

Human Rights Day 10 December 2020



Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP)
နိုင်ငံရေးအကျဉ်းသားများကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအသင်း

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NOVEMBER CHRONOLOGY 2020

590



Individuals oppressed
due to political activity

199



Political prisoners
awaiting trial inside
prison

35



Political prisoners
serving sentences

356



Political prisoners
awaiting trial outside
prison



Thinzar Than Min indicted under three counts, including Section 505(a), appeared before the court on November 25 (Photo Credit - Myanmar Now)

Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights

NOVEMBER 2020

IN REVIEW

227 **ARRESTED**

12 **CHARGED**

5 **SENTENCED**

211 **RELEASED**

1 **ARRESTED BY
EAOS**

1 **RELEASED BY
EAOs**

2 **POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE IN BAD HEALTH**

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MONTH IN REVIEW

2020 General Election

On 8 November multi-party general elections were held, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) observed the landslide majority given to the National League for Democracy (NLD). [The NLD sent an open letter to 48 political parties](#), including 10 Rakhine-based political parties on November 12, inviting them in cooperation to achieve what it maintains are their shared goals, including the establishment of a federal union. AAPP welcomes this positive development as the role of all ethnic groups is vital for the emergence of a federal union and peace process. We urged the newly formed government to consistently work for national reconciliation, including political prisoners, land, labour and student issues and to set up the concrete foundation of the basic human rights for all people.

Disputes and constraints in relation to the election in November were:

- [Residents of Tawng Ni village-tract in Shan State's Taunggyi Township](#), who were eligible for advance voting were pressured by polling station officers to vote for a particular party. As a result, they voted for a party in the area which they did not intend to vote for.
- In [Tar Moe Nyae Town of Shan State's Kutkai Township](#) there was pressure on people to vote for another party instead of voluntarily advanced voting for people over the age of 60.
- [Some Arakanese living in Rangoon Division's Shwepyitha, Hlaingthaya and South Dagon, majority of Shan living in Mandalay Division's Mandalay and Pyin Oo Lwin Towns, majority of Burmese, Karen and Pa'O living in Mon State, ethnics living in Kachin State's Myitkyina and Waingmaw Townships](#) reported that they were unable to vote for the ethnic affairs ministers as their names were not included on the list.

These are worrying developments and AAPP urges an immediate investigation to prevent similar incidents in future elections. In addition to this, newly elected MP Htike Zaw in northern Shan State was shot dead by unidentified armed men at his Pin Tain village home in Kyaukme Township. This rejection of politics, and instead resorting to violence is unequivocally condemned and we urge immediate action to be taken against the perpetrators of this crime.

Freedom of Speech and Expression

The situation of freedom of speech and expression in November has not improved and continues the decline of previous months, with the repression of those who exercise these fundamental rights persisting. Htet Aung, vice-chairman (2) of ABFSU, and Kyaw Ye Thu, vice-chairman of Pyay University Student Union, were sentenced to one year imprisonment under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code, Thinzar Thanmin living in in Infantry Battalion No.235 in Magway Region's Pakokku Township was indicted by the Pakokku Court under Section 505(a) of the Penal Code. Moreover, Zeyar Lwin, member of a Peacock Generation Troupe, and Nay Win Aung living in Kyar La Har Village in Bago Division's Waw Town, were charged under Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law.

Freedom of speech and expression must be enhanced whilst Burma is undergoing its democratic transition, yet this right continues to be restricted just as the military dictatorship similarly silenced dissidents. If the basic right to freedom of speech and expression cannot be protected, other basic rights will recede. The lack of amendments to Section 500, and 505(a)(b) of the Penal Code, Section 18 and 19 of PAPPL and Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law has led to these arbitrary arrests and lawsuits. Therefore, we urge the government to immediately and unconditionally release all those who are arrested, charged and sentenced for exercising this right, to sign and ratify [the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(ICCPR\)](#), to respect and follow [the Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(UDHR\)](#) that protect these rights and repeal and amend the repressive legal framework promoting repression of freedom of speech and expression.

Ongoing conflict in ethnic States

Though the conflict in Arakan State has subsided since the election in comparison with previous months, arrests, charges and torture have continued. Some November incidents of human rights abuses in Arakan State were:

- [Kyaw Nu Maung](#), a prawn farmer from Chitponma village of Ann Township, was admitted to Tat Taung station hospital after he was tortured by soldiers during interrogation.
- [Tun Tun Win](#), a villager of Kan Pe Village, in Arakan State's Minbya Township, was beaten, injuring his head. He went to the Myaung Bwe Hospital and received five stitches.
- [Kyaw Hla Sein](#), resident of Sanae town in Arakan State's Kyaukphyu Township, was shot dead by the Tatmadaw on November 4 while he was out catching crabs and [Hlaing Tun](#), was arrested along with explosive devices, according to a released statement by the Military.
- [Hlla Tin Nu](#) was arrested at the Myo U Gaung Internally Displaced Persons Camp in Mrauk-U Township after security personnel conducted inspections. She was accused of being a fugitive and having ties with the Arakan Army (AA).

