MARCH CHRONOLOGY 2019

Summary of the Current Situation:

364 individuals are oppressed in Burma due to political activity:

45 political prisoners are serving sentences,

94 are awaiting trial inside prison,

225 are awaiting trial outside prison.

Prison authorities authorise the beating of a student prisoner in Obo prison.



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Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)
နိုင်ငံရေးအကျဉ်းသားများ ကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအသင်း (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ)

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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

Court Prosecuted Six Family Members in Mandalay

On March 7, Mahar Aung Myay Township Court in Mandalay Division prosecuted six family members including farmer Pauk Sa for a conflict between Marine Police Force and family members. A conflict occurred on November 10, 2108 as the Marine Police Force removed homes and fences which farmer Pauk Sa's family had cultivated near 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 Zar Win, Min Khine and Moe Tee. High Court Lawyer Myo Min Zaw, who represents the family, said the original owner farmer Pauk Sa, Tin Htay and Khine Zar Win were prosecuted under Section 440/114, 332/114 of the Penal Code and Min Khine and Moe Thee were prosecuted under Section 440, 332, 189 and 294(b) of the Penal Code.

Two Villagers Charged Under Explosive Act

Than Pe and Wai Soe Tun from Min Phue Village in Rathedaung Township, Arakan State, were arrested under suspicion of causing a bomb explosion, and will be charged under Section 3 of the Explosive Act, said their family members. After mine bombs had exploded at the small bridge near Min Phue Village on February 20, the military had shot into the village. In relation to this issue, villagers were beaten and Than Pe and Wai Soe Tun were arrested by the military.

Military Filed Film Director under Telecommunication Law

The officer of Insein Myoma Police Station said a military officer of the Rangoon Divisional Military Command is a plaintiff, and filed a lawsuit against Film Director Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi under Section 66(d) of the Telecommunication Law on March 30. Director Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi said no one informed him regarding the lawsuit.

Naga Group Leaders Charged with Unlawful Association

Five leaders from the Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) were charged under Article 17/1 of the Unlawful Association Act. Their office in Khmati township was raided on March 9th, and all five leaders were subsequently arrested. The arrested include NSCN-K Peace Committee leader U An Kam, Major General Aung Mai, Lieutenant Colonel Aung Sai, spokesman U Kyaw Wan Sein, and U Saw Htein.

DISAPPEARANCES

2 Pastors Missing For 2 Months

Two pastors in Rakhine State went missing on January 19th and January 13th and have yet to be found. The first being an administrator and pastor of Tagmin Kalar village tract, Kyauktaw Township and the second being pastor Thar Tun from Saidin Village, Buthidaung Township.

Youth Missing After Military Taken

The 25 year old Zin Min Htike from Shin Let Wa Village in Paletwa Township, Chin State, disappeared after the military had taken him. On January 21, Captain Hein Htet Zaw, Area in charge of moving column of #376 Battalion, had taken him to the military camp which is close to the village, said Tin Aye, mother of Zin Min Htike. Tin Aye added that Zin Min Htike was arrested as some people, who are jealous of him, informed that Zin Min Htike had sent rice to the Arakan Army(AA).

Four Villagers from Mrauk-U Township Disappeared

Four Villagers from Yaw Ma Ni Village, Sin-O Village Tract in Mrauk-U Township, Arakan State, have disappeared when they went to the Upper Lay Myo River by boat to bring beans they bought. In the morning of March 21, Baw Chaw and Naing Naing Oo and in the evening of March 22, Maung Shwe Ba and his son Kyaw Hlaing Tun, disappeared. Yaw Ma Ni Village leader said they were arrested by the armed group. Sin-O Village Administrator Kyaw Win added that their boats were tied in Lay Myo River.

Local from Rathedaung Township Disappeared

On March 20, 52 years old Maung Nyunt Sein, from Kha Ru Chaung Village in Rathedaung Township, Arakan State, disappeared while gathering firewood in a forest near the village. His wife Mya Than Ye said she reported her husband's disappearance to the Arakan State MP.

ARRESTS

89 GAD Officials Resign in Northern Rakhine Township Due to Fear of Arrest

Police arrested four chiefs in Rakhine State under the Unlawful Associations Acts for allegedly having ties to the Arakan Army (AA); the arrested were, Maung Oo Sein of Pying Cha Village, Sein Hla Maung of Yan Aung Pyin village, Maung Tin Shwe of Pauk Pin Kwin village, and Aung Naing Tun of Kyaukse Pyin village. In response to the arrest of four chiefs in Rakhine State, 89 village administrators from Mrauk-U township collectively resigned from their posts in the General Administration Department, due to fears regarding their safety. Yet, the Rakhine State government stated resigning as a group is illegal, and each administrator must undergo the appropriate resignation process. Since March 28, 2019, 60 of the resigned administrators have promised to return to work.

