

NOVEMBER CHRONOLOGY 2018

Summary of the Current Situation:

305 individuals are oppressed in Burma due to political activity:

36 political prisoners are serving sentences,

53 are awaiting trial inside prison,

216 are awaiting trial outside prison.

Aung Thapyay Villagers Sentenced to one month Imprisonment



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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

Correspondent Charged under Section 68 of the Telecommunications Act

On November 8, U Myint Zaw Oo was charged for falsely posting information regarding an alleged bombing at Yangon University on his Facebook page, this information subsequently alarmed the public. U Myint Zaw Oo, a correspondent for Radio Free Asia and editor in charge of the Magwe Journal, stated that his post was only questioning whether the bombing news was confirmed as he was in China at the time. Despite taking down his Facebook status after confirmation that there was no bombing at Yangon University, he was charged under Section 68 of the 2013 Telecommunications Act.

Panda Textile Factory Protest Workers Detained by Police

On November 9, four protest leaders were charged under Article 18 and 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law for their participation in a sit-in protest by workers of the Panda Textile Factory in Sintgaing Township in Mandalay Region. The workers were protesting their claims of being fired without proper cause. On their way to the factory, authorities stopped and detained three of the protest leaders. While the leaders were eventually released, the Paleik police filed a lawsuit against four protest leaders - including the three detained - later that same day.

Fifty Villagers Charged For Power Project Protest

On November 10, Magwe filed charges against 50 people from Sa Gyi village for protesting against an electricity project in Aunglan Township. The project plans to lay

213 meters of cables through Sa Gyi to Ka Lon Hmaw and Kar Ma Lay, which worried villagers who have safety concerns. Lawmakers and engineers have attempted to negotiate with residents and later charged those who kept interfering with the project development. Daw Nyo Nyo San, a community leader, stated that “the minister closed his door to us and threatened us when we tried to speak with him about the matter. He said we could either allow it or face action.”

ARRESTS

Police Arrests Three People including the Chairman of ABSDF in Mohnyin

On November 30, the Vice Chairman of All Burma Student' Democratic Front (ABSDF), Aung Swe Oo, Captain Mg Oo and civilian Than Htike Aung were arrested under Section 17 (1) of the Telecommunications Law by Mohnyin Myoma Police Station, Kachin State. Colonel Thi Ha Soe from the Light Infantry #15, based in Mohnyin Town, sent a letter to Mohnyin Myoma Police Station to file a lawsuit against them for the reason that the three men went and stayed in the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and Northern Command's movement area without permission.

Aung Swe Oo went to Mohnyin because Soldier Naing Tun Tun, who served at the northern ABSDF, died in Mohnyin Town according to the organization, said Sein Aye from the Peace Support Group. Aung Swe Oo had gotten permission to travel from Nay Pyi Taw, but he did not report his arrival in Mohnyin Town, according to State MP in Mohnyin Town, Tin Aye.

SENTENCES

Arakan Army Supporter Sentenced Two Years Under the Unlawful Associations Act

On November 26, Hla Tun Kyaw of Leik Ka Maw Village in Kyaukphyu township was sentenced to two years in prison by a local court in Rakhine State for launching a hot air balloon with a portrait of the chief of the Arakan Army (AA). The hot air balloon was launched in celebration of the commander-in-chief's, Maj-Gen Tun Myat Naing, 39th birthday during the Tazaungdaing Festival in November 2017. U Hla Tun Kyaw was sentenced under Section 17(1) of the Unlawful Associations Act.

Sentenced to Thirty Years Imprisonment in Connection to Handmade Bomb Attacks in Sittwe

On November 16, the Sittwe Tract Court in Arakan State sentenced Maung Aye Win to thirty years imprisonment and finalized the release of Maung Oo Myint, who were arrested in regard to three bombs explosion in Sittwe in February. The court prosecuted Maung Oo Myint in connection to a bomb explosion in front of the court and Maung Aye Win was prosecuted related to the bomb explosions in front of the court, Tin Mg Swe's house and near the Land Records Office, totaling in three cases. Maung Aye Win said that he did not participate in any explosions nor was an accomplice. Moreover, he was away in Buthidaung Township and Maungdaw Township when the attacks were happened. The homemade bombs exploded in three places and each counted for a ten year sentence, making it a total of thirty years, according to the lawyer on the case, Aye Nu Sein. She also said they will appeal to the High Court for the reason that the Government did not enable imposition of

any witnesses related to the case and he was sentenced to serious penalties.