Bullet injuries and fatalities

- Three civilians were wounded and two civilians were also killed in shootings in Kyaukpyu, Minbya and Myebon Townships, in Arakan State.
- Another two civilians were wounded and an elected MP was killed in Kyaukme and Namhkan Townships in Shan State.

Deaths/injuries caused by artillery shelling

- Six civilians including four children were injured in artillery shelling in Ann Township, Arakan State.

Deaths/injuries caused by landmines

- Four civilians were injured by landmines in Arakan State's Ann, Minbya and Kyauktaw Townships.

Deaths/injuries caused by bomb blasts

- Three civilians including a child were killed and six including two children were injured by a bomb blast in Arakan State's Maungdaw Township.

Deaths/injuries caused by explosive war remnant

- One civilian was killed and two civilians including a child were injured by explosive war remnants in Arakan State's Myebon Township.

Armed clashes have been ongoing in Arakan State for almost two years and ethnic peoples continue to suffer its devastating effects. A statement issued by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of

Defence Services the day after the election stated that the Peace Talks Committee of the Tatmadaw (Military) had been formed. There is an urgent need to continue these peace talks, the election has successfully been held but COVID-19 remains.

[The Peace Talks Committee of the Tatmadaw \(Military\) was formed in order](#) to continue talks with ethnic armed organizations. To preserve genuine peace, the committee must continue talks with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signatory ethnic armed organizations, as well as peace talks with non-signatory ethnic armed organizations. AAPP welcomes the formation of a peace committee, action is needed to reduce armed conflict so that ethnic communities peoples are not harmed.

The new government should work for national reconciliation to achieve true peace. Moreover, [the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment \(UNCAT\)](#), which the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) has repeatedly urged, must be signed and ratified.

Human Rights Abuses by Law Enforcement

It is also worrying that human rights abuses by law enforcement continue in Burma. On the night of November 23, three policemen wearing plain clothes took civilian [Chit Ko Ko](#), living at 87 Ward of Rangoon Division's Dagon Myothit Seikkan Township, to Police Station No.2 in Taketa Township. While Chit Ko Ko was being interrogated for alleged involvement in the riots at a bakery near his bike shop, he was beaten. The [Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials](#) prohibits torture.

Torture should not be openly tolerated by any law enforcement organizations, torture should never be openly exercised. Plans must be made to prevent further offenses and those working for law enforcement organizations should be provided human rights and prevention and protection of torture training. In doing so AAPP urges the government to promote the dignity of living and security of all people.

POLITICAL PRISONERS

CHRONOLOGY

ARRESTS

Seven Men Arrested by Military in Simaw Village, One Released

On November 1, seven individuals from Simaw Village located in Kyaukphyu Township were arrested by the Military. They were detained on suspicion of having ties to the Arakan Army (AA). A group of military men came into Simaw Village and arrested the seven villagers. The detained members include Hla Maung, 50 years-old, Maung Khin Than, 50 years-old, Wai Tar Aung, 30 years-old, Nyi Nyi Hsan 27 years-old, Maung Aung Tin Tun, 17 years-old, Maung Tun Kyi, 22 years old, and Maung Myint Aung, 21 Years-old. One man, Muang Khin, was released by the Military. After being released, the Military proceeded to detain his son Wai Tar Aung. The accused are being detained at the Danyawadi Naval Base in Kyaukphyu. Family members of the detained have not been contacted.

43 Fishermen Released, While Three Remain in Custody

On November 2, 45 fishermen were arrested at Kyun Taung port. Five days later on November 7, the Military released 42 fishermen, with three remaining in custody. The three were handed over to the Kyaukphyu police station for further investigation. The fishermen went missing at a port in Kyun Taung Rambree Township, in Rakhine state. They were arrested under suspicion and investigation into ties with the Arakan Army. A nearby village claimed the fishermen were arrested after an explosion took place to a naval vessel.