Four Villagers Arrested in suspicion of AA

The Burma Army has been searching for AA troops in Rakhine State, and through the process took four villagers. Khin Maung, 30, and Kyaw Aye Maung, 25, both from Myo Chaung village, and Soe Win Naing, 22, and Maung Myint Hlaing, age estimated to be 30, from Ywa Thit ward were all taken under suspicion of being linked to the AA.

Burma Army Detains Over a Dozen People

The Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) operated an offensive move against Burma's Army base in Taga in Sagaing Division. This led to more than a dozen NSCN-K leaders to be

detained by the army. The leaders have been told to stay within designated camps, and to negotiate under the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, which the group operating in both India and Burma, has yet to sign.

Military Arrested Thar Si Htaunt Villager

On March 1, the military arrested villager Maung Bu Sein from Thar Si Htaunt Village, Rathedaung Township in Arakan State. His wife, Bu Ma Chay, said he was arrested by the military soldiers while he was herding cows.

Military Arrested Three Villagers in Kyauktaw

After the clash had occurred between the military and Arakan Army(AA) on March 14, the military arrested three villagers from Buddaw Village in Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State. These three were Nay San, Soe Win Maung and Than Win.

Military Arrested Four Villagers in Mrauk-U Township

On March 22, Light Infantry Battalion 377 arrested four villagers from Sin Cha Seik Village in Mrauk-U Township, Arakan State. These four villagers were arrested as they encountered the Light Infantry Battalion 377 while they were searching for five cows that disappeared. They were then accused of having relations to the Arakan Army(AA). Colonel Win Zaw Oo of the Western Command said these four villagers were transferred to the Mrauk-U Township Police Station.

TRIAL

Appeal By Jailed Reuter's Journalists to be Heard by Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has accepted a 26 paged appeal submitted by the Reuter's journalists' lawyer. He cited 13 areas where he believes judicial procedures were violated. Currently there is no date set for the journalists appearance at court.

Chin Let Wa Villagers Attended their First Court Hearing

On March 5, 13 villagers from Chin Let Wa Village in Paletwa Township, Chin State, who were arrested under 17(1)(2) of the Unlawful Association Act, attended their first court hearing in Sittwe Township Court, Arakan State. Lawyer Tun Hla, who represents 13 villagers, said the case was not testifiable due to security conditions and the township judge being unavailable. One arrested villager, from Chin Let Wa Village, said some villagers bled from their ears while being beaten, resulting in them becoming deaf.

SENTENCED

Aye Maung and Wai Hin Aung Sentenced to 22 Years in Jail By Sittwe Court

Former Arakan National Party leader Aye Maung, and author Wai Hin Aung, were both sentenced to 22 years imprisonment in Sittwe court. The pair were sentenced to 20 years for high treason and an

additional 2 year sentence for public mischief, under section 505(B) of the penal code. They were arrested for comments they made during a rally in January 2018 in Mrauk-U.

Two Land Rights Activists and Two Farmers Sentenced to Imprisonment

On March 25, Pyin Oo Lwin Township Court in Mandalay Division sentenced Land Rights Activist Myo Win to eight months imprisonment, Farmer Ko Moe to two months imprisonment, Land Right Activist Aye Thien to one month imprisonment and Farmer Than Tun to one month imprisonment under Section 447, 427 of the Penal Code for holding a ploughing protest to return confiscated land in Pyin Oo Lwin Township. Even though they all were released, since their detention terms were counted when they had been sentenced, Land Right Activists Myo Win and Aye Thein continue to face trial under Section 447 and 427 of the Penal Code at the Pyin Oo Lwin Township Court and Patheingyi Township Court.

CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT

164 inmates are setting up to take the matriculation exam

On March 6th, 164 inmates will take the matriculation exam; up from 104 inmates last year. There are now test centres in every prison in Burma, and those who will take the test do not have to work at the prison to ensure they have time to study. Of those taking the exam 69 are from Insein prison, 69 at Ohbo prison, 15 at Hpa-an prison, 4 at Loikaw prison, 4 at Taungoo prison, 2 at Myeik prison and one at Thayet prison.

Mandalay Prison Over Its Inmate Capacity

Capable of holding 4833 inmates but it currently accommodates 8379 inmates. There is only one staff member for every 26 inmates, the optimal number is set at 1 for 12. The lack of available medical staff was also stated.

Sentenced Students Beaten in Obo Prison

On March 25, Yadanabon Students Union released a statement and stated that four students serving their prison sentences in Obo Prison in Mandalay Division were beaten by over 20 prison staffs of Obo Prison. Four students listened to music and sang songs on the night of March 24; prison staff have subsequently forbidden this. Afterwards, there was a conflict between students and prison staffs as students did not accept that Hphone Myint Kyaw, one of four students sentenced, was the only one called out by the superintendent of Obo Prison. Then, four students were injured as they were slapped, kicked, beaten with sticks, and had their heads smashed against a wall by over 20 prison staffs. Cho Win Tun, the superintendent of Obo Prison, denied that there was beatings against the students and they just admonished the students. On March 29, four students, who were beaten in Obo Prison, were released after time served and held a press conference in Media Center in Mandalay calling for action to be taken against the perpetrators.

