**277** individuals are oppressed in Burma due to political activity:

**27** political prisoners are serving sentences,

**51** are awaiting trial inside prison,

**199** are awaiting trial outside prison.

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



*Accessed September 2018 © Nandar Sitt  
Aung's Facebook*



**Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)**

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# ACRONYMS

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

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# POLITICAL PRISONERS

## CHARGES

### **Four Leaders of Karen Martyrs' Day Celebrations Prosecutions to Continue**

On September 21, Hinthada Township Administrator Than Nain said that he will continue prosecuting Kayin People's Party (KPP) Chairman Saw Kyaw Gyi and 3 other locals, Saw Aung Mon Soe, Saw Than Tun Than, and Saw Khu Shee Htoo under Section 21 of the Ward and Village Tract Administration Law. The four leaders allegedly held commemorations for the 68th Karen Martyrs' Day event at the KPP office in Hinthada Township, Irrawaddy Region on August 12 without permission. On August 13, five leaders were called to the Hinthada Administrator Office, but Padoh Mahn Nyein Maung is no longer included in the charge list.

[\(20 September 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(21 September 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

### **Superintendent Charges USDP Chairman of Shwebo Tract**

On September 18, Shwebo Township Superintendent Thar Zan charged Shwebo Tract Chairman of of USDP, Soe Aye, and two others under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code for meeting with residents and defaming the State Counselor and the Sagaing Division Chief Minister, Dr. Myint Naing. On September 14, Township Management Committee Chairman Soe Min Aung sent a letter to Superintendent Thar Zan to take action Soe Aye and others because of the content of their meeting with some residents in Pa Line Village, Shwebo Township.

[\(21 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(22 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 September 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(24 September 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

### **Military Sues Monk for Defaming General Min Aung Hlaing.**

On September 23 Lieutenant Colonel Myo Khaing Win of the Central Command Mandalay Division, filed a complaint at Amarapura Township police station requesting that legal action be taken against monk U Thawbita, who heads a local volunteers group called Bawa Alin. The complaint requests Thawbita be sued under Article 66 (d) of the Telecommunications Act for posts on facebook, the monk was later charged. One of the posts describes General Min Aung Hlaing as having orchestrated a prison break in Karen State on September 16. Other posts over the past week liken the commander-in-chief "to a cow and say the military is more destructive than a natural disaster". On September 28 monk U Thawbita handed himself into police in Mandalay, and was later released on bail.

[\(22 September 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(24 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(24 September 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 September 2018 - Mizzima\)](#) [\(25 September 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(26 September 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(26 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(28 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(28 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(28 September 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(28 September 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

### **Ting Maung Kyi Charged Under 505(b) of Penal Code for Protesting Against Military**

On September 28, the Deputy Director of the Movement for Democracy Current Force (MDCF), Ting Maung Kyi was charged and arrested under Sections 505(b) of the Penal Code and Section 20 of PAPPL for protesting the Military and saying it should be

investigated by the International Criminal Court (ICC). Approximately 10 police officers from Kyauktada Police Station arrested him and sent him to Insein Prison on the same day, September 28. His first trial date is on October 1 at Kyauktada Court.

[\(28 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(29 September 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(30 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(30 September 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

#### **Four Loikaw Protest Leaders Charged**

On September 23 four protest leaders, Khu Juu Phe Kay, Ku Kalawreh, Aung Naing Win, and Kyaw Min Oo were sued under Section 20 of PAPPL for protesting over land disputes. They requested the Loikaw Township Government to resolve the disputes arising in Namtbaw Oneshan Ward A, Kayah Division. They help up pictures of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi with ones requesting land be given back to the oppressed. On September 28, they entered Loikaw Police Station, the next trial date is set for October 5.

[\(28 September 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

## **ARRESTS**

#### **Mrauk-U Protesters Re-Arrested After Completing Sentence**

On September 24 eight Arakanese freed by the Sittwe township court after spending eight months in detention for participating in a protest in Mrauk-U in were re-arrested on the same day on a separate charge and sent to Sittwe Police Station #1. The eight, Kyaw Win Naing, Kyaw Min Soe, U Than Zaw, Aung Kyaw Myint, Shwe Maung, Aung Htay, Tun Kyaw Hein, and Kyaw Kyaw Naing, were freed after their their pre-trial detention period was ruled to have counted towards their initial sentence. The eight spent were arrested on January 16 after the state police charged them for alleged involvement in an unauthorized

protest in Mrauk-U to protest the authorities' banning of celebrations marking the 233rd anniversary of the fall of the Arakan Kingdom. The eight detained citizens were charged under Article 6(1) of the Public Property Protection Act for destroying public assets.