Five Farmers are Sentenced for Blocking the Road

On November 28, five farmers were sentenced to one month imprisonment under Section 341 of the Penal Code by the Patheingyi Township Court in regards to blocking the entrance and exit road of the Coal-Fired Cement Factory, which has been under construction near in Aung Tha Pyay village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Division. The five farmers were charged by the Myint Investment Company. The lawyer of the farmers, Si Thu, believes that because the road was constructed on the farmland of the farmers, they cannot be punished under Section 341 of the Penal Code for simply restraining. A clash happened between the farmers and police in front of the court due to dissatisfaction with the sentence. Farmers have been charged under the PAPPL, including the Road and Bridge Law, for forcefully protesting against the coal-fired cement factory which has been being built by Myint Investment Company.

CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT

Sagaing Division High Court Judge Investigates Shwebo Prison

On November 2, Sagaing Division High Court Judge, Myo Maung, investigated the Shwebo Prison to see if they were respecting the rights to detainees and prisoners. He checked dormitories, kitchens, water tanks of prisoners and detainees. Moreover, he met and asked questions to the officers regarding whether prisoners and detainees have got their rights and their detention is in line with the rule of law. He asked questioned in relation to whether they receive adequate accommodations, healthy food, having the right to treatment when they

are unhealthy, whether they have been tortured and abused or not, and if female prisoners and detainees are placed with female security guards.

Lawyer Khin Khin Kyaw and Than Htike's Sentence to be Reduced to Three Months in Prison

On November 5, Minhla Township Court reduced the imprisonment of Lawyer Khin Khin Kyaw and former student of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU), Than Htike, by three months, the pair had been sentenced to six months imprisonment. They applied for appeal in October and the Court accepted part of the appeal, said their High Court Lawyer Kyi Myint. He also said that the appeal will continue in preparation of this coming week in order to prevent the revoking of Khin Khin's license to practice law as the crime and the punishment were not fair. In addition, it has applied for appeal to the Region Advocate to finalize the release of Khin Khin Kyaw.

Reuters Journalist File Appeal to Yangon High Court

On November 2, lawyers for the two Reuters reporters filed an appeal against the charges made against them. The appeal states that "the Court erred as matter of law and fact" on multiple grounds despite convincing proof of a police set up, failure to establish each and every element of Section 3(1)(c) of the Official Secrets Act, lack of viable evidence of a crime being committed beyond reasonable doubt, and more. In a statement released the same day the appeal was lodged, President and Editor-in-Chief of Reuters, Stephen J Adler, asks Myanmar, "to uphold its stated dedication to the rule of law, freedom of the press, and democracy by ordering the release of our colleagues, whether on appeal or by granting the families' request

for a pardon." On November 20, it was confirmed that the High Court accepted the case and will now take into account written and oral arguments from both the prosecution and defense lawyers before making a final decision. U Min Lwin Oo, legal advisor of the Norway-based Asian Human Rights Commission, stated in an interview with VOA Burmese that the journalists will attend another hearing at which they will most likely be acquitted or have their sentences reduced.

RELEASES

Eleven Media Journalists' Case Comes to an End

On November 9, incitement charges against three Eleven Media senior journalists were withdrawn after authorities agreed on dropping the charges. Eleven Media's executive editors Kyaw Zaw Li and Nayi Min and Chief reporter Phyo Wai Win were arrested in October under Article 505(b) for criticizing the financial management of Yangon's government. [See the October 2018 Chronology Report for further information on the case.] On Thursday, Chief Minister Phyo Min Thein told a news conference that he would continue the legal process if the media group did not release an apology as part of the negotiations. On Friday, Eleven Media had decided they would not be apologizing. However, Kyee Myint, the lawyer for Eleven Media staff, said that the court received a letter from the government requesting to drop the charges. The judge allowed them to withdraw and gave the verdict on Friday, ending the case.

Four Farmers Charged with Trespassing Have Release Finalised

On November 6, Sintgaing Township Court finalized the release of four farmers who had been charged for squatting on confiscated land in Sintgaing Township, Mandalay Division. In 1972, the

Department of Agriculture and Irrigation confiscated over 3,000 acres which belonged to farmers from four villages in Sintgaing Township. In 2014, the land was lended to the Ngwe Pin Lel Cattle Ranch in

Shan Can village. The four farmers were sued for trespassing in May 2016 by the Cattle Ranch as the farmers prevented the building of a fence. They have been facing trial for over two years.

RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Kyaukme Resident is Arrested due to Conflict in Southern Shan State

A villager who was harvesting crops was arrested by an Ethnic Armed Group (EAG) in Kyaukme Township due to a clash between the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS/SSA) and the Northern Alliance. On November 25, an EAG came in the Pone Lon village and arrested Sai Auba, according to his relative. He is a former Administrator of Pone Lon who is over 50 years old and has five children.

Six Youths are Arrested by Ethnic Armed Group in Kutkai

On November 26, six youths who were at a tea shop were arrested by an Ethnic Armed Group (EAG) in Kutkai Township, Southern Shan State. Residents called for the administrator to assist in their release. The Kachin Independence Army (KIA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and the military have been known for their presence in Kutkai Township, which is why the residents were confident in saying that they were arrested by an ethnic armed group.

Former Journalist Unjustly Detained and Abused

On November 9, a former Democratic Voice of Burma reporter was detained by the police on his way to pick up his daughter in Ahlone Township. Ko Aung Soe Htike stated that the officers approached him on the street, immediately handcuffed him, and took him to the station without any explanation for the reason why he was being detained. He endured four hours of detention during which he was physically

threatened and abused into a confession. The police later showed a CCTV footage showing a thief who looked similar to Ko Aung Soe Htike and though he denied the allegations, he was only let go after his wife and two friends negotiated his release with the township police chief. A few days after the event, Aung Soe Htike told The Irrawaddy that he will be filing a complaint with the EU office in Myanmar, the MNHRC, and the Lower House Committee for Rule of Law, "I will send the complaint this week. There are many people like me who are arrested mistakenly, beaten up and forced to admit to a crime and they are helpless and have to spend time behind bars where their rights and dignity are abused."

MNHRC Begins Investigation of Taxi Driver Allegedly Killed Because of Police Beatings During Detainment

On November 22, Myanmar's National Human Rights Commission started its investigation of the death of Ko Aung Aung, a taxi driver who is believed to have died from the injuries he sustained while being tortured by police. On September 12, Ko Aung Aung was arrested along with two suspected thieves by Thanlyin Township police after being hired for a ride and despite the suspects telling the police he had nothing to do with the theft, he continued to be detained. Ko Aung Aung later died on September 26 after the trial, which prompted his family to file a complaint with the MNHRC as they believed his death was related to police abuse.

KBC Claims Unjust Detention and Beating of Two Kachin Men by Military

On November 26, two ethnic Kachin men were detained and beaten by the military while traveling to Mann Bein Village in Shan State for a football game organized by the Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC). Members of KBC alleged that the two men, Khun Zaw Taung and Zaw Wong, were detained by soldiers under suspicions of being associated with the KIA due to a video of Khun Zaw Taung dancing with members from the KIA. The two men were beaten while detained despite assuring they were not members of the KIA. Bawk Tawng, a KBC camp leader, stated that "They [the soldiers] covered their eyes with some clothes and beat them with sticks." Both men were badly wounded for denying the accusation and were not released until township authorities could confirm to the soldiers they were not members of the KIA.

15 Travelers Released After Detainment

On November 4, the military released the rest of the 15 members of the KBC who it detained last month under suspicions of being affiliated with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA). Cham Loi (Lacham) Hkawng Nyo, a Kachin Baptist Convention leader and one of the detainees, recalled that they were detained for 12 days at Myitkyina police station with the men being under investigation at the compound of Light Infantry Battalion 37 and the women were interrogated in the camp of Military Security Affairs Unit in the Northern Military Command. They were blindfolded, handcuffed, and later forced to sign a written confession stating that they were not tortured by the inspectors during the investigation.

Military Releases Ta'ang Locals Arrested In Response to TNLA Detainment of a Captain

On November 22, the military released five out of ten Ta'ang locals who they arrested this week in Kutkai Township, northern Shan State. The arrests occurred in response to the detainment of Chan Myay Htun, an army officer of Infantry Battalion 45, by the TNLA. On November 20, Chan Myay Htun was stopped en route to visit his ethnic Ta'ang girlfriend and detained after members of the TNLA found two guns and bullets from him. After it was announced Chan Myay Htun would be held accountable under TNLA's own laws, Infantry Division 99 and Infantry Battalion 45 detained 10 locals from the area where the army officer was being detained, including the girlfriend and her brother who is the village head. The locals were detained despite having no involvement with the TNLA and six have since been released according to the village head of Pan Ku in Kutkai Township, who also negotiated their release with the military.