Villager Arrested in Mrauk-U Township

On November 4, a villager from Chaung Thit Village, in Arakan State's Mrauk-U Township was arrested by the Military, in Mrauk-U Town. Maung Gyi Yay was on his way to buy cattle corn when arrested. While traveling, Maung Gyi Yay got off a motorcycle to relieve himself. His wife, Thein Thein Aye Maung Tun Khin, claims he was detained on suspicion, while he was peeing, by Military Battalion No.31. The village administrator, Chaung Thit Village, said Maung Gyi Yay was arrested for drugs and would be released on bail.

CHARGES

Eight Men Arrested and Charged Over AA Boat Attack, Families Claim Innocence

The Military said, on November 2, a Navy vessel was attacked on the Tanzin River by Arakan Army (AA) members on a motorboat. The individuals were using both small and large weapons to attack the Military boat. When the Military returned fire the AA motor boat attacking retreated towards Paukpyin Village. On November 9, the Military Squad Truth and Reconnaissance claimed all eight AA Members who attacked the naval vessel on the Tanzin River were caught and detained.

The family members of all eight individuals claim the detainees do not have ties with the AA and were not involved in the attack, despite the military claims. All detainees were arrested at their homes. Five of the arrested individuals were residents of Ramree township and were taken into custody on November 7. The other three men in custody were arrested with a group of 45 fishermen in Sanae village. The three remaining fishermen are identified as Nyein Taunk, Aung Tun Lin, and Tun Hlla. The eight men are being transitioned into custody from the military to the Kyaukphyu Police Station, where the case was opened. Six men are being charged under the Counter-Terrorism law Section 50 (j) and Section 52 (a). On November 10, Tun Hlla was released, but the two men from Sanae remain in custody. The two individuals from Sanae Town are identified as Nyein Taunk and Aung Tun Lin. On November 9, the individuals were officially charged Counter-Terrorism law Section 50(j) and Section 52(a) and on November 16 sent to sent to Kyaukphyu Prison. Family members of Nyein Taunk and Aung Lin went to the prison to see the fishermen, but were denied access to the detainees.

IDP Arrested by Police and Military, Fugitive Accusations Against Her

On November 6, Ma Hlla Tin Nu was arrested at the Myo U Gaung Internally Displaced Persons Camp in Mrauk-U Township after security personnel conducted inspections. Military and Police came back after checking registration cards at the camp and arrested her. She was accused of being a fugitive and having ties with the Arakan Army (AA). The accusations come from her alleged participation in an AA bombing of a Police station in April 2019. She is accused of being designated a fugitive from 27/2019 in Case 50-D/S/54. The daughter of Ma Hlla Tin Nu claims she has no ties with the AA. Ma Hlla Tin Nu is being held at the Mrauk-U Myoma police station where a lawsuit has been filed against her. She will be transferred to Sittwe court Authorities.

Betel Nut Farmer Charged After a Landmine Explosion in Minbya Township

On November 20, Aung Myint, a betel nut farmer, was arrested and charged at Myaung Bwe Police Station. The arrest took place at noon, in Arakan State's Mrauk-U Township, after a landmine explosion took place at the betel nut farm, near Myaung Bwe Village. A young individual was picking up betel nuts on Aung Myint's farm when the mine was triggered, the picker was seriously injured from the explosion. The farmer is being detained in a cell at the Myaung Bwe Police Station. The Maung Bwe Village Administrator, Thaung Shwe, claims the charges against Aung Myint are unknown.

Waw Township Local Charged Under Telecommunications Law for Sharing a Defaming Post

On November 19, a military officer named Pyin Pone Gyi, from the Reinforcement and Resettlement Battalion No.1 filed a charge against Nay Win Aung. Nay Win Aung is from Kyar La Har Village in Bago, Waw Township. The charge was brought against Nay Win Aung at the Waw Police Station under the Telecommunications Law Section 66(d). The charge is as a consequence of a post, which is claimed to be defamatory against the military. On September 14, at around 8 pm, Nay Win Aung shared a post

on a Facebook account under the alias Unay Unay. This post was written by Zin Min Htun, then Nay Win Aung shared the post. The post was entitled "I think you should know".

TRIALS

Woman Faces Trial for Facebook Post Addressing Military Pressure

On November 25, Thinzar Thanmin, a 25-year-old woman was indicted by the Pakokku Court, Magway Region, under the Penal Code, Section 505(a). She pleaded not guilty to the accused charge. On September 23, Thinzar Thanmin posted on Facebook claiming her father in Infantry Battalion No.235, stationed in Pakokku, was being pressured for him and his family to vote for the military party on election day, November 8, or face demotion. The Penal Code Section 505(a), prohibits any circulation or publication of statements or reports, which cause a member of the military to fail at their responsibilities. She faces a maximum two-year sentence if convicted. On September 24 she was summoned for interrogation for her post. She was first charged by Aung Khaing Win from Infantry Regiment No.101, and Myo Min Lwin, from Infantry Battalion No.235. They first filed a case against her under the Telecommunications Law, Sections 68(a) and 66(d). The former chargers were not brought to the Pakokku township court.

