

# SEPTEMBER CHRONOLOGY 2019

## Summary of the Current Situation:

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

**56** political prisoners are serving sentences,

**187** are awaiting trial inside prison,

**363** are awaiting trial outside prison.

Kachin youth activists Paul Lu sentenced to three months imprisonment for holding anti-war protests



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**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

# POLITICAL PRISONERS

## ARRESTS

### **Karen Martyrs' Day Commemoration Organizer Detained**

On September 9, human rights advocate and Chair of the Karen Women's Union, Naw Ohn Hla was detained and charged under Section 20 of Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law for organizing an unauthorized Karen Martyrs' Day Commemoration in front of city hall in Kyautada Township, Rangoon. The annual memorial, held on August 12, commemorates Karen revolutionary leader Saw Ba U Gyi. While organizers followed protocol by informing authorities of the event, use of the term "martyr" to refer to Saw Ba U Gyi is banned. Naw Oh Hla declined to request bail, citing the unfairness of the case. Two other activists, Saw Albert Cho and Sa Thein Zaw Min, are also facing charges for their roles in organizing the event. They were arrested on September 16 after turning themselves in, also choosing to reject bail. All three are awaiting trial in Insein Prison.

### **Location of Mrauk-U Residents Arrested by Military Unknown**

On September 20, three residents of Mrauk-U Township in Arakan State were arrested. A villager, monk and administer were en route from their homes in Owe Hthing in to Kyauk Kyat village when they were arrested by the Military soldiers. Villagers are concerned that there is no information about the whereabouts of the men, as a request to see them was denied. While spokesman for the Western Command, Commander Win Zaw Oo declined to comment, a local lawmaker confirmed that the men had initially been brought by helicopter to a hill where soldiers were stationed in Sittwe but did not have information on their current location.

## CHARGES

### **Six Farmers Given Additional Charges Under Penal Code**

On September 9, hundreds demonstrated outside a Demoso Township Court hearing in Karenni State, in support of 15 farmers from Dawsoshay Village charged for trespassing on land seized from them by the Military. In total, 17 farmers are facing charges in the case. 11 farmers have been charged under Section 447 of the Penal Code, 2 others are charged under Section 6(1) of the Public Property Protection Act and another four have been charged under both. During the hearing, six of the farmers were handed charges under Section 427 of the Penal Code for mischief, in addition to existing charges under Section 447. The case's plaintiff testified at the hearing, in relation to the Section 427 charges. The protestors, comprised of local farmers and members of civil society organizations, aimed to show their support for the farmers. Disputes over this section of land has been ongoing for more than a decade. Previously, farmers were still allowed by the Military to cultivate on the land that had been seized. However, this year, a new Military Commander tightened enforcement in the area and began requiring farmers to seek permission before using the land. The farmers were initially arrested on August 26.

### **Burma Army Charges Buddhist Monk**

A Buddhist monk in Pyigyitagon Township, Mandalay Division has been charged under section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law for criticizing the Military on social media. This is the second charge brought by Lieutenant Colonel That Zaw Oo against the former political prisoner, previously jailed for

participation in the Saffron Revolution. Sein Ti Ta had charges under 505(b) of the Penal Code for the same social media post dropped by the Pyigyitagon Township Court in July.

### **MP Files Defamation Lawsuit Against Mandalay Official**

Soe Nwe Aye, MP for the Tad-U Township, Mandalay Division, has filed a lawsuit under Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law against a member of the Tad-U Development Committee. The National League for Democracy MP filed the lawsuit against the owner of the Facebook account “Saw Saw,” found to be run by Ba Hein Tin. Posts made criticized Soe Nwe Aye for her inspections and reports on road projects.

### **Monk Sued by Mandalay Colonel**

A monk is facing charges in Mandalay, after a military officer filed a lawsuit against him for allegedly defaming the military. Arriyawuntha made comments criticizing a senior military officer for donating 30 million kyats (US \$19,700) to the Buddha-Dhamma Parahita Foundation, an ultra-nationalist group formerly known as Ma Ba Tha. Lieutenant Colonel Thawdar Dwe from Mandalay’s Field Engineer Battalion filed the suit in Pyigyitagon Township, Mandalay Division. It is currently unknown what Arriyawuntha, also known as Myawaddy Mingyi Sayadaw, will be charged under.

### **Defamation Suit Filed Over Satirical Facebook Page**

Two Facebook users have been charged after a National League for Democracy (NLD) information officer filed a defamation lawsuit against them under Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Act. The two started a satirical Facebook page on September 12 called “We love Dauk Zaw,” which posts memes of Chief Minister Zaw Myint Maung. The suit was filed in Mandalay, Mandalay Division by Ponya Swe, an employee of the NLD Regional Office, who says he was acting on the instructions of the party.

### **Cartoonist Faces Defamation Charges for Criticizing NLD**

The chairman of the NLD Maubin Township chapter in the Irrawaddy Region has filed a lawsuit against cartoonist Naing Zaw Oo for sharing a post online in which Naing Zaw Oo criticized the NLD Maubin chapter. The cartoonist has been charged under Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law but has been released on bail. He has actively contributed to NLD campaigns in previous elections, and is encouraging others to vote for the NLD in the upcoming election despite the charges, saying he posted about the party’s shortcomings for “their own good.”