Grade Nine Student from Dawei Town Who is Accused as a Thief is Beaten and Hospitalized

A student who lives in the Dawei Hospital Compound, Tanintharyi Division, was beaten by Dawei Myoma Police Station after being mistaken for a thief and is now hospitalized, according to his father, Kyaw Soe Moe. On November 15, he quarrelled with his mom and walked away. The hospital security police on duty arrested him, accusing him for being a thief whilst he was walking around in the hospital compound. He was later handcuffed and Police Second Lieutenant of the four police officers punched and hit him.

On November 16, Ward Administrator and some police came apologized and to not complain anything related to the case, said

Kyaw Soe Moe. He then did not want to file lawsuit against them for beating his son, but he wants them to take action in terms of the police rules.

Forced Participation of Ethnic Pa-O in Pro-Military Rally

On November 14, hundreds of ethnic Pa-O locals were allegedly forced to participate in a pro-military rally by government authorities in Taunggyi. While it is still being investigated if locals were paid to join the rally, authorities have been known to threaten to kick locals out of their villages in order to enforce participation. The government group Social Networking and National Security Centre (SNNS) has also previously asked the Pa-O National Organization (PNO) for assistance at past pro-military rallies. Saw Khun Kyaw Win, a member of the PNO's executive committee, confirmed that he was not contacted for help with this rally. While he could not confirm if any other local militia was involved, he did not deny that authorities were most likely involved in forcing Pa-O communities to participate in the rally: "Our ethnic people were used. [The authorities] used them." Local Pa-O in Taunggyi are worried that other ethnic groups will mistrust them for being apart of the rally while simultaneously complying with orders of authorities for fear of being punished otherwise.

Cases under Telecommunications Law Increases to 14 Cases in Two Months

On November 5, the Freedom of Expression Activist Organization (Athán) released a statement that those being sued under the Telecommunications Law has increased to

Dispute Resolved between the Speaker Journal and President's Office

On November 23, an article by the Speaker Journal stated that some State and Regional

14 cases within two months. There are a total 164 charges which have been already appealed to Court under the Telecommunications Law and there have been 62 charges after the amendment of the law. Additionally, most of the charges are under Sections 66 (d) and 66 (a) of the Telecommunications Law and just a few under 68 (a), according to the executive officer of Athán, Maung Saung Kha. There are 20 charges of MPs and government officers out of the total charges. There are also 21 charges against journalists and 29 journalists are facing trial. There are 22 charges under the Telecommunications Law during the former presidency, 91 cases before amendment of the law and 62 cases after amendment the law during the NLD Government, according to the Athán's research paper.

Three Arakanese Activists Who Were Arrested In Regards to the Death of a Military Intelligence Corporal Are Released

On November 5, two members of Arakan Youth Conference (AYC), Aung Zaw Lin a.k.a Aung Chae from Buthidaung Township and Khine Bo Bo a.k.a Khine Thaw from Pauktaw Township, and May Yu Tun a.k.a Zaw Win from the Arakan National Party (ANP) were released on bail and fined ten million Kyats (\$6243.55) in regards to the death of a Military intelligence Corporal, Win Htike in Sittwe Town, Arakan State. The three Arkanese student activists were released due to lack of valid evidence to charge even though they were already remanded for 30 days in custody. ANP gave a guarantee the three activists.

Ministers according to the council Chairman Ohn Kyaing. The Mandalay Division Prime Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Mg and Federal Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye were not included in the dismissed list. The

President himself talked to Ohn Kyaing about taking action in regards to the article at the new member ceremony on November 23. In a complaint letter given to Ohn Kyaing, the President asked for an apology and explained that the information in the article was not valid as it was written without the President's approval despite the article describing a source a close to the President's office. The President's Office confirmed that none of the information came from them. The dispute was later resolved after negotiations by the Media Council between the Speaker Journal and the President's Office. Ohn Kyaing also said that the Speaker Journal wrote an apology letter on its Facebook and they will apologize further on its journal, which will be released on December 5.

NLD says No Action Will Be Taken Against Mon Prime Minister

On November 28, the Irrawaddy released an article titled "NLD says Mon Prime Minister Will Be Warned Due to Complaint". However, according to the National League for Democracy (NLD) spokesman Dr. Myo Nyunt, Mon State Prime Minister Dr. Aye Zan will not have action taken against him due to a complaint as they have not received any about him. On November 28, Dr. Aye Zan also stated at a press conference in Mawlamyine that the information in the article is not true and the NLD has said nothing to him about it.