RELEASES

4 Rakhine Chiefs Released

Police arrested four chiefs in Rakhine State under the Unlawful Associations Acts for allegedly having ties to the Arakan Army (AA); the arrested were, Maung Oo Sein of Pying Cha Village, Sein Hla Maung of Yan Aung Pyin village, Maung Tin Shwe of Pauk Pin Kwin village, and Aung Naing Tun of Kyaukse Pyin village. The chiefs have been released due to insufficient evidence to charge them.

Two Detained Villagers Released

On March 12, two out of four people were released after being detained under the Unlawful Associations Act. U Kyaw Kyaw and U Than Tun, from Thayat Ta Bin village and Maha Muni village in Kyauktaw Township, were found not guilty of Unlawful Association, and subsequently released. The other two people, U Aye Kyaw Than and U Maung Chan Aye, are still detained.

Four Village Administrators and A Trader Released

On March 8, Maung Oo Sein of Pying Cha village, Sein Hla Maung of Yan Aung Pyin village, Maung Tin Shwe of Pauk Pin Kwin village, and Aung Naing Tun of Kyaukse Pyin village from Mrauk-U, who were charged under Section 17(1) of the Unlawful Association Act, and a local trader Kyaw Than, were released. They were accused of having connections with the Arakan Army(AA). Even though the military officer was a plaintiff and filed a lawsuit against them, Mrauk-U Myoma Police Station had testified and released them as the plaintiff did not submit sufficient evidence. These four villagers were arrested while they were holding a monthly meeting in Mrauk-U General Administrative Office in February.

Protest Leaders Released from Nyaung-U Prison

On March 29, six protest leaders, Nay Myo Win, Tin Zaw Win, Aung San Lin, Hein Thura Zaw, Marlar Soe and Yamin Soe, were released from Nyaung-U Prison in Mandalay Division after time served. On March 1, Nyaung-U Township Court in Mandalay Division sentenced six protest leaders to one month imprisonment each for holding a protest to demand the reinstatement of workers who were fired by the Tharabar Hotel. Nay Myo Win, who led a protest for the reappointment of the workers was fired by the Tharabar Hotel, and then sentenced to one month imprisonment under three counts of Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Association Act.
Tin Zaw Win, Aung San Lin, Hein Thura Zaw, Marlar Soe and Yamin Soe, five out of 13 protest leaders who attempted to march to Nay Pyi Taw, were sentenced to one month imprisonment under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law. The other 8 out of 13 protest leaders, who did not appear before the court, will be defined as fugitives.

RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Civilian Shot Amidst Armed Conflict

Armed conflict in Namlan sub-township of Hsipaw Township in northern Shan State on March 12th, resulted in a civilian being shot. Sai Kar Lane, 25 years old, is from Mang Mai village in Kon Hser village tract. The bullet hit his neck, but was not fatal.

6 Civilians Injured By Burma Army Gunfire

On March 18th gunfire and artillery shots were fired by the Burma Army in Mrauk-U Township in Northern Rakhine State. 6 civilians were injured by the military's actions.

Civilian Injured During Armed Conflict Between Burma Army and TNLA

On March 9th clashes between the TNLA and Burma Army, in Kyuakme Township Northern Shan State, led to a civilian being shot in the leg. Occurring in the town of Mong Ngor, the 50 year old women, Nang Kham Hla, was shot while walking to the market and is non-critical condition in a nearby hospital.

Child IDP Wounded After Armed Conflict

A five year old boy, Mai Awng Kham, was injured in Northern Shan State by shrapnel from a shell on March 4th. This occurred after a conflict between Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army along with Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army, and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army in the village of Loi Nguen.

TNLA Accused of Kidnappings In Shan State: 8 released

Khin Theint Theint Tun, spokesperson for the Lishaw people, claims the TNLA is abducting and holding some of their ethnic children for ransom. According to her statement, 8 who were arrested in March were released, but in total between 2008 and March 6, 2019, only 29 out of 44 people taken have been released.

Ferryman Killed in Northern Rakhine

A Ferryman, identified as U Maung Chay, was working in Rakhine State's Rathedaung Township when he was shot by the Burma Army's soldiers. He was a father of two, and a resident of Ahmyet Taung village.

Civilian Ordered to Guide Burma Army Troops Killed by Landmine in Paletwa

Aung Lun, a 45 year old ethnic Chin from Chin State's Paletwa Township, was ordered to guide the Burma Army Light Infantry Battalion 544 to the frontline of fighting with the AA. On the way he was killed by stepping on a landmine. The family has been promised compensation.