### **Arkanense Activist Charged for Performance**

On September 20, Than Hla was arrested and charged under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, but has been released on bail. Than La was an organizer of an unauthorized July 4 protest, “Rakhine Lives Matter,” held in Sittwe, Arakan State. The protest meant to bring justice for civilians killed during military interrogations and advocate for an end to conflict in Arakan State. The activist also faces an additional charge under Section 19 of the same law for a protest in January outside the Office of the Arakan State Government.

### **Civilian Arrested and Farmer Killed in Ah Ngu Maw**

On September 21, a landmine was detonated near a ferry dock in Ah Ngu Maw Village, Rathedaung Township, Arakan State, followed by about 30 minutes of shooting by the Military in retaliation, and the launch of two rockets by a Navy vessel. Locals say they do not know who was being targeted by the

gunfire and no Ethnic Armed Groups has been reported to be involved. Kyaw Win was working on a nearby watermelon farm when he was struck by a stray bullet. Colonel Win Zaw Oo, spokesperson for the Military, acknowledged that there had been a landmine blast where passengers board the ferry, but denied that there had been any gunfire or a resulting casualty. The Military have arrested a Ah Ngu Maw local in connection to the landmine explosion for possessing a homemade bomb in his home. The car workshop owner was transferred to Sittwe for interrogation soon after his September 23 arrest. Maung San Thein has been charged under Section 50(a), 51(c) and 52(a) of the Counter-Terrorism Law.

### **Garment Workers Sued for Organising Strike**

Seven garment workers and one labor activist are facing charges for leading a sit-in at Chinese-owned garment factory, Myanmar Knitting in Patheingyi, Irrawaddy Region. Over 1000 workers took part in the September 2 protest against labor rights abuses by the factory. The leaders of the sit-in were sued under Section 19 the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law by the police after being brought to Patheingyi Central Police Station.

### **Arakan Villagers Face Additional Charges**

16 villagers from Lekka Village in Mrauk-U, Arakan State were given additional charges under the Counter-Terrorism Law for allegedly helping the Arakan Army attack a police battalion headquarters. They are among 27 that were arrested on April 10 under suspicion of ties to the Arakan Army and charged under the Counter-Terrorism Law and Arms Act 1949. According to family members, the detainees have been tortured while in custody. Three have died in detention. The Military claims these deaths were respectively the result of a suicide, a heart problem and drugs.

### **Mayangone Township Court Prosecuted Five Members of Peacock Generation Thangyat Troupe**

The Mayangone Township Court in Rangoon Division held two hearings for the five members of the Peacock Generation Thangyat Troupe. The plaintiff, Lieutenant-Colonel Than Tun Myint from the Yangon Command, filed the lawsuit against Zeyar Lwin, Paing Ye Thu, Paing Phyto Min, Kay Khine Tun, and Zaw Lin Tun in April under Section 505(a) of the Penal Code. After their initial appearance before the Mayangone Township Court on April 22, the five were sent to Insein Prison. It has already been five months that the accused are facing trial under detention. Additionally, seven members of the Peacock Generation are facing further charges for the same performance. On September 30, Rangoon's Botahtaung Township Court prosecuted Zeyar Lwin, Paing Ye Thu, Paing Phyto Min, Kay Khine Tun, Zaw Lin Htut, Su Yadanar Myint and Nyein Chan Soe under 505(a) of the Penal Code. In this case, Lieutenant-Colonel Myo Min Oo of Rangoon Regional Command is the plaintiff. He charged them under Section 505(a) of the Penal Code and Section 66(d) of the Telecommunication Law.

## **TRIALS**

### **Shan Teachers Accused of Rebel Attack Released on Bail**

On September 2, two ethnic Shan teachers, Sai Hkun Mong and Sai Leng Zuen were released on bail in Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay Division. The two brothers say they have been falsely accused of involvement with an August attack by the Northern Alliance on the Military-run Defense Services Technological Academy in Pyin Oo Lwin. The two were arrested by the Military and initially charged under 17(1) of the Unlawful Associations Law, but have since had these charges dropped, and have been charged under Section 67 of the Telecommunications Law for possession of walkie talkies.

## **Military Drops Defamation Lawsuit Against Kachin Preacher**

The Military has withdrawn a case against Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) Chairman Reverend Hkalam Samson. The Preacher faced charges for comments made during a broadcasted meeting with US President Donald Trump about religious freedom. Reverend Hkalam Samson thanked the President for imposing travel sanctions on top generals in the Military of Burma and spoke of the oppression and torture of religious minorities in Burma. On September 9, Lieutenant Colonel Than Htike withdrew the charges he had filed against the Reverend in Myitkyina Township Court in Kachin State, but did not provide his reason for dropping the lawsuit. On September 9, tanks and other military vehicles were sent down a road where Kachin activists had gathered in Myitkyina, Kachin State. Lum Zawng, the head of the All Kachin Students and Youth Union and other activists called the decision an attempt to intimidate and threaten them on the day Hkalam Samson was set to appear in court.