Thinzar Thanmin showed up to the trial handcuffed, and in COVID-19 protective gear. At the trial, there was a large military presence. A group of individuals who were once political prisoners wanted to provide legal representation for her after her indictment but were denied access to her at the Pakokku Prison, where she is being held. The next hearing is supposed to take place on December 1.

Peacock Generation Member Faces Trial Under Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law

A member of a Peacock Generation Troupe, Zeyar Lwing, was charged under Telecommunications Law Section 66(d), at the Maubin Township Court, in Ayeyarwaddy Division. The charge was filed by Lieutenant Colonel Thet Naing Win of South West Regional Military Command. Zeyar Lwing had live-streamed a performance on Facebook during his imprisonment. On November 26, Zeyar Lwin appeared before the court wearing Covid-19 protective gear. The court date was moved to December 4, because of the absence of the plaintiff, Lieutenant Colonel Thet Naing Win. Locals claimed the defendant was not allowed to go back to Insein Prison after testing positive for Covid-19, he was then detained at the Maubin Myoma Police Station detention center.

Four Students Arrested in Sittwe Remanded for 14 days Without Trial

Four students who led a protest in retaliation to the ongoing violence in Arakan state were due to stand trial on November 3 and November 17. Instead, the four were given a 14-day remand, before the trial took place. The four arrested students who are awaiting trial are Kyaw Naing Htay, Oo Than Naing, Myat Soe Win, and Kaung Tun. The individuals arrested were leaders in the Rakhine State Student Union. On October 19, the four led an anti-government protest in Sittwe, which caused their arrest and the charges against them.

Two Rakhine Anti-War Protesters Sentenced With Unconventional Proceedings

On November 16, two student anti-war protest leaders, Kyaw Ye Thu and Hter Aung, were sentenced to a year of jail. The two students were sentenced under the Penal Code, Section 505(b). The court proceedings were unconventional to the law. The lawyers representing the students claimed the trial did not follow the Criminal Procedure Code, Article 366(1), which openly relays the verdict to the court. The court session began at 9:30 instead of the intended time of 10:00. Within five minutes of

the proceeding, a verdict was concluded. The convicted were swiftly taken to jail. No evidence was presented openly to the court, nor what law they violated, what the prosecution charges were. A rushed and intentional pace of the proceeding was felt, giving no time for the students to speak to their family members. The sentence was not made clear to the open court, so family members and supporters followed the convicted truck to the jail. They shouted to the police, asking them what the final conviction was. The police told the family and supporters, the two individuals received a one year sentence.

RELEASES

Man Serving Two Years Sentence for Publishing Calendar is Released

On November 23, Thein Aung Myat was released, after serving a two-year prison sentence for his publication of a contentious calendar. Under the Unlawful Associations Act, Section 17(1), in November 2019, Thein Aung Myat, Kaung Myat Thu, Bo San, and Win Bo were charged by the Ngaputaw Township Court. Thein Aung Myat's charge received an additional six months sentence for illegal publication of the calendar. Back in April 2019, the men selling the "Rakhita" calendars that marked Arakan Army day on them were arrested. Aung Myat claims he was a victim of injustice by being wrongly accused of having ties with the Arakan Army.

Ward Administrator and Civilian from Myebon Township Released

On November 24, Arakan State's Mrauk-U District Court dropped charges against two individuals. They both were accused of recruiting for the Arakan Army (AA) and were facing charges under the Counter-Terrorism Law, Section 50(j), and Section 52(a). A ward administrator, Kyaw Myint, of Myo Thit Ward was initially arrested on May 31, and a civilian, Tin Tun, of Thel Tan Ward, of Myebon Town Civilian was arrested on June 4. Those two have also been released.

Freelance Reporter from Bhamo, Charged Under Unlawful Associations Act, Released

On November 23, Oo Nyein, also known as Nyein Chan, a freelance reporter from Kachin State, Bhamo Town, was released from custody. He was detained at Momauk Police Station for 53 days and has been acquitted from the case for the lack of strong prosecution witnesses. He was initially charged in 2015, under the Penal Code, Section 500, for writing an article named "Buffalo Smuggling and the Militia". He was recently arrested on October 4, 2020, while returning from Bhamo and then charged under the Unlawful Associations Act, Section 17(1). Nyein Chan is a former political prisoner, and has evaded previous arrests as his house had been bombed.