Civilian Killed in EAO Fighting

Clashes in Mongmu village, in Northern Shan State's Namtu Township, between the RCSS and SSPP left a 60 year old man shot dead. The man was Lon Ta Lane, who came from Sangkar village - near Nongmu village. He was shot amidst the conflict while returning home.

Aid Workers and Civilian Abducted

According to witnesses, the Burma Arma abducted 10 people from Minbya Township in Rakhine State on March 12. Local aid workers were transporting an ill man to the hospital in Mrauk-U when they were abducted. All six workers, three drivers, and the ill man were taken. The ill man passed away after the abduction.

Mentally Handicapped Man Killed

The local militia and village headmen in northern Shan State are alleged to have murdered a mentally handicapped man. The man, Sai Aik Tun, was 34 when he was taken into custody then beaten and deprived of food - he was dead the next day. The mother of Sai Aik Tun and their family went into hiding after their house was burnt down and receiving death threats.

Seven Villagers Killed by Artillery Fire

On March 22, seven people were killed by artillery fire in Si Taing Village in Buthidaung Township. The government claims the conflict was between the Burma Army and the AA; the AA states no fighting was occurring at that time. Six victims were ethnic Rakhine and one was Rakhine Muslim.

Speculation Surrounds Murder of Rakhine Police Station Head

Kyaw Kyaw Hla, the police chief of Tain Nyo police station in Mrauk-U Rakhine State, was shot in the head and chest by two assailants; he died in the hospital. The shooters are thought to be form the AA, as Kyaw Kyaw Hla received a threatening letter from them a month prior.

Five Civilians Killed By Burma Army

On March 21st, soldiers from the Burma Army Light Infantry Division No. 22 fired on Say Taung village in northern Rakhine State Buthidaung township. At least five people were killed by shots to the head and/or chest, eight others were injured. The five deceased are Maung Aye Tun, 54, Ma Than Nyunt, 53, their son Myat Swe Thein, 23, their nephew Maung Aung Than Htay, and Daw Hla Nu Phyu, 88.

One civilian shot dead by AA

Security forces found a deceased man, U Aung Kyaw Nyunt, with a gun wound to the head in Chanmay Nadi Park Jetty in Kyauktaw.

Ferryman Shot and Injured

Residents of Min Byar Township's Kalarma Tuang Village reported incident on March 25. Maung Win Htay was driving his boat across a local river with four passengers heading home to Kalarma Tuang Village from the neighboring town of Myebon when about 10 soldiers crossing a nearby bridge at the time opened fire on the boat. He said a bullet hit Maung Win Htay in the leg and that his brother then docked the boat near the bridge. The soldiers from Light Infantry Battalion 380 based in Min Byar, said they had whistled at the boat to stop for inspection and then fired warning shots into the air, not at the boat.

Two Villagers Killed Rakhine State

Armed conflict between the Burma Army and the AA occured on March 26th in Rakhine State's Mrauk-U Township, resulting in two civilian deaths and seven being injured. The two deceased are Ma Sabei, who was pregnant, and U Phoe Khine, both from Authar Kan village. Both the AA and the Burma Army have denied any role in the casualties, but according to locals 100 soldiers from Light Infantry Division No. 55 entered Authar Kan village and began shooting indiscriminately. Many people fled to nearby Tein Nyo village.

AA Beat Police Lieutenant Salai Bifa and Village Administrator Chin Haw

Chin Haw, Thantaung Village Administrator from Paletwa township, Chin State, said he was beaten by the Arakan Army(AA) while he and Police Lieutenant Salai Bifa were in detention for five days. Chin Haw was beaten by a gun, sustaining injuries to his chest, back, head and legs. On February 22, they were arrested in acccusation of providing information of AA's military column to the government and released on February 27. Chin Haw said they gave a promise to AA to not provide information to the government when AA comes and goes in Pletwa Township.

Four Village Tract Administrators from Buthidaung Township Fired from their Positions

Four Village Tract Administrators from Buthidaung Township were fired from their positions. They were Kyaw Hla Khaing, Pa Da Kar Village Tract Administrator, Kyaung Taung, Kyaung Taung Village Tract Administrator, Kyaw Mya, Kyunn Pauk Village Tract Administrator, and Kyaw Thaung, Pang Phae Chaung Village Administrator. Kyaw Thaung, Pang Phae Chaung Village Administrator, said they were fired from their positions according to a decision from the Arakan State Government stating there was no information provided in relation to the Border Guard police stations that had been attacked.

Local Man Shot in Clash

On March 4, a clash occurred between the military and the Arakan Army(AA) near Pha Yar Gyi Village in Mrauk-U Township, Arakan State and boat driver Maung Phyu Hla from Sin O Chay Village was shot on sight. Therefore, he was urgently sent to the Sittwe Hospital on March 5. While Maung Phyu Hla returned with nine military soldiers by boat after he had sent the military column to Pha Yar Gyi Village, the clash had been occurred between the military soldiers on a boat and AA at the lower Pha Yar Gyi Village.