## **Dropped Defamation Case to be Reheard**

A Myanmar Now editor is again facing trial, after the Mandalay District Court overturned the decision of Mandalay's Maha Aung Myay Township Court to drop the lawsuit against him. Swe Win was charged under 66(d) of the Telecommunications Act two years ago for a Facebook post which ultranationalist monk Wirathu says defamed him. The charges were dropped in June after Wirathu, who is himself facing charges for sedition, failed to attend court as a witness over 20 times. The lawsuit was filed in 2017 by Kyaw Myo Shwe.

## **Case Dismissed against Primary School Teacher**

On September 3, Buthidaung Township Court in Arakan State reduced the charges of a Primary School Teacher, dismissing his charge under Section 50(a) of the Counterterrorism Law. On August 5, Nay Zaw Lin was arrested by the Military in Buthidaung Township, while on his way from Thayet Pyin Village to work at a school in Kyar Nyo Pyin Village. Nay Zaw was charged under 50(a) and 52(a) of the Counterterrorism Law by the Border Guard Force, his father Kyaw Than reported.

## **Patheingyi Township Court Denies Bail Appeal By Channel Mandalay TV Reporter**

On September 5, Patheingyi Township Court in Mandalay Division denied an appeal for bail made by Channel Mandalay TV Reporter Nanda. Nanda was arrested on May 15 for broadcasting a live video of a May 14 confrontation between Aung Tha Pyay villagers and police, during a protest against a coal-fired cement factory operating in the village. Aung Tha Pyay is located in Pyin Oo Lwin Township, Mandalay Region. Police accused Nanda of being involved in the protest, charging him under Sections 114, 333 and 435 of the Penal Code.

## **No Decision Made for Weekly Eleven Journal Staff, Awaiting Trial for Fifth Year**

A decision has not yet been made in a five-year-old defamation case, filed against staff members of the Weekly Eleven Journal. The lawsuit was brought against the journalists by Managing Director Kyaw Soe of the Ministry of Information, for an article in which Editor In Charge Nay Tun Nain criticizes the Ministry of Information. Chief Executive Director Than Htut Aung, Managing Director Dr. Thein Myint, Chief Editor Wai Phyo, Deputy Chief Editor Myat Thit, and Editor In Charge Nay Tun Nain have been awaiting trial for charges under Section 500 of the Penal Code since shortly after June 2, 2014, when the Journal published the article. According to Chief Editor Wai Phyo, in the five years since the charges were laid, they have appeared before the court more than 120 times.

## SENTENCES

### **Youth Anti-War Activists Jailed for Street Performance**

On September 2, Kachin youth activists Paul Lu and Seng Nu Pan were each sentenced to 15 days in prison under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law. On July 9, the youth led a street performance in Myitkyina, Kachin State to highlight the impact of the war on internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other civilians. In rejection of the ruling, both activists declined their option to pay a fine, instead of going to prison. After being sentenced, Paul Lu handed the judge a broken scale of justice in an act of protest. Judge Than Tun responded by filing a lawsuit against Paul Lu under Section 228 of the Penal Code, which forbids disturbing the duties of a civil servant, and insulting and disrespecting the court. On September 5, Deputy Judge Tin Nwe Win sentenced Paul Lu to an additional three months in prison, in a short hearing which Paul Lu's lawyer says violated his client's right to proper representation. Seng Nu Pan was released from Myitkyna Prison on September 16.

### **Kachin Activists Fined for IDP Youth Protest**

Following a September 5 protest, two Kachin activists in Myitkyina, Kachin State have been sentenced to pay 20,000 kyat (US \$13.09) under Section 20 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law. The protest, led by youth displaced by the conflict in Kachin State, had received prior approval by authorities. However, Nhkum La Nu and Malang Hka Mai, themselves internally displaced persons (IDPs), were charged for the presence of unapproved placards and slogans used by protest attendees, which called for an end to the war and criticized the Military.

### **Former Military Officer Sentenced to One Year in Jail for Criticizing Military**

On September 20, Nay Myo Zin was sentenced to one year in jail after being found guilty under Section 505(a) of the Penal Code for publicly criticizing the military leadership in April. The charges were filed by the Military against the former Military captain in Taikkyi Township in Rangoon Region. He was given further charges under Section 505(a)(b) for making similar critical comments about the military in Wakema Township in Irrawaddy Region and Khin-U Township in Sagaing Region. On September 26, Nay Myo Zin was again sentenced to one year imprisonment under Section 505(a)(b) of the Penal Code by the Wakhema Township Court.

### **Irrawaddy Region Farmers Sentenced for Use of Vacant Land**

Eight farmers were each sentenced to two years of imprisonment by the Maubin Township Court in Irrawaddy Region on September 18. The charges were filed under the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law of 2017 by Orchard Co., a private company that claimed the farmers were illegally using their land. The land originally belonged to the farmers, who have not been compensated. The land was acquired by Orchard Co. in 1999 for a fish farming project that never took place. The farmers began cultivating the land in 2013, after it had been vacant for more than 10 years.