ARRESTS BY EAO

Man Detained by Unknown Group in Civilian Clothing

On November 23, a man named Aung Lwin, 31 years-old was abducted by men wearing civilian clothing, masks. The men held machetes and sticks. Aung Lwin and his sister were traveling back to Padar village from Taungup after attending the bank to receive money. The sister claimed, while riding on their motorbike, they were stopped by four or five men. The men made them kneel and would not allow them to look up. The men beat Aung Lwin and detained him around 5 pm near

Kamar Village. It is unknown which group detained him, but a report has been filed at the Lamu Police Station in Taungup Township.

RELEASES BY EAO

Rathedaung Town Elder Released by AA

On November 15, Oo Thein Maung, an elder of Rathedaung Town centre, Arakan State, who was detained by the Arakan Army (AA), was released. On October 21, two individuals, Oo Thein Maung and Tha Zan were arrested by the AA. The arrests were unforeseen, they were traveling with the township-level COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee, and officials from the Department of Disaster Management. The group was on their way to Yaypaikson to donate rice supplies to an IDP camp when the two were detained. On October 29, Thar Zan was released by the AA, and on November 15, Oo Thein Maung was released.

RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Four Kan Pe Villagers Arrested, One Injured

On November 7, a Military convoy entered Kan Pe Village, in the Arakan State's Minbya Township at 7 am. The Military arrested four villagers then released them that evening. The four detained villagers were named A Phyu, Maung Than, Aung Sein, and Win Maung Chay. Not only were these four individuals arrested, but villager Tun Tun Win was beaten, injuring his head. Tun Tun Win went to the Myaung Bwe Hospital and received five stitches.

Soldiers Beat Civilian in Pekon Township

On October 29, at 5pm, a captain and three soldiers, from Lay Du Khaung Military Base Infantry Battalion 302, in Pekon Township went to Thi Kyit Village to drink. The group was not in uniform and while in Thi Kyit beat a civilian for no reason. The civilian was punched in the nose, and was hit in the head five times. The individual attacked did not seek medical attention but instead went home. Major Ant Kyaw, chairman of no (2) Township, claimed the situation was dealt with by the Kayan State New Party as the Thi Kyit Villages in the administrative region of that party. He claimed the Nayan State New Party mediated the situation and sent four soldiers back.

Two Village Officials from Maei Town Arrested on Suspicion of Providing Food to the AA Released

On November 10, at 9 pm, soldiers arrested two village officials on suspicion of providing food to the Arakan Army (AA). The detained individuals were taken to the Maei Police Station. After their interrogation, they released the two village officials from the police station at around 11 pm on the same day. The two village officials were Nyi Pu, the Pyin Wunn Village Administrator, and Tun Tin, in charge of King Chay Ywar Thit Village.

Thousands of Fishermen Lose Voting Rights

Nearly 9,000 fishermen in Pyapon Township, Ayeyarwady Region, will not be able to vote in the November 8 election as they have been at sea since the fishing season started in September. There are 8,851 fishermen officially registered with Ayeyarwady Region Fisheries Department on rafts off Pyapon, where the main business is fishing. As the fishermen were not able to check voter lists and they went to sea before the electoral bodies organized early voting, they will lose their voting rights as the rafts have no plan to return to shore on November 8.

Thein Swe, a National League for Democracy candidate for the regional parliament in Pyapon, said that the fishermen are not all residents because many are migrants. If they are on the voter lists, they can cast ballots on election day. But if they are at sea on election day, they cannot vote. However, a raft owner in Naukmee village, who asked not to be named, said: “We give advance payments for five months before they went to sea so their families can make ends meet. So if the fishermen run away when we bring them to shore to vote, it will cause a lot of trouble. So it is inconvenient for us to bring them back to shore”.

Advance Voters Report Harassment by Polling Officers

Seniors in southern Shan State who were eligible for advance voting complained of harassment by staff at polling stations. According to the Union Election Commission (UEC), anyone 60 or older could cast their ballot from October 29 to November 7, the day before regular polling starts. Nang Ya Min, a Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) electoral candidate for Taunggyi Township constituency-1, said that residents of Tawng Ni village-tract were pressured by polling station officers to vote for a particular party. The SNLD candidate said seniors told her that there were political parties playing loud campaign music and wearing their party’s t-shirt at polling stations, violating election regulations laid out by UEC. In Lashio Township, located in northern Shan State, advance voters also reported being harassed to vote for larger parties such as the ruling NLD, USDP or UBP.