Former Village Administrator Stabbed to Death

The responsible persons said they found that Ba Saw, Thayet Tha Pin Village Administrator from Kyauktaw Township in Arakan State, was stabbed to death. Moreover, locals said some threatening posts had came out on Facebook which stated Ba Saw should stop betraying the nation before he was

murdered. Locals also added that the Arakan Army(AA) has arrested and threatened locals under the accusation of providing information to the government.

Ten Grade Standard Suffered the Mental Health Illness Taken Matriculation Examination

Zaw Naing Htay, who was allegedly brutally beaten by the military and is being hospitalized for medical treatment for mental illness at the North Okkalapa Hospital in Rangoon, had taken the matriculation examination at the examiner department of the North Okkalapa Hospital as his health has improved. His father, Shwe Sein Oo, said Zaw Naing Htay was arrested and beaten by some soldiers when he had returned home from the petrol station. As Zaw Naing Htay's health was not improved when he had been admitted at the Sittwe Hospital, they had sent him to the North Okkalapa General Hospital for treatment.

Civilians Killed and Injured by Landmine

Three civilians from Sar Paung A Lel Village, Jade Chaung Village Tract in Mrauk-U Township, Arakan State, were taken by soldiers of #22 Battalion as guides to the military's temporary camp on March 9, Kyar Tun Aung. During which, one of three villagers died after stepping on a landmine, Sa Nay Aung, another one of three villagers, was injured and sent to the Sittwe Hospital urgently. The military gave three lakh Burmese Kyat for Kyar Tun Aung and one lakh Burmese Kyat for Sa Nay Aung, said one of three villagers Maung Thein Kyaw.

Civilians Died and Injured in Clash

Due to the clashes between the military and the Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA) in Northern Shan State, between March 9 and March 11, one civilian died and two was injured. On March 9, the military told Lone Sar and Lone Maung to deliver a letter to SSPP/SSA, on the way they stepped on a landmine. Lone Sar had died on the spot and Lone Maung was injured. On March 10, a woman was injured due to bullets shot by a military helicopter.

Tanintharyi Journal Appealed to the District Court

On March 13, the Tanintharyi Journal sent an appeal to the Dawei District Court concerning the unfair sentencing of the Tanintharyi Journal. Aye Lu, deputy director of the regional government, filed the complaint against the newspaper in Dawei Township Court for a satirical article in the Tanintharyi Journal. He claimed that the article was unethical and damaged the reputation of regional ministers and officials. On February 18, Dawei Township Court fined the chief editor of Tanintharyi Journal K500,000 (US$326) for the article it published on November 20, 2017. On March 29, the district court will make a decision whether they accept the appeal or not.

AA Release Civilian Prisoners of War

Khaing Thu Kha, a spokesman for the Arakan Army (AA), said seven civilians out of eleven prisoners of war they arrested will be released in recent days. AA stated that they arrested eleven prisoners of war with weapons in the clash between the military and AA in South Pyan So Village in Paletwa Township, Chin State.

Aung Tha Pyay Villagers Boycotted the Court

Villagers from Aung Tha Pyay Village in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Division, who were charged under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law (PAPPL) for protesting to abolish the Cement Factory near Aung Tha Pyay Village, boycotted the Patheingyi Township Court because they did not believe the court. Even though the Patheingyi Township Court set the court date to March 13 to make a decision on five villagers, including Shwe Ohn, and on March 15 on four villagers, including Kyaw Zayya under Section 19 of PAPPL, the court has changed the court date to March 21 and March 25 as they did not appear before the court and issued a warrant against them.

Woman and Child Injured by Shooting

On March 19, a woman and child were injured by gunfire while the military column was checking the areas in Mrauk-U and Minbya Township. Than Than Win from Myaung Bwe Village from Minbya Township was shot on her thigh and six years old Kyaw San Win was shot on his forearm.

Mangli Villagers Killed and Injured by Stepping on landmine

When approximately 10 Mangli Villagers from Mangli Village in Shan State went to the hillside for cultivation in the morning of March 30, they stepped on landmine which killed 14 years old Aye Aung, 15 years old Eike Lung and 34 years old Eike Hein and injured four women. Dead and injured persons were sent to Hsi Paw and Lashio Hospitals. The place which the mine exploded was where clashes occurred between Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) and the combined force of Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) from February 27 to March 3.

12 Missing After Clash Between Rival EAOs

On March 1st 12 villagers from Mann Lee Village in Shan State's Namtu Township went missing after conflict between the RCSS and the forces of TNLA and SSPP began. The RCSS/SSA released 8 of the 12 villagers on March 8.
Ta'ang rights groups have accused the RCSS as abducting the twelve villagers, and are calling for their immediate release. The RCSS denies these allegations, stating the TNLA often detains its own people so it can blame the RCSS.