[\(14 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 September 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 September 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 September 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(25 September 2018 - Narinjara\)](#) [\(25 September 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 September 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 September 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 September 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(28 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

## **TRIAL**

#### **Kachin Youth Protestors Trial Continues**

On September 3 Myitkyina Township judge decided to press charges against three Kachin youths who led a protest concerned with freeing residents trapped within the Kachin conflict area. The plaintiff, Lieutenant Colonel Myo Min Oo from the Military Northern Command, and three witnesses, gave evidence. Nan Pu, one of the defendants, said such a verdict after hearing irrelevant testimonies is unjust. On September 6 Myitkyina Township Court started hearing from the three Kachin civilians. Lum Zawng, Zau Jat, and Nang Pu were charged on May 8 after Lieutenant-Colonel, Myo Min Oo, of Northern Command filed criminal defamation complaints under Article 500 of the Penal Code for statements they made at a press conference and at a peaceful protest they participated in on April 30 and May 1.

[\(3 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(3 September 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(4](#)

[September 2018 - Kachin News Group](#))([6 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy](#)) ([7 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese](#)) ([18 September 2018 - BNI/Burmese](#))

### **Court Decides to Prosecute Aung Ko Htwe**

On September 5, Botataung Township Court in Rangoon Division decided to prosecute ex child soldier Aung Ko Htwe under Section 7 of the Union Seal Law for standing on the 2008 constitution in protest at his previous prosecution. Superintendent Mg Mg and the prosecution witness Police Lieutenant, Win Ko trial will now resume.

[\(5 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

### **Verdict Against Tanintharyi Journal Will be Announced on October 1**

On September 17, Dawei Town Court decided that the verdict against the Tanintharyi Journal will be decided on October 1, after waiting to hear from both sides. The Tanintharyi Journal was charged under Section 25 of the Media Law for publishing an article headed "Electioneering Smile". The article, which was published under the pseudonym "Mu Say Ooh" in November 2017, mocked orders made by the Government Office's Deputy Director.

[\(9 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) ([17 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese](#)) ([18 September 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese](#))

### **Arakanese Political Leader and Author Face High Treason and Defamation Charges**

On September 10 the Sittwe District Court in Arakan ruled that Arakan politician Dr. Aye Maung and author Wai Hin Aung be prosecuted for high treason and defamation of the State. The two were arrested for alleged remarks at a commemoration event in Rathedaung Township for the 233rd anniversary of the

fall of the Arakan Kingdom to the Burmese in 1785. Wai Hin Aung told reporters outside the courtroom that this case demonstrates Burma does not have an impartial judicial sector. Dr. Aye Maung is the former Lower House lawmaker of Rakhine State's Ann Township. Police arrested writer Wai Hin Aung on February 16 under Section 505(b) of Penal Code and Dr. Aye Maung was arrested on January 18 under Section 17(1) of Unlawful Associations Act.

[\(10 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) ([10 September 2018 - BBC/Burmese](#)) ([10 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese](#)) ([10 September 2018 - DVB/Burmese](#)) ([10 September 2018 - VOA/Burmese](#)) ([10 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese](#)) ([10 September 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese](#)) ([11 September 2018 - Mizzima](#))

### **Sittwe Township Court Prosecutes Aung Than Wai**

On September 18, the Sittwe Township Court prosecuted Aung Than Wai under Section 10 of the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens for posting a picture of the Rakhine State government's secretary U Tin Maung Swe under the title 'Who is responsible for the Mrauk U Murder?' and a video file of the meeting with the Rakhine State government on Facebook. He has been first been charged under Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law and under Section 10 when he was arrested. Though he prosecuted under Section 506 of the Penal Code. The court will hear both appeals before deciding to prosecute, according to High Court Lawyer Kyaw Nyunt Mg. In addition, Aung Than Wai sued Joint-Director of Government Office Saw Min Thu, Sittwe Township Administrator Soe Thet Swe, and the ward clerk, under Section 10 Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens.