Four Detainees from Sittwe Township Released

The military arrested four men from Panlinpyin in Sittwe Township on November 3. On the afternoon of November 3, both Police and Military cars drove into Panlinpyin village to inspect houses. Following the inspection, Than Thu Hall, 68 years-old, Tun Kyaw Hlaing, 50 years-old, Maung Thein Chay, who goes by the name Seik Taung Chay, 40 years-old, and Kyaw Win Chay, 37-years-old, were taken into custody. The men were kept at Pyin Police Station, according to one detainee, where they were under investigation for ties with the Arakan Army. Their integration went relatively normal but one man was kicked by authorities while answering a question. The requirement for the group's release was the signature of the Village Administrator. All four were released the following day on November 4.

Ethnic Groups Unable to Cast Votes

Ethnic Bamar, Karen and Pa-O voters were entitled to vote for their ethnic affairs minister in the state, but there were multiple reports of these voters being denied ballots for the post, because their names were not on the eligible voter list. They were given the three standard ballots to vote for state parliamentarian and Lower and Upper House representatives, but did not receive a fourth ballot to vote for their ethnic affairs minister. The same problem was also reported by ethnic voters in Kachin and Shan states.

Multiple Shan residents of Mandalay reported that they were unable to vote for the Shan ethnic affairs minister in Mandalay Region on November 8 during the general election. The criteria for being able to vote for the post is having one's ethnicity listed as Shan on their national identification card. Ethnic Shan voters in particular in the Mandalay town of Pyin Oo Lwin were denied a ballot to vote for the ethnic affairs minister. Shein Win, chairperson of the Mandalay Region Election Commission, said that election commission officials had been looking into the problem throughout November 8 morning, but blamed voters for not ensuring they were eligible in advance.

Ballots Denied to Ethnic Voters in Kachin and Chin State

Voters from eight villages in Myitkyina and Waingmaw Townships in Kachin State and seven wards and one village tract in Paletwa Township in Chin State, reported that they were not provided with ballots to vote for ethnic affairs ministers in the general election on November 8. They said they were not able to cast ballots for the Bamar, Lisu, Rawang and Shan ethnic affairs ministers, respectively. Ethnic voters are allowed four ballots, for four posts: state parliamentarian, Lower House and Upper House representatives, and the ethnic affairs minister for their respective ethnic group.

Some could cast only three ballots at the polling station and complained to the polling officer about it. They said that voters didn't carefully check their names on the eligible voter list. Another problem by voters highlighted was the language barrier at the polls, noting that ballots are only written in Burmese, a language that many ethnic locals cannot read or speak fluently enough to file a formal complaint.

Dispute Takes Place as Ethnic Voters Banned From Casting Vote for Ethnic Ministry Affairs Position

On November 8, at Polling Station Number 3 in Sao San Tun Ward, located in Taunggyi Township, a dispute took place between voters and the election sub-commission. This dispute broke out when Myat Ko ko Aung, Daw Wai Wai Aung, and an unnamed voter could not cast their votes for the ethnic affairs ministry. As ethnic individuals, they are eligible to cast another vote for the Ethnic affairs minister, but the polling officer had already voted without the consent of the individuals. Myat Ko Ko Aung said she was eligible to cast four votes and is required to cast three, or she will lose her voting rights. Daw Wai Wai Aung said they were not allowed to cast votes for the party they favored.

Military Interrogations in Kyaukphyu Township Cause People to Flee, 150 Villagers later Released

Hundreds of people from Zaichang village in Kyaukphyu Township, Arakan State, have fled their homes and 150 have been detained as the military has carried out interrogations of local residents on November 2. A woman, Daw Phru Daung Ma, from Zaichang is receiving treatment at Kyaukphyu Hospital after being shot by the military, locals said. 150 villagers were unable to flee and were detained in the village school for 12 days, according to those who sought safety in downtown Kyaukphyu. They were later released on November 16. In a statement on November 6, the Kyaukphyu Rural Development Association said the military should refrain from actions that could intimidate people if the military deemed it necessary to conduct interrogations of villagers. The True News Information Team has not released any statements on this matter.

Military Take 500-600 Rice Bags From an IDP Camp

On November 5, the Military took approximately 500-600 bags of rice from the Tin Nyo Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) camp. The District Disaster Management Department and the International Committee for the Red Cross donated the rice, intending to feed over 3,000 IDPs. The intended date of disruption was November 2. The bags of rice were being held temporarily at the Camps monastery. The distributors were waiting to hand out the rice due to the Military staying in the Tin Nyo village. The soldiers came on November 10, in the morning, with three trucks. The Military loaded and snatched the rice supplies from the monastery. The Military was worried the rice supply would feed the Arakan Army. Further details of the event are unknown due to internet restrictions.