Land Rights

New Amendment Allows For Further Land Seizure

Last month, the government added an amendment to the 2012 Vacant Land Law that allows the Vacant Land Management Central Committee to punish offenders who do not submit applications with detailed information about the use of the land or use the vacant land without getting permission from the committee first. Inadequate applications will lead to eviction notices without a right of appeal and violation of the amendment can lead to punishments of two years in prison and/or a fine of 500,000 (\$312) kyats. Mung Seng Tu, a legal advocate working in Myitkyina, Kachin State, believes that the new amendment will make it easier for authorities to take land in ethnic areas of conflict, particularly in Kachin and northern Shan states. The amendment also poses a problem as most ethnic people apply customary law, rather than the former military regime's law, when addressing land registration and ownership. Therefore, many locals are at risk of either losing their land or being punished for not cooperating. Moreover, on November 27, IDP from Kachin and Northern Shan State released their opinion saying that they were worried that companies and entrepreneurs will register and occupy the land of Kachin and Shan IDP due to this law.

Farmers Seek to Reclaim Unused Land Confiscated by the Military

On October 23, local residents held a protest during a forum on land issues at Gaung-ei relatives' traditional hall in Pekon Township in Southern Shan State. They demanded the return of 1,600 acres out of 4,000 that the military confiscated in the 1990s, which should be owned and managed by the Gaung-ei relatives group.

The government has blocked along neighboring acreage and banned trespassing in fenced areas, making it difficult for farmers traveling around town. The residents hope to negotiate the return of confiscated land legally through the Minister for Kayah Ethnic Affairs and the Kayah state parliament members.

Squatter Homes Removed With Little Notice

On November 13, the Mandalay City Development Committee and general administrative officials started the removal of 120 squatters homes in Chanmyathazi township in Mandalay. Residents submitted letters of appeal to governmental departments asking for more time for residing students to finish school. Instead of a response to the appeals, residents were given two days to move out and those who didn't had their homes removed.

May Yu Housing Land Owners Protest, Demanding for Land Compensation

On November 14, land owners from May Yu Housing Compound in Botahtaung Township in Yangon Region staged a protest of 70 people at the Department of Urban and Housing Development requesting compensation for land that was taken by the military. If the compensation is not given by the end of December, the land owners have declared that they may open a protest camp in front of the government office. Though the land pieces were nationalized in June 1994, it was only until June 2016 that the Department of Urban and Housing Development paid compensations to 277 land owners, but remaining land owners are still unpaid. These land owners stated that they were assured to be paid in September, but it was

postponed to December. They will continue to protest until they receive at least K150,000.

Over Three Hundreds Residents Hold Corn Strike for the Second Time in Loikaw

On November 5, three hundred residents protested against the Kayah State Government's consideration of residents as squatters in Loikaw for the second time by holding a corn strike. Part of the reason why they are holding the strike is because they have been unable to meet with the Government despite having requested to repeatedly and because the Government does not comply with their demands, according to the protest leader, Ku Kuu. He also explained that holding a corn strike demonstrates that they will not move from their current living place.

Residents started living in the Namt Baw Wan Shan (a) Ward in Loikaw Town since 2015 which the Government considers a religious area. In 2016, the State Government considered over 150 houses trespassing. The land dispute was donated in the previously Kantayawaddy Emirate religious area, but the respective government gave permission to live on this land, which is why this land dispute happens.

Removal of Homes in Land Dispute

On November 10, around 300 police officers from the Branch of Marine Police Station, removed homes and fences which farmer Pauk Sa's family cultivates on near Paw Daw Mu Pagoda, Maha Aungmye Township, Mandalay Division. Moreover, police from no.7 Mandalay Police Station arrested farmer Pauk Sa and his family members, Tin Htay, Myint Myint San, Khine Sar Win, Min Min Khine and Moe Tee. The land was passed down by Pauk Sa's family and the 10.50 acres of his land were

confiscated for the construction of the Irrawaddy Strand Road in 1995. On August 7, 2016, the farmers cultivated on the five acres of the surplus land because nothing was changed when they had complained for the return the surplus land to the relevant department many times. On October 7, 2016, they were charged under Section 447 of the Penal Code for squatting land and cultivating on the land by the Marine Police. On November 26, Maha Aungmye Township Court released them conditionally on the fact that the evidence was not valid. Subsequently, farmer Pauk Sa's family continues to cultivate on the land.