[\(19 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) ([20 September 2018 - Eleven/Burmese](#))

## **The Case of Khin Win's Murder is to Reopen**

On September 20, Salingyi Township Police Chief has begun taking testimonies of the witnesses and plaintiffs in the case of farmer Khin Win's death after being reported to do so by the President. Khin Win was gunned down on December 22, 2014 at a protest, though the Government started that only 15 rubber bullets were used to crackdown the strike. The case was closed in August 2015 by the Salingyi Township Court but her family was not satisfied. Her family then sent a letter to the court but this was rejected, therefore the family sent a letter to the President on August 18, when was in Monywa Town.

[\(21 September 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

## **SENTENCES**

### **Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo Sentenced to Seven Years**

On September 3, after delayed sentencing date the sham of a trial came to an end. Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were each sentenced to seven years in prison under the colonial era Official Secrets Act. Embassy's and Rights Groups denounced the sentencing and conditions of trial, "devastating" and "deeply troubling" were the echos from embassies, urging the government to change track. The calls from rights groups such as Amnesty International were more forthright, calling the convictions "politically motivated" and creating an environment of "censorship through fear", equally the EU said the verdict was an attempt at "intimidating journalists". The UN called it a "campaign against journalists". Condemnation was equally fierce from domestic institutions. Nine Myanmar journalist networks issued a joint statement on Tuesday condemning the verdict and urging the government to do everything possible to achieve justice. On

Tuesday, nearly every privately-run newspaper in Myanmar made the Reuters case front page news, this was not the case for Military backed papers. *The Irrawaddy* called it 'A Hammer Blow for the Rule of Law'. Journalists in Mandalay and Pyay took to the streets to show their solidarity with the reporters. Several dozen people rallied in central Yangon on Sunday against the jailing. Another protest rally was held in front of the Youth Centre near the statue of General Aung San in Pyay with the participation of about 20 local reporters and about 30 activists from Pyay University Student Union and political organizations. In this protest organised by Myaylat Journalist Network the demonstrators held placards reading "Free Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo," and "Right to Information." A petition was also signed for the release of the reporters. US Vice President Mike Pence on twitter called for the release of the two Reuters journalists. On September 13 State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that their jailing had nothing to do with freedom of expression but because "they broke the Official Secrets Act".

[\(3 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(3 September 2018 - Frontier Myanmar\)](#) [\(3 September 2018 - Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(3 September 2018 - DVB\)](#) [\(3 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(3 September 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(3 September 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(3 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(4 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(4 September 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(4 September 2018 - Mizzima\)](#) [\(5 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(5 September 2018 - Eleven Myanmar\)](#) [\(6 September 2018 - DVB\)](#) [\(11 September 2018 - Frontier Myanmar\)](#) [\(18 September 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

### **Student Union Chairman Found Guilty Under PAPPL Section 19 Charge**

On September 7 Pyay Township Court ordered former Pyay University Students Union Chairman Myat Min Htet to pay a fine of 20,000kyats (\$12.5) or be sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment under Section 19 of the PAPPL. Myat Min Htet allegedly led a protest against removing Pyay University Chancellor, Dr. Khin Thi Thar. After the court hearing, current Pyay University Chancellor Aung Aung Min gave police 10,000kyats (\$6.2) on behalf of Myat Min Htet. Since August 30 former Chancellor Dr. Khin Thi Thar has been transferred to the department of higher education in Nay Pyi Taw.

[\(7 September 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

### **Yangon Court Sentences Those Protesting For Aung Ko Htwe**

On September 11 Dagon Seikkan Township court in Yangon sentenced Ko Naung Naung and Daw Lay Lay to a year in prison. They were jailed for participating in a protest in support of Aung Ko Htwe, a former child soldier for the Military who was jailed for speaking to the media about his experiences. Their lawyer Zayar Aung said that the two activists were charged under the Penal Code Section 505(b) which prohibits defamation against the state, and Section 153 which proscribes provocation with intent to cause a riot. They were ultimately sentenced because they said they were not on the list of protesters submitted to the local police station prior to the demonstration required in accordance with PAPPL.