## RELEASES

### **Former Child Soldier Jailed for Media Interview Released**

On September 6, former child soldier Aung Ko Htwe was released from Insein Prison in Rangoon after completing a two year sentence. Aung Ko Htwe was convicted under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code

for an interview with Radio Free Asia about being abducted and forced to serve as a child soldier. Upon his release, Aung Ko Htwe called for greater freedom of speech, the abolition of the Constitution and an end to fighting in Northern Shan State. Please see the March 2018 Chronology for more information.

### **Min Phoo Villagers Found Not Guilty in Death of 19-Year-Old Girl**

On September 11, two men from Min Phoo village in Rathedaung Township, Arakan State were found not guilty of charges under Section 3 of the Explosive Substances Act. The men were accused of setting off a bomb and killing a local 19 year old girl, Yi Yi Soe. Than Pe and Wai Soe Tun were arrested on February 19, 2019 and spent eight months in prison prior to the dismissal of all charges. According to Brigadier-General Zaw Min Tun of the Burma Army True News Information Team, Yi Yi Soe died from a bomb detonated by Arakan Army (AA) attack on the village. The Brigadier-General claimed that the AA set off the bomb near the village and subsequently fired into the village, which the Military then returned. According to the AA, local residents, and the father of the deceased, there had been no fighting in the village and Yi Yi Soe was shot by a Military soldier, after a Military blast occurred outside the village.

### **2 Activists Sentenced under PAPPL Released**

All four organizers of a march to Rangoon University in Kamayut, Rangoon who were sentenced under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law have now been released. The July 7 march commemorated the 1962 massacre of student activists at Rangoon University. Among the four, Sai Thuwun and Ei Thiri Kyaw chose to pay a fine of 30,000 kyat (US \$19.63) and were released the same day, while Min Thway Thit and Khant Min Htet opted to serve 15 days in prison to highlight the stifling of their freedom of expression. They were released on September 11.

### **Suspect Found Not Guilty in Murder of Military Corporal**

On September 23, Ye Zaw was released after being found not guilty of all charges in the murder of Military Security Affairs Corporal Phoe Lone. The social activist had been awaiting trial in Sittwe Prison since he was arrested on December 15. He is the fourth suspect in the murder case to be released due to insufficient evidence linking him to the crime, but the only made to first stand trial.

## **CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT**

### **Youth Rehabilitation Center in Mandalay Accepted Two Times juveniles**

According to a July 23 amendment of the Child Law, youth rehabilitation centers must now accept all children under the age of 18 who are facing trial, raising the age of the requirement. As a result, the Mandalay Youth Rehabilitation Centre is over its capacity of 200 juveniles, now holding 480 youth. Consequently, the Center is facing difficulties in taking the number of youth that need to be placed. A three storey building is being constructed with the help of a donor to assist with the number of youth. With the new building constructed, 200 additional juveniles can be accepted. In addition, the Government currently provides 1000 Kyat (US \$0.65) per youth per day to the Centre to cover the cost of three meals per day. The Director Khin San Yi of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has asked that this be raised to 1500 Kyat (US \$0.99) per youth, since the current amount is inadequate.

## **Prisoner Receives Emergency Medical Treatment After Torture by Military**

A man being held in Sittwe prison was taken to hospital on September 14 to receive treatment for vomiting blood. Sithu Aung was charged with six others under Section 17 of the Counter-Terrorism Law for transporting a sick man from another village to the Mrauk-U hospital in Arakan State. According to his father, Sithu Aung's health deteriorated as a result of about 40 days of torture by the Military following his arrest. Colonel Win Zaw Oo, head of the Western Region Command, denied the claims of torture.

## **Imprisoned Activists Denied Right to Visitors**

Six young activists who are awaiting trial in prison have been denied access to visits from friends, family and supporters. The Karreni youth are facing charges under Section 10 of the Citizen Privacy and Security Law for organizing a demonstration on March 24 against a statue of General Aung San in Loikaw, Karenni State. The youth also released a signed statement which called the Karreni State Government Chief Minister, Planning and Finance Minister, and all members of the Bogyoke statue committee traitors. They have been awaiting trial since March 25. While incarcerated, the youth organized a protest to demand that prisons stop using physical and mental torture against political prisoners. The lawyer for the youth has filed a formal complaint about the violation of his clients right to see visitors.

# Restrictions on Civil and Political Rights

## **Farmers Abducted by Military Released**

Two farmers from Ywar Haung Taw village in Mrauk-U Township, Arakan State were released back to their families on September 1. On August 31, the men were returning home from farming when soldiers from the #33 and #35 Brigades of the Burma Army abducted them. The men reported that they were ordered to climb a mountain and were beaten when they said they did not know who had detonated a landmine in the area. Colonel Win Zaw Oo, head of the Western Command, denied claims that the men had been abducted.