Recently Resettled IDPs Ballots Used, They Claim Fraud

On November 8, resettled Internally displaced peoples (IDPs) in the village from Ngwe Pyaw San Pya, in Myitkyina Township, were not allowed to vote because Kachin State authorities claimed the individuals' votes were cast. The recently resettled IDPs from the internally displaced camps in Chipwe, Myitkyina Sumprabum, and Waingmaw Townships. Roi Taung and Wor Mee claimed they went into the polling station to vote but someone had already signed and used their ballot for their names. The individuals claimed fraud, as they were not allowed to vote early and had not voted yet that day. Other voter limitations by residents in Ngwe Puaw San Pya include individuals being denied a vote in the ethnic affairs ministerial post.

Shrimp Farmer from Ann Township Hospitalized after Military Detention

Kyaw Nu Maung, a 48-year-old prawn farmer from Chitponma village of Ann Township, was admitted to Tat Taung station hospital on November 15 after he was tortured by the soldiers during interrogations, alleged his family. He was working at his shrimp farm when he was picked up by the security forces on November 14. His daughter, Khin Hnin Wai, informed that Kyaw Nu Maung was arrested by a group of ten soldiers. Next morning, as the soldiers left the village, the farmer was left abandoned inside a building at the monastery premises. During the interrogation, the soldiers asked him if he was a member of Arakan Army (AA). They also questioned what his private number and the level of involvement with the AA were. Myo Lwin, a social worker in Ann township, said that Kyaw Nu Maung was found in an unconscious situation inside the building. The army personnel had already left for Lin Pan Kya village. Earlier they returned a phone to the abbot, which was confiscated by the army personnel.

Internet Censorship Post-Election

On November 10, soon after the general election, a military-led Ministry increased censorship over the internet. The internet filtering targeted specific words and blocked three particular websites. Authorities said this censorship is allowed under the 2013 Telecommunication Law. Not complying with the filtering orders may lead to national lawsuits. The government may have legal authority based on the Telecommunication law, but the direct request violates international law said Telenor Myanmar in a statement.

Civilian Interrogated at Police Station and Beaten by Police

On November 23, three police officers, wearing plain clothing, took a civilian Chit Ko Ko, living at 87 Ward of Rangoon Division's Dagon Myothit Seikkan Township, to Police Station No.2 in Taketa Township. While Chit Ko Ko was being interrogated for his involvement in the riots at a bakery near

his bike shop, he was beaten. On November 20, Chit Ko Ko allowed the parents of the child workers to sleep at his house after the riot had occurred, near Lotaya Shwe San Hla Bakery.

After Chit Ko Ko's violent interrogation he was released at 12:30 am. As a result of the beating, he had back pain and could not walk properly. He sought medical attention and underwent an X-ray examination. As a result of Chit Ko Ko mistreatment he opened a case on November 25, at the Dagon Myothit Seikkan Myoma Police Station.

Land Dispute Between Military and Locals in Sintgaing and Patheingyi Townships

Local farmers claim that soldiers and police officers destroyed crops on land in East Ywar Thit Village, in Sintgaing, and Kywe Na Phar Village, in Patheingyi, within the Mandalay Township. A Land dispute between Lapakha Air Defense Force 3026 and the 50 local farmers in East Ywar Thit Village involves 1276 acres of land. On November 26, Soe Lwin, a farmer, claimed the Military trespassed and destroyed the crops in East Ywar Thit Village, which was being cultivated by 50 farmers.

Also, a similar clash took place in Patheingyi Township. On the morning of November 26, 700 acres of land in Kywe Na Phar Village, which involves disputed territory, was cleared by the Military. The Military not only destroyed the land but also wrecked two houses and a fence. As a consequence of the destruction, a clash occurred between local farmers and the Military.