[\(11 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(12 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(12 September 2018 - Eleven Myanmar\)](#)

### **Kachin Conflict Peace Protestors Convicted**

On September 19, Kyauktada Township Court in Yangon convicted Peace activist Ko Zeyar Lwin and poets Ko Khant Min

Htet and Ko Ye Wint Aung under PAPPL. The three citizens participated in a protest at Mahabandoola Park on May 14 calling for an end to the conflict in Kachin State in which they gave speeches and recited poems. The court gave them each a choice of paying a fine of 20,000kyats (\$12.6) or a sentence of 15 days' imprisonment. Ko Zeyar Lwin choose imprisonment whilst the other two chose the fine. Ko Zeyar Lwin said that "Suing and sentencing us under the Peaceful Assembly Law for participating in a movement for the peace of the country is limiting our freedom of expression and insulting peace".

[\(19 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 September 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 September 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(20 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)

### **Human Rights Lawyer Khin Khin Kyaw and Than Htike Sentenced to Six Months**

On September 28, Minhla Township Court in Bago Division sentenced human rights lawyer Khin Khin Kyaw and member of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU), Than Htike, to six months imprisonment. They were charged under Section 228 of the Penal Code on September 18, 2015. Khin Khin Kyaw and Than Htike were representing the legal interests of the detained student protests who participated in Letpadan protests against Burma's Education Law.

[\(28 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(28 September 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#)

### **Aung Ko Ko Lwin Gets One Year in Jail for Criticising State Minister**

On September 27, Thaton Township Court sentenced Aung Ko Ko Lwin to one year imprisonment under Section 10 of the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of the Citizen after eight months of trial. Aung Ko Ko Lwin posted on his Facebook page a photo of the chief minister having lunch, with a caption that criticised the state

government for being unable to end frequent power outages. He also shared a video of the Chief Minister that sarcastically said people can reduce the prices of daily commodities by eating only one meal a day. On January 6, he was sued by Saw Kyaw Moe, a member of the Mon State Ethnic Affairs Committee.

[\(28 September 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(30 September 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

## CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT

### **MNHRC Calls on Prisons to Supply Accurate Medicines in Prisons**

On September 11, the MNHRC called on officials, wardens, and jailers in Nyaung Shwe prison in Taunggyi District, Southern Shan State, to make sure that suitable treatment is given with the knowledge that there is only ever one suitable kind of medicine for any disease, i.e. to not waste valuable medicines by ensuring medical accuracy.

[\(11 September 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(15 September 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

### **International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) Wish to Provide Treatment in Prisons**

At a meeting on September 13 between the Health Minister and the ICRC

representatives, the ICRC announced it is willing to provide healthcare services for prison inmates. The ICRC announced that it wishes to upgrade hospitals including healthcare services.

[\(16 September 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(17 September 2018 - Eleven Myanmar\)](#)

### **Number of Prisoners in Insein Prison are More Than the Capacity**

On September 14, Rangoon Division auditor submitted its 2016-17 fiscal report to the Rangoon Division Parliament, the report detailed that there are 12,518 prisoners in Insein prison. The prison department had reported that the Insein prison capacity is 5,000 inmates. The auditor of Rangoon Division thus has found on August 15 that Insein prison has 7,158 prisoners more prisoners than its capacity allows. There are only 603 officers to deal with all this inmates in the prison.

[\(14 September 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)

# RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

## **Shan Woman Abducted by TNLA put on Trial**

On September 3 the TNLA announced it had put on trial a Shan women who was abducted at gunpoint from her home in Namhkam Township, Northern Shan State. The group has said that Nang Mo Hom is being tried in the TNLA's central court for "allegedly" obstructing its troops as they performed their duties. The Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD), sent a letter on August 27 to State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi requesting she intervene in her capacity as the head of the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC). TNLA spokesperson Major Tar Aik Kyaw has said "there will be no immediate release of Nang Mo Hom". On September 7 a peaceful procession of some 20,000 people was held in Namkham, Shan State, calling for the women's arrest.

[\(1 September 2018 - Eleven Myanmar\)](#) [\(4 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(4 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(5 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(11 September 2018 - Eleven Myanmar\)](#) [\(17 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 September 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 September 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 September 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 September 2018 - Shan Herald Agency News\)](#)

## **Burma Slides Down Global Rule of Law Index**

According to the Washington-based World Justice Project's 2017-2018 report, Burma ranked 100 out of 113 countries globally and 14 among the 15 countries in the East Asia and Pacific region. Serious corruption

in the legislature, executive branch, police, military and judiciary contributed to the low ranking, according to the report. The country rankings are derived from household surveys and 3,000 expert surveys conducted globally.