## **Seven Civilians by Injured by Shooting in Kyauktaw**

On September 2, soldiers fired shots into four villages within Kyauktaw Township in Arakan State. Seven civilians, including a four-year-old girl, sustained gunshot wounds, and four others fainted from the sound of the detonation of a landmine. Residents report that the shots were fired by Burma Army soldiers, who also looted local stores. The Military denies responsibility stating that they were responding to fire from Arakan Army (AA) soldiers, and claim they could be just as likely to be responsible for the civilian casualties. The AA, as well as locals, say that there was no conflict in Kyauktaw on that day.

## **Cars Torched by Armed Soldiers in Northern Shan State**

Armed soldiers blocked the Lashio-Muse Highway in Kutkai Township, northern Shan State on the evening of September 3. Seven vehicles attempting to pass through the area were set on fire by the soldiers and all passengers were robbed. No one was injured in the incident, and all victims were able to seek refuge in the nearby Namtkut village until morning. Victims and witnesses suspect ethnic armed groups to be responsible. One truck driver claims that the armed soldiers were wearing Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) uniforms, and speaking Palaung, the Ta'ang language. The TNLA and all other members of the Northern Alliance have denied responsibility.

## **Bna Naw Hkee Villagers Denied Right to Vote**

Citing security concerns, the Mon State Election Sub-commission has reported that residents of Bna Naw Hkee village tract in Mon State will be unable to vote in the 2020 general elections. The five villages, located in Belin Township are under the control of the KNU/KNLA. This will be the third consecutive election that Bna Naw Hkee will be excluded. Nai Layi Tama, Joint Secretary of the Mon Unity Party commented that "if the region that (is) excluded from the election is dominated by an ethnic population, it will make a bad impact on the ethnic candidates."

## **Two Men Found Beheaded in Arakan State**

It is unknown who is responsible for the murders of three men in Arakan State on September 9. Two men were found beheaded at the entrance of the market in Kan Htaung Gyi in Myebon Township, while a third man was stabbed multiple times in the neck in his home in Mae Thangyo, Ann Township.

### **One Man Shot in Hspiaw Township**

A man was hospitalized after being shot in the Pang Tein Tawng ward of Hspiaw Township in Northern Shan State. Zawtika was playing a game with a friend when the gunman called his name. When he responded to the gunman, Zawtika was shot in the waist and leg. It is unknown whether an armed group is responsible for the shooting. Conflicts between the Military and Ethnic Armed Groups are common in Hspiaw.

### **Two Burma Soldiers Sentenced to 20 Years**

Two Burma soldiers will soon be tried in civilian court for the murders of seven civilians, including three children, which took place on April 5 in Anankwin Village in Kyainseikgyi Township, Karenni State. The soldiers have already been prosecuted in military court for violations of military law relating to the case. Each received 20 year sentences for attempting to run away from their battalions, and for taking guns with them when they did so.

### **Three Teenagers Injured by Landmines in Minbya Township**

Three teenagers, residents of Aung Daing village in Minbya Township, Arakan State received injuries after stepping on a landmine on September 7. One is seriously injured. The Military accused the Arakan Army (AA) of planting the mines. Spokesperson for the AA, Khaing Thukha denied the claims, stating that the mines were left behind by the Military after fighting had left the area.

### **Ta'ang Civilians Conscription by Ethnic Armed Group**

The Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) has conscripted ten ethnic Ta'ang residents from Mann Loi village in Hsipaw Township, Northern Shan State to join its military. The residents, ranging in age from 20-37, were selected by ballot lottery in 2018, but were not made to serve until the RCSS military arrived in the village on September 9. One civilian was beaten and another had his hands tied when they refused to join.

### **Two Injured by Mine Explosion**

Two villagers from Nama Dar in Paletwa Township, Chin State are recovering in a local clinic after sustaining non-life-threatening injuries from a landmine explosion on September 8. The landmine was located at the top of a mountain ridge where the Military had been stationed while fighting the Arakan Army. At the time, six villagers had been collecting bamboo shoots near the village when Soe Shin stood on the mine, injuring herself and nearby Maung Bu.

### **Pangsay People's Militia Force Arrest and Assault Civilian**

On September 8, members of the Pangsay People's Militia Force (PMF) arrested and beat a man from Shan State's Namkham Township. Nyi Maung San was released after his family paid the PMF, and is now receiving treatment for his injuries at Namkham hospital. According to Nyi Maung San's daughter, her father did not have a dispute with the PMF. A friend had borrowed money from Nyi Maung San and left a motorbike as collateral, which turned out to be stolen. The government-backed PMF responded, instead of allowing the police to handle the case.

### **Driver Shot by Burma Military**

A civilian driver was shot by the Burma Military in Northern Shan State on September 8. Ah Ti was told to stop by the Military as he was driving near Ho Nawng village in Kutkai Township. As Ah Ti slowed down, the Military fired four or five times at his car. One bullet hit his hand. The car was then searched before Ah Ti could continue. He was able to seek medical attention upon arriving in Kutkai.

### **One Civilian Killed and Six Injured in Arakan State Conflict**

One civilian died and six others were injured during a clash between the Military and the Arakan Army (AA) in Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State on September 15. One ethnic Mro man was struck in the leg with artillery shrapnel within his home, and died from blood loss on the way to the hospital. Five villagers, three from Thingana and two from Sabel Hla, were injured when a Burma Military naval ship fired gunshots and artillery shells from the Kaladan River. Four of the civilians who were struck required hospitalization for their injuries.