Land Compensation Consultation Remains Unresolved

On November 27, a consultation about compensation for confiscated land involved in the upgrade of Mawlamyine Airport failed to be resolved, according to a member of Mon State Government Minister of Ethnic, Shwe Myint. Garden land owners are demanding 200 million Kyats (\$126,060) for the garden land while farmers are demanding approximately 30 million Kyats (\$18,909). However, the Government has valued one acre of garden land at 40 million Kyats (\$25,616.2), one acre of farmland that is beside Kyakmaraw Road at six million Kyats (\$37,42.43), and one acre far away from the road at four million Kyats (\$2,561.62). Land, crop and building compensations will be given separately by the Mon State Government. On December 4, the negotiation will continue as no agreement was reached previously. The Government will negotiate with the farmers until they can agree on a price.

Solo Protest Continues as Trespaced Land is not Resolved

On November 16, Phoe Kho held a solo protest for the third time in Monywa Town

for not solving the problem of his land being squatted even though he has the land ownership title. The protest occurred because he could not complain about it to the Land and Other Land Management Committee, Lower House Court and Township Court despite the fact that he has land ownership title and land title. The 2.79 acres of land was passed down by his father after his father's death. In 2013, Kyaw Myint Aung started squatting his land in Sai Pyin Town, Tabayin Township, Sagaing Division. Phoe Kho complained about it to the respective departments including the Land and Other Land Management Committee, nevertheless no action was taken. He will go to the President's Office and give his land ownership title and land title if nothing happens even after this time's protest, said Phoe Kho.

Residents Request for the Return of Confiscated Land by Military

On November 16, residents held a press conference demanding the return of 25 acres of land to the original owners, which belonged to 17 farmers, before it was confiscated by military in between of Mindama Street and Rangoon Technology University in Mayangon Township, Rangoon Division. Additionally, they demanded to implement it in accordance with the land policy because the MRTV-4 constructed the Myanmar Event Park during the civilian Government. In 1990, the military confiscated the land, which is called Kyoekon, belonging to the 17 farmers without paying any compensation for the construction of the military barracks. Farmers complained about it in 2013 and asked them to return the land as the military did not implement any building. After that, private buildings such as Sweet Home, Asia Green Development Bank (AGD) and nun schools were built on the land and not the department building.

Wundwin Farmers Have Yet to Receive Land Compensation

Farmers have not received their compensation for land confiscated for the extension of the old Rangoon to Mandalay road in Wundwin Township, Mandalay Division. In 2001, around 50 acres of farmers' land was used in the extension of a road. Myo Win Thant from Assistance Ray of Light Group for Farmers, collected the signatures and fingerprints of 250 farmers' demanding for the confiscated land in Wundwin Township and reported it to the division government on July 24. It has also been reported to Union Minister on July 31, but nevertheless, he has not received a reply.

Farmers Hold a Press Conference in order to Solve the Issue of Land Confiscation

On November 24, farmers held a press conference in Ngwe Saung town in order to deal with the issue of confiscated land. In 2000, the Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited confiscated the 315 acres of Coconut land, which belonged to 248 farmers, for the construction of hotels at the Ngwe Saung Beach. The company only provided for the crop compensation and replaced a 40' and 60' plot. In 2010, the company returned the land, but the Regional Government gave access to the land to the entrepreneurs rather than the original farmers. Farmers demanded the Government to return the confiscated land. Consequently, Regional Government negotiated with the entrepreneurs and original farmers in order to make sure the original farmers would not suffer. On the contrary, the price was totally different from what the entrepreneurs were willing to pay the farmers and what the farmers' had demanded. The committee included three Regional Ministers in order to enable solving the land dispute, but the

entrepreneurs did not meet up with the farmers. The farmers held the press conference because they want the Government to solve the land dispute immediately.

Farmers Hold Press Conference due to Dissatisfaction

On November 13, farmers held a press conference at the Media Centre in Mandalay Town due to dissatisfaction with the sentence of farmer Myint Aung and land activist Myo Win by the Patheingyi Township Court, regarding the building of houses on the confiscated land for the Yaytakontaung Golf Course in Yaykyi village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Division. On November 12, the two men faced up to two months in prison under Section 447 and 114 of the Penal Code by the Patheingyi Township Court. Myo Win faced trial and was sentenced while he was detained and thus, was freed on the sentenced day as he had already served the time allotted. In 2016, the two men were charged by Mandalay City Development Committee. In 1997, Mandalay City Development Committee confiscated 547.80 acres of farmland, which belonged to 82 farmers, in order to build the golf course. The golf course used around 300 acres for its project and farmers cultivated on approximately 250 acres land which was left as vacant wasteland. However, farmers and the Mandalay Division Government have negotiated to enable the replacing of land and buildings for farmers who lost their land and their homes due to the continuation of the Mandalay City Development Committee's project.