[\(4 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(6 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

## **Military Compels Residents in Muse Township to Transport Supplies to the Front Line**

On September 1 local Nam Um people were forced by the Military's Battalion 88 to transport supplies to the Military's front line in Muse Township, Northern Shan State, to Loi Seng, where they were clashing with Northern Alliance forces.

[\(4 September 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

## **Military Detains Two Residents in Hpakant Township**

On September 5 at around 3.30am Hpauyam La Sam from Kahtan Yang Village and Hkawng Dau from Loi Seng Village were detained by the Military Light Infantry Division #33 in Hpakant Township, Kachin State. According to local residents, the Military column had over 100 troops and went onto inspect homes in Loi Seng and Kahtan Yang villages. Hpauyam La Sam's wife said her husband has also been taken as a guide. Local village administration group and religious organization have informed Kamaing General Administrative Office as they are yet to hear from the two detained men.

[\(6 September 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(7 September 2018 - Kachin News Group\)](#) [\(12 September 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(14](#)

[September 2018 - BNI/Burmese](#) ([24 September 2018 - BNI/Burmese](#))

([19 September 2018 - Eleven Myanmar](#))  
([20 September 2018 - Mizzima](#))

### **Fears Four Men Abducted in Kutkai Township**

Four ethnic Ta'ang and Shan men have not been heard from since August 19, and there are fears they have been abducted by an armed group. Sai Aik Yun, Sai Aik Tun, Sai Aik Yi, and Sai Manglu, all are from Mongsi village tract in Kutkai Township, Shan State. Relatives say they worked at the Ho Nawng-Nam Pang jetty on the river separating Muse and Ruili, China, to earn money for their school fees and provide support to their families. Sai Jian, brother of one of the four men, said that he did not know which armed organization had taken his brother but that he and his family wanted to "request their release". A member of the SNLD in Muse said that they would look into "how to find those young men".

([16 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese](#)) ([21 September 2018 - Burma Link](#))

### **Military Destroy Farmers Crops After Armed Group Attack on Base**

On September 14, villagers in Manli village in Hsipaw Township said that villagers were forced to sign an agreement saying they accepted the destruction of their crops by the army. The Military Light Infantry Battalion #17 destroyed the local corn farms following an attack on their base by an unknown armed group on 13 September. One military soldier was allegedly killed and another was injured. Manli headman Lon Sai said that evidence of the damaged cornfields have been collected so that farmers could receive compensation.

([17 September 2018 - Shan Herald Agency News](#))

### **Nyaung Tone Pin Villager Assaulted by Police**

On September 16, three police officers, one of whom was Zaw Min Oo, handcuffed and beat villager Aung Kyaw Moe for blocking a road in Nyaung Tone Pin village in Htantabin Township, Rangoon Division. Htantabin police station commander Zaw Tun alleged that the police arrested Aung Kyaw Moe because he was on drugs. Zaw Tun Oo said they have filed a lawsuit against Aung Kyaw Moe under Section 2 of the Penal Code. Aung Kyaw Moe would receive medical treatment in a Rangoon hospital. However, on September 18, he was receiving additional treatment at the Htantabin Township hospital for the very same wounds when he was denied further treatment by the hospital officers. His family has announced they will report his case to the Rangoon Division Government, Police Force, Minister of Home Affairs, and MPs.

([20 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese](#))

### **United Wa State Army (UWSA) Detains Christians.**

The UWSA seized a group of Christian religious leaders in their autonomous region in Shan State according to UWSA spokesperson Nyi Ranga. The group of leaders are accused of espousing religious extremism. Most of the people living in Wa territory are animists, but there are also Buddhists, Baptists, and Roman Catholics. Nyi Ranga went on to say they "are trying to control the instability in the region caused by extremist unregistered religious leaders from outside [Wa territory]". 41 students who practiced Christianity were arrested and forced to serve as soldiers by the UWSA. 92 pastors were also arrested according to a letter sent by the Lahu Baptist Convention requesting help..