### **Ex-Soldier Shot in his Home and Killed in Arakan State**

On September 14, Myo Naing was shot dead in his home by unidentified armed men, who came to his door claiming to need the bathroom. The family of Myo Naing was also in their home in Mae Ru San Pya Village in Ann Township, Arakan State when the shooting occurred, but they did not see who was responsible for the shooting. MP for Ann Township, Khin Maung Htay says residents do not know which armed group is responsible.

### **Lun Kyauk Headman and Villager Arrested and Beaten by Military**

Two men from Lun Kyauk Village in Mong Ping Township, Eastern Shan State have been arrested by the Military and accused of having ties to the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS). The two report being interrogated and beaten for two hours on September 12, after the Military discovered a RCSS camp in the jungle nearby the village. Sai Santa, headman of Lun Kyauk, was hospitalized for his injuries on September 15. There is no information available as to whether the men have been charged.

### **Military Fire Kills Civilian in Buthidaung Township**

One resident of Thabeik Taung, Buthidaung Township, Arakan State was killed and another injured on September 15 when the Military fired into the village, hitting homes. The shooting occurred following a landmine blast on a bridge between Thabeik Taung and Kin Chaung villages that injured soldiers. According to local resident Einu from Thabeik Taung village the Military fired indiscriminately into the villages following the blast. Residents from Kin Chaung fled to Buthidaung, but those from Thabeik Taung were unable to flee, as the Military had restricted their movements. They instead took shelter in a local monastery.

### **Bullet injured body found in Rathedaung creek**

On September 16, the body of a man from Rasoechaung Village in Rathedaung Township, Arakan State, was found in the Rathedaung creek. The man died from bullet wounds, when he was caught in the crossfire between the Military and the Arakan Army. A machine boat operator, he had been hired to ferry security personnel Amyat Taung to Rasoechaung Village on September 15, when his boat came across the fighting. It is unknown which group is responsible for his death.

### **Nine-Year-Old Injured During Fighting in Namhsan**

A nine-year-old boy sustained injuries when an artillery shell fell on Nam Khur Village in Namhsan Township, Northern Shan State. The injuries were non-life threatening and he was taken to Namhsan Hospital to have the shrapnel removed. The boy was injured during fighting between the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Military. There is no information about who fired the shell that injured the boy.

### **Woman Injured by Mine in Arakan State**

A woman from Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State was injured on September 17. She was on her way to collect bamboo shoots in the mountains near Chaung Tu Village, when she stepped on a landmine. While the injuries were severe, they were not fatal. The woman was taken to Sittwe hospital to be treated.

### **Hundreds Flee as Clash Kills Civilian**

One civilian was killed in Namhan Township, Northern Shan State, as hundreds of others fled fighting between the Military and Ta'ang National Liberation Army. The man was killed by an artillery shell that hit Pan-ou-tu village on September 14. It is unknown who is responsible for the civilian death.

### **Land Mine Explosion Injuries Three Children**

On the morning of September 12, three middle school aged children were injured by a landmine explosion near their school in Kywe Yine Village in Buthidaung Township, Arakan State. Two victims were taken to the hospital for severe injuries, but are not in critical condition. There is no information about the source of the explosion.

### **Arakan Man Found Dead After Abduction**

On September 16, Phyu Chay was found dead with several stab wounds to his head, neck and arms. An unknown group had abducted the Arkanese man two days prior in Phyar village, Kyauk Phyu Township. His body was found in Let Phoo Creek, west of Maw Gyi Village, within the same Arakan State township as he had been abducted.

### **Landmine Blast Leave Kutkai Man Injured**

A man from Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State was seriously injured by a landmine explosion while collecting mushrooms in a forest near his village of Maw Harn. Locals did not believe that there were landmines in the area prior to fighting between the Northern Alliance and the Military, which took place in August. There is no information about which group is responsible for the landmine. Hkawng Jong was taken to hospital for treatment of his injuries.

### **Military Forces Villagers Into Unpaid Labour**

Three villagers have reported being forced to work as porters by the Military on September 16. The men were working in their fields in Tankhun Dai Village in Min Bya Township, Arakan State, when the Military arrived. Forcing them to leave their work, the men were required to transport the Army's belongings across a small creek. One victim reported that they transported goods more than 40 times across the creek, up to their necks in water, but were not offered any compensation. Military spokesman

Commander Win Zaw Oo denied the claims that the Military forces civilians to do unpaid labour, stating that any work the men had done would have been paid.

### **Couple Injured During Clash**

A couple from Det Pru in Kyauk Taw Township, Arakan State was injured during a clash between the Arakan Army and the Military. They were taken to Kyauk Taw Township Hospital for treatment. According to locals, the military arrived to Det Pru, firing gunshots into the village, before compelling 25 villagers to accompany them to Thabon. The couple was injured en route, between Det Pru and Taung Bwe. No information is available about who is responsible for the injuries.