REFERENCES

POLITICAL PRISONERS

ARRESTS

Seven Men Arrested by Military in Simaw Village, One Released

(1 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(2 November 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(2 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(2 November 2020 - DMG)

43 Fishermen Released, While Three Remain in Custody

(5 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(6 November 2020 - Narinjara)
(6 November 2020 - VOA/Burmese)
(7 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(7 November 2020 - VOA/Burmese)
(10 November 2020 - DMG/Burmese)

Villager Arrested in Mrauk-U Township

(5 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

CHARGES

Eight Men Arrested and Charged Over AA Boat Attack, Families Claim Innocence

(5 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(6 November 2020 - VOA/Burmese)
(7 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(7 November 2020 - VOA/Burmese)
(7 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(7 November 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(10 November 2020 - DMG)
(10 November 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(16 November 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(16 November 2020 - DMG)
(17 November 2020 - DMG)
(17 November 2020 - DMG/Burmese)

IDP Arrested by Police and Military, Fugitive Accusations Against Her

(6 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(9 November 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(10 November 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(10 November 2020 - DMG)

Betel Nut Farmer Charged After a Landmine Explosion in Minbya Township
(21 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

Waw Township Local Charged Under Telecommunications Law for Sharing a Defaming Post
(21 November 2020 - VOM/Burmese)

TRIALS

Woman Faces Trial for Facebook Post Addressing Military Pressure
(27 November 2020-Myanmar Now)
(25 November 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese)

Peacock Generation Member Faces Trial Under Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law
(27 November 27 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)

Four Students Arrested in Sittwe Remanded for 14 days Without Trial
(3 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(17 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

SENTENCES

Two Rakhine Anti-War Protesters Sentenced With Unconventional Proceedings
(18 November 2020 - Eleven/Burmese)
(19 November 2020- RFA)
(19 November 2020- RFA)
(19 November 2020 - RFA/Burmese)
(20 November 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

RELEASES

Man Serving Two Years Sentence for Publishing Calendar is Released
(23 November 2020 - DMG)
(23 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(23 November 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(24 November 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

Ward Administrator and Civilian from Myebon Township Released
(25 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

Freelance Reporter from Bhamo, Charged Under Unlawful Associations Act, Released
(26 November 2020 - VOM/Burmese)

ARRESTS BY EAO

Man Detained by Unknown Group in Civilian Clothing
(25 November 2020 -DMG)
(24 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(24 November 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese)
(25 November 2020 - DMG/Burmese)

RELEASES BY EAO

Rathedaung Town Elder Released by AA
(16 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Four Kan Pe Villagers Arrested, One Injured
(2 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(2 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(3 November 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

Soldiers Beat Civilian in Pekon Township
(2 November 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

Two Village Officials from Maei Town Arrested on Suspicion of Providing Food to the AA Released
(12 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

Thousands of Fishermen Lose Voting Rights
(3 November 2020 - Mizzima)

(5 November 2020 - Irrawaddy)

Advance Voters Report Harassment by Polling Officers

(4 November 2020 - BNI)

Four Detainees from Sittwe Township Released

(5 November 2020- DMG)

(4 November 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

(4 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

(4 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

(5 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

(5 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

Ethic Groups Unable to Cast Votes

(8 November 2020 - Mizzima)

(10 November 2020 - BNI)

(11 November 2020 - BNI)

Ballots Denied to Ethic Voters in Kachin and Chin State

(8 November 2020 - DMG)

(8 November 2020 - Irrawaddy)

(9 November 2020 - BNI)

(10 November 2020 - BNI)

Dispute Takes Place as Ethnic Voters Banned From Casting Vote for Ethnic Ministry Affairs Position

(8 November 2020 - BNI)

Military Interrogations in Kyaukphyu Township Cause People to Flee, 150 Villagers later Released

(9 November 2020 - BNI)

(14 November 2020 - Narinjara)

(14 November 2020 - DMG)

(16 November 2020 - BNI)

(4 November 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

(4 November 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)

(5 November 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

(6 November 2020 - RFA/Burmese)

(14 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

(14 November 2020 - DMG/Burmese)

Military Take 500-600 Rice Bags From an IDP Camp

(10 November 2020 - DMG)

(10 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

(10 November 2020 - RFA/Burmese)

(12 November 2020 - Narinjara)

Recently Resettled IDPs Ballots Used, They Claim Fraud

(10 November 2020 - BNI)

Shrimp Farmer from Ann Township Hospitalized after Military Detention

(15 November 2020 - DMG)

(17 November 2020 - BNI)

(17 November 2020 - Narinjara)

(15 November 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

(15 November 2020 - DMG/Burmese)

Internet Censorship Post-Election

(17 November 2020 - Myanmar Times)

Civilian Interrogated at Police Station and Beaten by Police

(25 November 2020 - Myanmar Times/Burmese)

(26 November 2020 - Myanmar Times)

Land Dispute Between Military and Locals in Sintgaing and Patheingyi Townships

(26 November 2020 - Myanmar

Now/Burmese)

(26 November 2020 - VOM/Burmese)

(27 November 2020 - RFA/Burmese)

(28 November 2020 - VOM/Burmese)

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