[\(21 September 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#)  
[\(27 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(27 September 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(28 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)

### **SNLD Election Trail Blocked in Pyin Oo Lwin**

Administrative officials in Pyin Oo Lwin Township obstructed SNLD members' attempts to campaign in the area on September 21. In preparation for by-elections in November the SNLD had planned to hold an event in Nawng Kham Gyi village. The village administrator, Ko Naing, reportedly did not allow a welcome procession of Shan long drums and gongs for the delegation. Party members said he also took photos of them as they were speaking in front of the village. Pyin Oo Lwin is home to a large section of Mandalay Region's Shan population and is therefore key in securing votes for the ethnic affairs minister role in the by-election.

[\(21 September 2018 - Shan News/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 September 2018 - Shan Herald Agency News\)](#)

### **Land Protest Marchers From Hpa-An to Phyu Township Charged Under PAPPL**

On September 25, protesters marched from Hpa-An Town, Karen to Phyu Township, Bago to protest land disputes. The 88 Karen Generation Students Organisation (KGSO) held this protest, beginning in Hpa-An on September 15. They initially asked for permission to hold the protest but were denied, three members have thus been charged under Section 22 of the PAPPL.

[\(25 September 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

### **Shan Villagers from Mong Pan Detained by Military Released**

On September 25, seven ethnic Shan villagers were released by the Military after being detained at Infantry Battalion

#296 base from September 22 after two soldiers disappeared in Nong Lay Village in Mong Pan Township, Southern Shan State. The seven villagers were later released but not after the Military accused the RCSS of involvement in the soldiers' disappearance and had threatened the detained villagers' safety if the ethnic armed group did not release the soldiers. Sai Hla Aung, a resident of Mong Pan town, told The Irrawaddy that the seven civilians were released despite the fact that the soldiers were still missing. Sai Hla Aung went on to add that the villagers were not beaten by the Army whilst in custody. Colonel Sai Oo has said that the soldiers were deserters and it was not the fault of the detained villagers.

[\(27 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(29 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

## **LEGISLATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Lawsuits Against Freedom of Expression Surge After Amendment to Telecommunications Law**

Athan Freedom of Expression Activist Organisation have detailed in a report that following the amendment to the Telecommunications Law, filing a lawsuit against writings over free expression has increased to 54 percent. The report coincided with the one-year anniversary to the amendment. Hsaung Kha of Athan, told *Eleven* "we conducted a survey based on 48 cases that emerged one year after the law amendment under the new government. We can say that there should not have been 54 percent at all. These are all meant to impede freedom of expression". Of the 48 cases filed under the Telecommunications Law, 54% were related to free of expression, 25% with cyber crime, 11% with social problems and 10% concerned other issues.

[\(9 September 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(10 September 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(11 September 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#) [\(11 September 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(12 September 2018 - Eleven Myanmar\)](#)

## INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

### **Legal Aid Center Opens in Pobbathiri Township, Naypyitaw**

On September 1 a center was opened as part of the My Justice Program, funded by the European Union, in partnership with International Bridges to Justice. The centers offer free legal services to anyone who's been charged with a crime and can't afford to hire a lawyer, anyone who is under the age of 18, minorities, and those who are disabled or discriminated against, according to the non-governmental legal aid group. Anyone whose monthly income is less than 120,000kyats (\$77.1) is eligible for services. And the monthly income of the family members of the defendants must also be less than 120,000kyats (\$77.1) per month in order to receive assistance from the legal aid group. Naypyitaw-based lawyer Khin Maung Zaw said that they "only provide legal services for defendants, and not plaintiffs. Their intentions are good".

[\(1 September 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(3 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)

# LAND RIGHTS

## **Farmers Demand Confiscated Land Returned in Nay Pyi Taw**

On September 2 local farmers staged a protest demanding the return of seized farmlands to the original owners, and for action to be taken against the Zabuthiri township administrator for continuously filing lawsuits against local farmers. Farmlands in Zabuthiri Township were seized for the then Nay Pyi Taw city building project but some of them have not been used for the project. Thus the land owners gathered at a football and sports ground in Ottarathiri Township to demand the return of their lands. They also demanded action against the township administrator who have continuously filed lawsuits against local farmers. "Today, we staged a protest to demand that the government give up those land plots. In connection with those land problems we are even facing lawsuits from authorities," said a local farmer from the township.