### **Two Ta'ang Civilians Released**

Two ethnic Ta'ang civilians were released from detention on September 26. They were among 14 villagers from Saing Leing Village in Mantong Township, Shan State who were arrested by the Military's Light Infantry Battalion 421 and forced to walk in front of the soldiers as protection to the frontlines of the conflict between the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA). 12 of the villagers, including two children, were released after about eight hours.

### **Civilian Injured During Five Days of Fighting in Buthidaung Township**

From August 29 to September 2, the Military and the Arakan Army (AA) engaged in fighting near Sin Thay Village in Buthidaung Township, Arakan State, resulting in one civilian injury. 27 year old Mee Jar from Sin Thay Pyin Village was shot on September 2 and taken to Buthidaung Township Hospital to be treated.

### **KIA Released Nine Lisu Ethnic**

On September 9, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) released nine ethnic Lisus from detention. They had been arrested on September 6 by a group controlled by Division 3 of KIA, while they were returning home from farming. The nine Lisu Ethnic are residents of Waimaw Town in Kachin State.

### **One Civilian Died and another Injured Due to Quarrel between Civilians and Police**

On September 21, two civilians were stabbed by a police officer during a quarrel in Oak Shit Pin Town, in Pandaung Township, Bago Division. Police officer Thel Ko Ko of the Oak Shit Pin Area Police killed Nay Lin Tun Phoe Khin Hla and injured Nay Lin Tun. According to the victims family members, the quarrel began when the men told the police officer that he had to pay the bill at a restaurant, where the officer and eight civilians had been drinking together. The officer left the restaurant without paying, leading to the conflict. Nay Lin Tun lodged a complaint under Sections 302 and 324 of the Penal Code at the Oak Shit Pin Area Police Station.

### **Couple Injured by Handmade Bomb Explosion**

On September 22, a couple was injured by a homemade bomb explosion, while they were working at a tea leaf farm in Ming Ngot Sub-Township in Kyaukme Township, Northern Shan State. The couple, Sai Aung Myo Win and Nang Aye Phyu Win, are from Chone Thit Village in Ming Ngot Sub-Township. Two weeks ago, a monk from Kyaukme Township died due to a mine explosion.

### **Monk Injured for Stepping Mine in Northern Shan State**

On September 25, Monk Kar Lein Da, from Maing Ngot Sub-township in Kyaukme Township in Northern Shan State, was injured by a mine explosion. He stepped on the mine on way to see his brother, who is in bad health. On September 26, Monk Kar Lein Da was sent to the Kyaukme Hospital.

### **Three Civilians in Kyauktaw Received Injuries in Conflict**

On September 29, fighting between the Military and the Arakan Army (AA) in Kyauktaw, Arakan State injured three civilians. Thar Tun Oo and Maung Naing Linn Soe from Mee Wa Village in Kyauktaw and Thaung Htay from Mee Wa New Village in Paletwa Township, Chin State, were shot. Naing Linn Soe received medical treatment at Kyauktaw Hospital, while Thar Tun Oo was sent from Kyauktaw Hospital to Sittwe Hospital, as his condition was serious.

# LAND DISPUTE

## **Farmers Protest for Proper Compensation for Land Seized for Oil Exploration**

On September 8, farmers staged a protest to demand proper compensation for all land seized from local farmers for oil exploration that began in 1969. About 60 farmers from the Mann oilfield area in Minbu Township, Magway Region took part in the demonstration. The land was seized under the 1953-63 Land Acquisition Laws. In 2016, about 800 farmers were compensated under an updated 2012 law, but more than 100 farmers have yet to be compensated. The protesters say that corruption also led to the underpayment of those that did receive payment.

## **Mrauk-U Farmers Demand Proper Compensation for Land in New Development Project**

In Mrauk-U Township, farmers are concerned that they will not be properly compensated for land proposed for development in a new town project. 65 farmers own a combined 436 acres of land. The farmers were asked to set a price by the Government, and are demanding to be paid 20 million kyat (US \$13,080.60) per acre, to match the current average price of farmland per acre, which ranges from 20 million kyat to 23 million kyat (US \$15,042.69). The government has yet to issue a directive on the land slated for the project, but Kyaw Htwee, head of Farmer's Legal Aid Network, believes that farmers will be undercompensated if the price of land does not decrease before it is seized.

## **Farmers Protested in Hpa-an for Land Confiscation**

On September 20, farmers whose land has been confiscated by the Hpa-an Correctional Department in Karen State, staged a protest against the actions of the Karen State Government. The farmers say that the confiscation of their land contradicts the Land Confiscation Policy. Over the last 30 years, the Hpa-an Correctional Department has confiscated a total of 68 acres of land, owned by 16 local farmers. While the current government is working to provide substitute land to those impacted by the confiscations, the farmers are perpetually asking to have their land returned.

## **Farmers Received Land Compensation for Confiscated Farmland**

On September 22, 72 farmers received either three million Kyat (US \$1956.49) or 2.5 million Kyat (US \$1630.40) per acre of farmland, which was confiscated for the construction of the Badalin-Ye U-Khin U Railway Station was constructed. The farmers had 60 acres of land confiscated when the station was constructed in 1995.