Kachin Activist's Sentence Reduced

Nang Pu was originally sentenced to six months jail time and K500,000 under Article 500 of the Penal Code. Her and two other arrested protesters, Lum Zawng and Zau Jat, appealed the decision but only Nag Pu's appeal was accepted. Her jail time was reduced to four months under the circumstances of her being a women who needs ongoing medical attention; the other two protesters are men.

70 Farmers Released By KIA

On March 9th, 70 farmers from Man Pein Village in Kutkai Township, Shan State, were released by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA). The KIA originally took over 200 people, but released soon after. It is believed those who are still missing are four or five ethnic Kachin, five Myaungze, ten Chinese, with the rest being Ta'ang or Palaung.

INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Presidential Pardon Planned for Unfairly Imprisonment

Yu Lwin Aung, member of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), said presidential pardon and reduction of sentence for those who are being imprisoned unfairly is being planned and submitted to the President. From March 9 to March 10, Human Rights and Potential Prison Reform Workshop, which was organized by MNHRC and the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), was held in Nay Pyi Taw. Yu Lwin Aung added that the workshop was held because too many cases have occurred, as in some prisons 80 percent of prisoners are imprisoned in relation the drugs.

LAND RIGHTS

Government Takes Steps To Return Confiscated Farmland

The Vice President, U Henry Van Thio, spoke in Ayeyawady on Peasants Day concerning the actions of the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands. One of which was the return of 1,410 acres of farmland to 355 families in the Irrawaddy region. The Committee states its next steps are to give some farmers legal rights over their land, and to ease the land rights process for landless farmers and peasants.

Landholders Sued Under New Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Law

The date to register lands as virgin, fallow and/or vacant was March 11th, 2019. As the deadline approached CSOs, NGOs, and locals called for the government to withdraw or amend the law. Many organizations, such as Human Rights Watch, Earth Rights International, Oxfam, Mercy Corps and dozens of others have highlighted the dangers of this law. Such as heightening ethnic conflict, little knowledge of the law in rural and ethnic communities, and further impoverishing marginalized communities.
There were two cases of Tanintharyi landholders being sued before this deadline. On August 24th 2018, four people in Kyauksha village in Yephu Township were sued for VFV trespassing under VFV Law Section 26. The villagers have been using this land for over twenty years. They did apply for the land to be registered under VFV, but were rejected. In the second case, in Ta Line Village near Yephu Township, four villagers were also sued for trespassing on VFV land on October 5th, 2018. The villagers were unaware of the law, and process needed to acquire the land.

Farmers Protest For Return of Confiscated Land

On March 3rd in Yinmarbin Township in Monywa district in Sagaing Region, 700 locals protested for the return of their confiscated farmland. According to those present, the protest was done with the appropriate permits from relevant police stations.

Indigenous Peoples Protest Dam Developments

Eight dams, proposed to be built on N'mai Hka and Ngaw Chang Hka rivers in Kachin State, were met with resistance on March 14 as Yit Law Indigineous peoples protested against the developments. Locals claim the dams will have grave environmental impacts resulting in land loss, flooding, and displacement.

Nationwide Organization Hopes to End Myitsone Dam

The purpose of this nationwide organization is to create a space and platform for individuals, organizations, and entities against the Myitsone Dam project. The project was originally put on hold by the Thein Sein government in 2011 after nationwide protests, stirred by fears of ecological damage and mass displacement.

Mandalay compensates farmers for seized land

On March 13th, farmers in the Mandalay Region Aung Myay Tharzan township, were compensated for land seized by the Prison Department. Three farmers were given K30 million for 13 acres of seized land.

Around 300 acres Land Returned in Pakokku District

Government departments released over 300 acres of land to 108 farmers in Magway Region on March 17th. Another 500 acres was given to the government to manage.

Military Confiscated Land Owned by Farmers and Charged Two Farmers

Military confiscated land from 11 villages in Ngwar La Woe Village Tract in Loikaw Township in Kayah State and charged two farmers, who have settled on this land, for trespassing. The original farmers claimed that this land has been cultivated for generations. Land, which was owned by Nan Kwel, was defined as the military's land and the Loikaw Police Station filed a lawsuit against her under Section 302 of the Criminal Code and 447 of the Penal Code on February 7, 2018 to stop living on this land and charged her at the Loikaw Township Court on February 24, 2018. Farmers said they do not have any other land to cultivate. In 1991 and 1992, 2010.82 acre of land were confiscated in Myay Ni Kone Village to build #250 infantry battalion, #356 artillery battalion and #261 infantry battalion.