[\(2 September 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(3 September 2018 - Eleven Myanmar\)](#)

## **Residents Reject Compensation Amount Deposited into their Accounts**

On September 4, residents refused to withdraw money sent to them as compensation by for the Letpadaung Copper Mine project. Despite an intervention by an executive member of the NLD. The residents rejected this compensation and refused to withdraw the amount, because the Wanboa does not respect the investigative report, said resident San Nwe. In 2014 1,000,000kats(\$642) per acre was offered as compensation for confiscated farmland. In addition to 800,000kyats (\$516) of subsidies, totalling 1,800,000kyats (\$1158). The compensation was left in their respective bank accounts. After these four

years the NLD executive is now discussing take interest from the bank.

[\(5 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

## **Public Consultation Held to Discuss Land Law**

On September 5-6 a public consultation was held at the Asia Light Monastery in Si Kar village in Pyin Oo Lwin Township, Mandalay Division. The consultation concerned a potential Land Law with the power to protect farmers with federal standards. In 2012, the Land Law was created, yet the new law was not satisfactory, it didn't protect farmers enough, land rights cases are on the rise according to farmland activists. In total, 600 people, from farmers, farmland activists, civil societies, and jurists all over the country attended the public consultation.

[\(6 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

## **Military Returns Over 200 Acres of Confiscated Land in Moby, Shan State**

On September 8, Light Infantry Battalion 422 returned 200 acres of confiscated land to 288 residents at Pekon Township Hall in Moby town, Pekon Township, Shan State. Shan State Government, a Karenni Ethnic Affairs Minister, Pekon Township Parliament, and Shan State Chief Minister, Dr. Lin Htut, attended the ceremony. Despite the military having returned acres of land, there are still many farmers whose land has not been returned. Farmers have pledged to continue protesting until 800 acres of land left has been returned. The lands were initially confiscated by Battalion 422 in 1992.

[\(9 September 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

## **Farmers Demonstrate in Kyauktaw to Have Confiscated Land Returned**

On September 16 Some 200 farmers from Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State staged a protest demanding the return of over 1,000 acres of land confiscated by the Military in the 1990's. Over 100 farmers lost land to the Military, from Lanmadaw, Daung Taw Yoe, Nyaung Pin Hla, to Pein Hne Chaung villages. Battalions #375 #374 #376 were responsible for the confiscations according to Kyaw Hla Tun. The protesters began the march from Sasana Beikman. Daw Shwe Thar Nu was a protesting farmer, he said "We want our farm back. We are protesting because we want compensation if we can't get it back". The protesters also demanded Deputy Minister for Defence Myint Nwe to step back and allow the Farmland Investigation Commission to investigate the issue. [\(16 September 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 September 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 September 2018 - Narinjara\)](#)

### **Land Released by Ministry of Defense in 2016 Still Yet to be Returned**

Local Farmers in Pyaung Seik, Pyaing Chaung, and Oke Taung Pyin villages in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State have said that land released to them by the Ministry of Defense of 120 acres has yet to be returned to them. The Light Infantry Battalion 539 seized the land in 1999 and is still currently operating a rock quarry on the land. The Ministry of Defence supposedly released 30 acres of grazing land and 90 acres of cultivation land near Oke Taung Pyin Village on June 27, 2016, but the residents have yet to receive access to their land. The rock quarry is being run in joint venture with private companies and no mineral tax has been officially submitted to the government claimed U Tun Hla from Pyaung Seik Village. According to him, the local residents will submit a plea to the President on this issue. [\(18 September 2018 - Narinjara\)](#) [\(18 September 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

### **President Directs Governments to Conclude Investigation into Confiscated Land This Year**

On September 18, Irrawaddy Division Chief Minister Hla Moe Aung said in a press conference on land rights that the President U Win Myint had directed the State and Division Governments to conclude their investigation regarding confiscated land before 31 December. U Win Myint also said that the Land and Other Land Re-scrutiny Committee in Irrawaddy had been investigating confiscated land at the presidents direction.

[\(20 September 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

### **Protest in Loikaw Resist Land Confiscations**

On September 23, some 80 people held a protest to resist land confiscations. 80 some people live on the land where successive governments have allowed armed groups to work in Myakalatt Taung Temple in Loikaw Township, Kayah Division. Loikaw Township Administration had asked the farmers to move from the land, in response the demonstrators protested with sign boards, requesting access to the land, and land titles to prove ownership.