## **Rangoon Regional Government Issued Land Compensation**

On September 28, the Rangoon Regional Government issued payments of 10 million Kyat (US \$6521.64) per acre of land to farmers, in compensation for confiscated land. Combined, the 47 farmers received seven billion Kyat (US \$465,144.83) for their 969 acres of land, located in East Dagon, North Dagon, South Dagon, Dagon Seikkan and North Okkalapa Townships. The 969 acres of land was confiscated by the Government in 1988. Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of Rangoon Region, said that 200 billion Kyat (US \$130,443,558.80) has been allocated for land compensation in Rangoon Region.

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- **Location of Mrauk-U Residents Arrested by Military Unknown**  
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- **Six Farmers Given Additional Charges Under Penal Code**  
[\(25 September 2019 - BNI\)](#) [\(9 September 2019 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(10 September 2019 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)
- **Burma Army Charges Buddhist Monk**  
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- **Monk Sued by Mandalay Colonel**  
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- **Cartoonist Faces Defamation Charges for Criticizing NLD**  
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- **Arkanense Activist Charged for Performance**  
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- **Arakan Villagers Face Additional Charges**  
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## TRIALS

- **Shan Teachers Accused of Rebel Attack Released on Bail**  
[\(3 September 2019 - Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(2 September 2019 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(3 September 2019 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(3 September 2019 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(3 September 2019 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#) [\(5 September 2019 - Myanmar Now\)](#) [\(5 September 2019 - BNI\)](#) [\(8 September 2019 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
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- **Case Dismissed against Primary School Teacher**  
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- **No Decision Made For Weekly Eleven Journal Staff, Awaiting Trial for Fifth Year**

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- **Youth Anti-War Activists Jailed for Street Performance**  
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- **Irrawaddy Region Farmers Sentenced for Use of Vacant Land**  
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## RELEASES

- **Former Child Soldier Jailed for Media Interview Released**  
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- **Min Phoo Villagers Found Not Guilty in Death of 19-Year-Old Girl**  
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- **2 Activists Sentenced under PAPPL Released**  
[\(2 September 2019 - Myanmar Now\)](#)
- **Suspect Found Not Guilty in Murder of Military Corporal**  
[\(24 September 2019 - DMG\)](#) [\(23 September 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 September 2019 - BNI\)](#)

## CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT

- **Prisoner Receives Emergency Medical Treatment After Torture by Military**  
[\(13 September 2019 - DMG/Burmese\)](#) [\(14 September 2019 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(14 September 2019 - BNI\)](#) [\(17 September 2019 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
- **Imprisoned Activists Denied Right to Visitors**  
[\(24 September 2019 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 September 2019 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 September 2019 - BNI\)](#) [\(25 September 2019 - BNI\)](#)

## Restrictions on Civil and Political Rights

- **Farmers Abducted by Military Released**  
[\(2 September 2019 - DMG/Burmese\)](#) [\(2 September 2019 - DMG\)](#) [\(2 September 2019 - BNI\)](#)
- **Seven Civilians Injured by Shooting in Kyauktaw**  
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- **Cars Torched by Armed Soldiers in Northern Shan State**  
[\(4 September 2019 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(4 September 2019 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(5 September 2019 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(4 September 2019 - RFA\)](#) [\(5 September 2019 - Eleven Myanmar\)](#) [\(6 September 2019 - BNI\)](#) [\(5 September 2019 - BNI\)](#) [\(5 September 2019 - Frontier\)](#) [\(5 September 2019 - BNI\)](#)
- **Bna Naw Hkee Villagers Denied Right to Vote**  
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- **Two Men Found Beheaded in Arakan State**  
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- **One Man Shot in Hspiw Township**  
[\(2 September 2019 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(5 September 2019 - BNI\)](#)
- **Two Burma Soldiers Sentenced to 20 Years**  
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- **Three Teenagers Injured by Landmines in Minbya Township**  
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- **Ta'ang Civilians Conscription by Ethnic Armed Group**  
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- **Two Injured by Mine Explosion**  
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- **Pangsay People's Militia Force Arrest and Assault Civilian**  
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- **Driver Shot by Burma Military**  
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- **One Civilian Killed and Six Injured in Arakan State Conflict**  
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- **Ex-Soldier Shot in his Home and Killed in Arakan State**  
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- **Lun Kyauk Headman and Villager Arrested and Beaten by Military**  
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- **Military Fire Kills Civilian in Buthidaung Township**  
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- **Bullet injured body found in Rathedaung creek**  
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- **Nine-Year-Old Injured During Fighting in Namhsan**  
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- **Woman Injured by Mine in Arakan State**  
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- **Rangoon Regional Government Issued Land Compensation**  
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#### LAND DISPUTE

- **Farmers Protest for Proper Compensation for Land Seized for Oil Exploration**  
[\(6 September 2019 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(6 September 2019 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 September 2019 - BNI\)](#)
- **Mrauk-U Farmers Demand Proper Compensation for Land in New Development Project**  
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- **Farmers Protested in Hpa-an for Land Confiscation**  
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- **Farmers Received Land Compensation for Confiscated Farmland**

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