Plan to Provide Compensation for Land Involved in the Katha to Bhamo Railway Construction

Compensation will be provided this year for the land which was involving in the construction of Kaha to Bhamo railway, according to Division MP Nyi Nyi Tun from Katha Township. The railway was constructed in 2007 and 2008, and 303 acres land, which is belonged to 187 farmers from six villages in Katha Township, was used in the construction. The compensation for the 303 acre land will be 547 million Kyats (\$345,382.50) and it will be awarded separately by the land categories.

Farmers Demand to Take Action in Regards to Over 170 Farmers Being Charged Yearly

Farmers want action to be taken in terms of the law that has led to the yearly charges of over 170 farmers from four villages, Ponnagyun Township, Arakan State. These farmers were charged and being punished yearly for squatting the grazing land despite them having been cultivating on this land for many years. The land had been worked to implement the Farmland Development and Poverty Reducing during the command of a military region, Mg Ohn Government. The farmers had been allowed to cultivate on the land in 2003 - 2004. In 2014, the General Administrator charged them for not paying the land tax. There are total of 23 farmers who cultivate on this land.

REFERENCES

POLITICAL PRISONERS CHARGES

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[\(3 November 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(3 November 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)[\(4 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(8 November 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(8 November - Myanmar Times/English\)](#) [\(8 November 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 November 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(10 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
- **Panda Textile Factory Protest workers Detained by Police**
[\(9 November - Irrawaddy/English\)](#) [\(9 November - Myanmar Times/English\)](#)
- **Fifty Villagers Charged For Power Project Protest**
[\(13 November 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 November - Myanmar Times/English\)](#)

ARRESTS

- **Mohnyin Town Police Arrests Three People including the Chairman of ABSDF**
[\(1 December 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

TRIAL

- **Reuters Journalist File Appeal to Yangon High Court**
[\[2 November 2- Reuters/English\]](#) [\[5 November - Frontier/English\]](#) [\[5 November - Mizzima/English\]](#) [\[5 November 2018 - RFA/Burmese\]](#) [\[5 November 2018 - BBC/Burmese\]](#) [\[5 November 2018 - VOA/Burmese\]](#) [\[5](#)

[November 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\]](#) [\(5 November 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\[5 November 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\]](#) [\[5 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\]](#) [\[21 November - VOA/English\]](#) [\[21 November 2018 - VOA/Burmese\]](#) [\[21 November 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\]](#) [\[22 November 2018 - DVB/Burmese\]](#) [\[22 November 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\]](#)

SENTENCES

- **Arakan Army Supporter Charged Two Years Under the Unlawful Associations Act**
[\(26 November 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(27 November - Irrawaddy, English\)](#)
- **Sentenced to Thirty Years Imprisonment in Connection to Handmade Bomb Attacks in Sittwe**
[\(17 November 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 November 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 November 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT

- **Sagaing Division High Court Judge Investigates Shwebo Prison**
[\(3 November 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)

- **Lawyer Khin Khin Kyaw and Than Htike's Sentence to be Reduced to Three Months in Prison**
[\(6 November 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[\(6 November 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

RELEASES

- **Eleven Media Journalists' Case Comes to an End**
[\(9 November - Eleven Media/English\)](#) [\(9 November - Reuters/English\)](#) [\(9 November 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 November 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 November 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 November 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 November 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 November 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 November 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(10 November - Mizzima/English\)](#) [\(29 November 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)
- **Three Arakanese Activists Who Were Arrested In Regards to the Death of a Military Intelligence Corporal Are Released**
[\(5 November 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(5 November 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(5 November 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(6 November 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(6 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
- **Four Farmers who Had been Charged with Trespassing Have Finalized Release**
[\(6 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