[\(23 September 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

### **Some Residents Yet to Receive Compensation for Railway Construction in Natmauk Township**

On September 17, Tin Taung announced that some farmers still have received no compensation despite the Government saying it is providing compensation for the railway construction from Magwar to Natmauk to Pyawbwe. Approximately 10 farmers received compensation who did not actually lose land, yet, five who land did not receive compensation. In 2010, over 120 farmers lost a total of 106.07 acres of land to the construction of the railway in Natmauk Township.

[\(23 September 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(25 September 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

### **Nickel Company Provides Compensation for Damaged Farmland**

On September 18, CNMC Company provided compensation for over 400 acres of farmers' land damaged by the Taung Nickel Factory. They provided 700,000 kyats (\$439) for every acre for the damaged land. The damaged land ranged from Yayshin, Twaykyauk, Kyaukpasat, Shwe Taung Chuang in Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Division - to Maung Kone village in Htigyaing Township, and Inn Net village in Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay. On June 8 and September 22, 2017 farmers held a protest to demand compensation for this damaged land.

[\(23 September 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

### **Vice President Calls for Land Dispute to be Solved Honestly**

On September 23, the Department of Industry and the Myanmar Medical Association transferred temporary land ownership titles to 27 original landowners for 332 acres of land confiscated from them in Taw Pyer Gyi village in Thantaunggyi Township, Karen State. Vice President Henry Van Thio urged those involved in the land dispute to deal honestly because of the situation's complexity. He went on to call on the Departments of respective Ministries have to return the vacant land to the original landowner immediately, the department of respective Minister have to return the vacant land immediately, the returning land has to be transferred to the original landowners quickly.

[\(23 September 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#)

### **Shwegyin Farmers Protest Over No Longer Being Allowed to Cultivate Their Land**

On September 25, some 30 farmers protested because they are no longer allowed to cultivate land they have been cultivating for over 20 years because of the Shwegyin Township Administrator Tun Tun Lin. From 1998-99 the Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council signed and allocated the land from the township to the department. On September 19, Tun Tun Lin met with farmers and told them to stop cultivating on the land as it is grazing land. He also said that he will charge farmers who cultivate on the land. This is what caused the protests according to farmer Soe Aung.

[\(25 September 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 September 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

### **Hukawng Residents Hold Discussion on Land Confiscation**

From September 21-23 Hukawng residents held discussions at Wa Ra Zup village regarding confiscated land. The discussion centered on the many ways that residents have tried and failed to oppose the Yuzana Company, said resident Sg Tang Gun. In addition to this, the residents discussed how to preserve tigers in Hukawng Valley. Residents have repeatedly tried to solve the confiscated land issues with the Military but with no success.

[\(25 September 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

### **Farm Rights Protesters From Patheingyi Township Detained**

On September 26 the Mandalay District Court denied bail to Mya, Mya Mya and Than Paing of Aung Thabyay village in Patheingyi Township. They were detained after they staged a protest against the expansion of a road in preparation for the building of the cement factory. They were told that they would not be compensated for the land. They face six months to three years' imprisonment under regional road and transportation laws, and are currently being detained at Obo prison.

[\(26 September 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)

**The Department of Regional Military Commands (RMC) to Return over 5,000 of Vacant Land**

On September 27, the Chairman of the MNHRC, Win Mya said in a meeting with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that 5,161 acres of vacant land in Kantbalu, Monywa, Katha and Shwebo Districts, will be transferred by the Department of RMC. Win Mya also said that the MNHRC has received many complaint letters regarding land disputes.

[\(27 September 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

**Farmers Protest Municipal Authority in Mon State Over Continuing Land Confiscations**

On September 27, nearly 50 farmland owners protested because the Municipal authority has continued its confiscation of some 70 acres of farmland in Hlaing Ward in Mawlamyine Town, Mon State. The land had been passed down generations. The farmland owners do not have ownership titles, but they have receipts, said protester Chit Saunt. He said that they had already paid 50 baskets of paddy to the government, and that it has been four years since they have had to pay anything. Farmers requested to 14 different Departmental Organisations, including the President's Office, State Counselor, and Ministry of National Consulting Office, to solve these problems regarding land confiscations.

[\(28 September 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

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## LAND RIGHTS

- **Farmers Demand Confiscated Land Returned in Nay Pyi Taw**  
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