Locals Oppose Fencing Abandoned Land by Military

Locals from Kha Yin Chaung Village, Shwe Thaung Yan Town in Irrawaddy Division opposed no 5 central training camp of the South Western Regional Military Command for fencing on abandoned Palm land in Kha Yin Chaung Village on March 22. By giving compensation for palm trees, no 5 central training camp of the South Western Regional Military Command had confiscated palm land which were owned by 16 farmers in 1996 and built housing for the South Western Regional Military Command. Even though a letter for farmers was issued which stated 37.44 acres of confiscated land were abandoned, farmers are not returned these land, said farmers of confiscated land. In May, 2017, Scrutinizing Committee for Confiscated Land and Other Land investigated this issue; there was no response even though it was reported to the relevant officials.

References

ARRESTS

- 89 GAD Officials Resign in Northern Rakhine Township Due to Fear of Arrest
  (1 March 2019 - Irrawaddy) (1 March 2019 - RFA) (1 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (2 March 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)(2 March 2019 - Mizzima)(3 March 2019 - MOI) (3 March 2019 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese) (4 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese) (4 March 2019 - Myanmar Times) (23 March 2019 - Eleven/Burmese) (23 March 2019 - The Voice/Burmese) (24 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (28 March 2019 - BNI)
- Four Villagers Arrested in suspicion of AA
  (20 March 2019 - RFA) (20 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese) (20 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (21 March 2019 - BBC/Burmese)
- Burma Army Detains Over a Dozen People
  (15 March 2019 - Mizzima) (23 March 2019 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese)
- Military Arrested Thar Si Htaunt Villager
  (2 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese) (4 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese)
- Military Arrested Three Villagers in Kyauktaw
  (15 March 2019 - VOA/Burmese)
- Military Arrested Four Villagers in Mrauk-U Township
  (24 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese)

DISAPPEARANCES

- 2 Pastors Missing For 2 Months
  (2 March 2019 - Eleven Myanmar)
- Youth Missing After Military Taken
  (2 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese)
- Four Villagers from Mrauk-U Township Disappeared
  (25 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese)
- Local from Rathedaung Township Disappeared
  (26 March 2019 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese)

CHARGES

- Court Prosecuted Six Family Members in Mandalay
  (7 March 2019 - The Voice/Burmese)
- Two Villagers Charged Under Explosive Act
  (1 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese)
- Military Filed Film Director under Telecommunication Law
  (31 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese) (31 March 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)
- Naga Group Leaders Charged with Unlawful Association
  (28 March 2019 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese) (28 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (28 March 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese) (28 March 2019 - Irrawaddy) (30 March 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)

SENTENCED

- Aye Maung and Wai Hin Aung Sentenced to 22 Years in Jail By Sittwe Court (19 March 2019 - Myanmar Times) (19 March 2019 - Irrawaddy) (20 March 2019 - Mizzima) (19 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (19 March 2019 - VOA/Burmese)
- Two Land Rights Activists and Two Farmers Sentenced to Imprisonment (26 March 2019 - Eleven/Burmese)

TRIAL

- Appeal By Jailed Reuter's Journalists to be Heard by Supreme Court (28 March 2019 - Myanmar Times) (26 March 2019 - RFA)
- Chin Let Wa Villagers Attended their First Court Hearing (5 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese)

CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT

- 164 inmates are setting up to take the matriculation exam (3 March 2019 - Myanmar Times) (6 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese) (6 March 2019 - Mizzima/Burmese) (6 March 2019 - Myanmar Times/Burmese) (11 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese)
- Mandalay Prison Over Its Inmate Capacity (27 March 2019 - Myanmar Times)
- Sentenced Students Beaten in Obo Prison (26 March 2019 - The Voice/Burmese) (26 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese)

RELEASES

- 4 Rakhine Chiefs Released (1 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (2 March 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)(3 March 2019 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese) (4 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese)(23 March 2019 - Eleven/Burmese) (23 March 2019 - The Voice/Burmese) (24 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese)
- Two Detained Villagers Released (14 March 2019 - BNI)
- Four Village Administrators and A Trader Released (2 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (9 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (9 March 2019 - Mizzima/Burmese) (2 March 2019 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese)
- Protest Leaders Released from Nyaung-U Prison (2 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese)

RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

- Civilian Shot Amidst Armed Conflict (15 March 2019 - BNI)
- 6 Civilians Injured By Burma Army Gunfire (19 March 2019 - Irrawaddy) (19 March 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese) (19 March 2019 -DVB/Burmese)
- Civilian Injured During Armed Conflict Between Burma Army and TNLA (11 March 2019 - BNI)
- Child IDP Wounded After Armed Conflict (7 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese) (8 March 2019 - BNI)