- **Kyaukme Resident is Arrested due to Conflict in Southern Shan**
[\(27 November 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)
- **Six Youths are Arrested by Ethnic Armed Group in Kutkai**
[\(27 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
- **Former Journalist Unjustly Detained and Abused**
[\(10 November - 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(11 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(12 November - Irrawaddy/English\)](#)
- **MNHRC Begins Investigation of Taxi Driver Allegedly Killed Because of Police Beatings During Detainment**
[\(12 November 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(20 November 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 November 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 November - Irrawaddy/English\)](#)
- **KBC Claims Unjust Detention and Beating of Two Kachin Men by Military**
[\(27 November - Irrawaddy/English\)](#) [\(27 November 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(27 November 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(27 November 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#)
- **15 Travelers Released After Detainment**
[\(4 November 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(5 November - Irrawaddy/English\)](#) [\(5 November 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(5 November 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(5 November 2018 - 7 Day](#)

- [Daily/Burmese](#) ([6 November - BNI/English](#))
- **Military Releases Ta'ang Locals Arrested In Response to TNLA Detainment of a Captain**
[\(21 November 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) ([22 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese](#)) ([22 November 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese](#)) ([22 November 2018 - VOA/Burmese](#)) ([22 November 2018 - RFA/Burmese](#)) ([23 November - Irrawaddy/English](#)) ([23 November 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese](#)) ([25 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese](#))
- **Grade Nine Student from Dawei Town Who is Accused as a Thief is Beaten and Hospitalized**
[\(17 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
- **Forced Participation of Ethnic Pa-O in Pro-Military Rally**
[\(15 November - Irrawaddy/English\)](#)
- **Those Being Sued under the Telecommunications Law Increases to 14 Cases in Two Months**
[\(5 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

LEGISLATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

- **The Dispute is Resolved between The Speaker Journal and President Office**
[\(24 November 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) ([25 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese](#)) ([30 November 2018 - The Voice/Burmese](#))
- **NLD says No Action Will Be Taken Against Mon Prime Minister**

[\(29 November 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) ([29 November 2018 - The Voice/Burmese](#))

LAND RIGHTS

- **New Amendment Allows For Further Land Seizement** ([12 November 2018 - VOA/Burmese](#)) ([12 November 2018 - BNI/Burmese](#)) ([13 November - Irrawaddy/English](#)) ([15 November 2018 - BNI/Burmese](#)) ([19 November - Frontier/English](#)) ([28 November 2018 - VOA/Burmese](#)) ([28 November 2018 - BNI/Burmese](#))
- **Farmers Seek to Reclaim Unused Land Confiscated by the Military** ([2 November - BNI/English](#)) ([2 November 2018 - BNI/Burmese](#))
- **Squatter Homes Removed With Little Notice**
[\(13 November 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) ([14 November - Mizzima/English](#)) ([14 November 2018 - RFA/Burmese](#)) ([14 November 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese](#)) ([15 November 2018 - Eleven/Burmese](#))
- **May Yu Housing Land Owners Protest, Demanding for Land Compensation**
[\(14 November 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) ([15 November - Eleven/English](#))
- **Over Three Hundreds Residents Hold Corn Strike for the Second Time in Loikaw**
[\(6 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
- **Removal of Homes in Land Dispute**
[\(10 November 2018, RFA/Burmese\)](#) ([11 November 2018 - The](#)

- [Voice/Burmese](#) ([11 November 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese](#))
- **The Land Compensation Consultation Remains Unresolved** ([29 November 2018 - The Voice/Burmese](#))
- **Solo Protest Continues as Trespassed Land is not Resolved** ([16 November 2018 - DVB/Burmese](#))
- **Residents Request for the Return of Confiscated Land by Military** ([11 November 2018 - RFA/Burmese](#))
- **Five Farmers are Sentenced for Blocking the Road** ([28 November 2018 - RFA/Burmese](#)) ([29 November 2018 - Eleven/Burmese](#))
- **Wundwin Farmers Have Yet to Receive Land Compensation** ([29 November 2018 - DVB/Burmese](#))
- **Farmers Hold a Press Conference in order to Solve the Issue of Land Confiscation** ([24 November 2018 - Eleven/Burmese](#)) ([24 November 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese](#))
- **Farmers Hold Press Conference due to Dissatisfaction** ([13 November 2018 - Eleven/Burmese](#))
- **Plan to Provide Compensation for Land Involved in the Katha to Bhamo Railway Construction** ([20 November 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese](#))
- **Farmers Demand to Take Action in Regards to Over 170 Farmers Being Charged Yearly** ([17 November 2018 - Eleven/Burmese](#))

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