- TNLA Accused of Kidnappings In Shan State: 8 released
(13 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (14 March 2019 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese) (17 March 2019 - The Voice/Burmese) (17 March 2019 - Eleven/Burmese) (18 March 2019 - Myanmar Times) (19 March 2019 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese)
- Ferryman Killed in Northern Rakhine
(26 March 2019 - Irrawaddy) (26 March 2019 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese) (26 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese)
- Civilian Ordered to Guide Burma Army Troops Killed by Landmine in Paletwa
(7 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese) (10 March 2019 - BNI)
- Civilian Killed in EAO Fighting
(25 March 2019 - BNI) (27 March 2019 - BNI)
- Aid Workers and Civilian Abducted
(13 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (14 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (14 March 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese) (14 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese) (14 March 2019 - Myanmar Now/Burmese) (13 March 2019 - RFA) (14 March 2019 - Mizzima)
- Mentally Handicapped Man Killed
(14 March 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese) (15 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese) (15 March 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese) (19 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese) (20 March 2019 - BNI)
- Seven Villagers Killed by Artillery Fire
(22 March 2019 - RFA)
- Speculation Surrounds Murder of Rakhine Police Station Head
(24 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese)(24 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (25 March 2019 - Irrawaddy)(25 March 2019 - Myanmar Times)(26 March 2019 - BNI)
- Five Civilians Killed By Burma Army
(22 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese) (22 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (22 March 2019 - VOA/Burmese) (22 March 2019 - Irrawaddy)
- One civilian shot dead by AA
(22 March 2019 - Union Enterprise)
- Ferryman Shot and Injured
(26 March 2019 - Irrawaddy) (26 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese) (26 March 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)
- Two Villagers Killed Rakhine State
(29 March 2019 - RFA)(29 March 2019 - Irrawaddy) (29 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (29 March 2019 - VOA/Burmese) (29 March 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese) (29 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese) (30 March 2019 - Mizzima/Burmese)
- AA Beat Police Lieutenant Salai Bifa and Village Administrator Chin Haw
(1 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (1 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese)
- Four Village Tract Administrators from Buthidaung Township Fired from their Positions
(4 March 2019 - Eleven/Burmese)
- Local Man Shot in Clash
(5 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese)
- Former Village Administrator Stabbed to Death
(6 March 2019 - BBC/Burmese)
- Ten Grade Standard Suffered the Mental Health Illness Taken Matriculation Examination
(7 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese) (7 March 2019 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese)
- Civilians Killed and Injured by Landmine

(10 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (11 March 2019 - Mizzima/Burmese) (13 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese)

- Civilians Died and Injured in Clash (11 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (25 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese)
- Tanintharyi Journal Appealed to the District Court (13 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (13 March 2019 - Mizzima/Burmese) (14 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese)
- AA Release Civilian Prisoners of War (14 March 2019 - Mizzima/Burmese)
- Aung Tha Pyay Villagers Boycotted the Court (15 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (15 March 2019 - Eleven/Burmese)
- Woman and Child Injured by Shooting (20 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese)
- Mangli Villagers Killed and Injured by Stepping on landmine (30 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese)
- 12 Missing After Clash Between Rival EAOs (6 March 2019 - MMTimes) (6 March 2019 - BNI) (4 March 2019 - Irrawaddy)(8 March 2019 - Irrawaddy) (8 March 2019 - BNI)
- Kachin Activist's Sentence Reduced (29 March 2019 - Irrawaddy) (29 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (29 March 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese) (30 March 2019 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese)
- 70 Farmers Released By KIA (11 March 2019 - Myanmar Times)

INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

- Presidential Pardon Planned for Unfairly Imprisonment (11 March 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese) (11 March 2019 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese)

LAND DISPUTES

- Government Takes Steps To Return Confiscated Farmland (3 March 2019 - MOI) (3 March 2019 - Eleven Myanmar) (3 March 2019 - Global New Light of Myanmar) (4 March 2019 - President Office/Burmese)
- Landholders Already Sued Under New Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Law (11 March 2019 - Myanmar Times) (9 March 2019 - Mizzima)(11 March 2019 - Myanmar Times)
- Farmers Protest For Return of Confiscated Land (3 March 2019 -DVB/Burmese) (3 March 2019 RFA/Burmese) (3 March 2019 - Eleven Myanmar/Burmese) (4 March 2019 - Eleven Myanmar)
- Indigenous Peoples Protest Dam Developments (15 March 2019 - BNI) (18 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese)
- Nationwide Organization Hopes to End Myitsone Dam (25 March 2019 - RFA/Burmese) (25 March 2019 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese) (26 March 2019 - Myanmar Times)
- Mandalay compensates farmers for seized land (13 March 2019 - Mizzima/Burmese) (13 March 2019 - Eleven/Burmese) (18 March 2019 - Myanmar Times)
- Around 300 acres Land Returned in Pakokku District

(16 March 2019 - Eleven/Burmese)
(16 March 2019 - The Voice/Burmese)
(18 March 2019 - Myanmar President Office)

- Military Confiscated Land Owned by Farmers and Charged Two Farmers (12 March 2019 - BNI/Burmese)
- Locals Oppose Fencing Abandoned Land by Military (27 March 2019 - DVB/Burmese)

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