

A FAR CRY FROM PEACE

Ongoing Burma Army offensives and abuses
in northern Burma under the NLD government



Photo by Kachinland News



Report produced by
Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful to all the interviewees for their courage in speaking the truth and to all KWAT field workers who took great risks to collect the information. We are also thankful to KWAT friends and networks who provide the information to our reports.

We especially would like to thank the Burma Relief Center (BRC) for technical assistance in developing the report and KWAT's sister who helped with the design and layout.

We would also would like to thank the Open Society Foundation (OSF) for their generous financial support, which made this report possible.

Supported by



CONTENTS

Summary	1
Intensified Burma Army offensives in key strategic areas	3
New displacement, but misinformation and restrictions block aid	3
Burma Army abuses documented by KWAT (Nov 2015-Oct 2016)	7
Torture	7
Extrajudicial killing/disappearance	8
Arbitrary arrest and detention	9
Looting, destruction of property, burning of homes	10
Indiscriminate firing/shelling into civilian areas	11
Laying of landmines	13
Ongoing lack of justice for military sexual violence	13
Detailed list of Burma Army abuses (Nov 2015-Oct 2016)	16

METHODOLOGY

This report is based on the testimony of local people who experienced or observed human rights abuses first hand and who shared their stories with KWAT's network of documenters in Kachin and northern Shan State.

SUMMARY

This report provides an update of the security situation in Kachin areas of northern Burma during the past year, since the November 2015 elections. Despite hopes that the new government led by the National League for Democracy (NLD) would move the peace process forward and bring an end to fighting, Burma Army offensives in the north of the country have intensified, involving ongoing human rights abuses against civilians, and new displacement.

Mapping by KWAT shows the broad scale of military operations against the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) across Kachin and northern Shan State during the past year, particularly around the resource-rich Phakant and Tanai areas, and against KIA strongholds along the China border. Over 100 Burma Army battalions, numbering over 15,000 troops, have been deployed against the KIA during the past year, with increasing use of fighter aircraft.

The offensives have caused fresh displacement in Phakant and Muse townships, adding to the over 100,000 IDPs already sheltering in camps in Kachin and northern Shan State. Donor funding cuts and government restrictions on humanitarian access to camps in both government and non-government controlled areas have caused added hardship for the IDPs.

KWAT has documented ongoing, widespread abuses by the Burma Army against civilians in the conflict areas. There has been frequent arbitrary arrest and torture of male villagers, on suspicion of contact with the KIA. In the twenty-one torture cases documented – involving at least nine different battalions -- villagers were tied up, blindfolded, kicked, hit with guns, had bamboo rolled on their shins, and were stabbed with knives. Six men and two women have also been killed or disappeared.

In several incidents, large groups of villagers, both men and women, have been arbitrarily arrested, and detained on suspicion of contact with KIA. Most recently, on October 11, 2016, 49 villagers from Putao in northern Kachin State were arrested at a Burma Army checkpoint when returning from an agricultural training organized by church leaders in a KIA area. The group, including six women and several elderly men, have been charged with unlawful association and are being detained in Moe Mouk Prison.

Burma Army troops have deliberately set fire to villagers' houses and property, and shot indiscriminately into civilian areas, causing death and injury. On October 1, 2016, Burmese troops from LIB 217 fired six shells into the village of Puwang, Muse township, killing a two-year-old girl and badly injuring two young boys aged three and four.

Heightening the fear and insecurity caused by these fresh abuses is the lack of progress in obtaining justice for past Burma Army violations. The perpetrators of the rape-murder of the two Kachin teachers in January 2015 remain at large, and the 73-year-old victim of military sexual assault in April 2015 passed away in June 2016 without seeing justice.

In short, KWAT's findings show no improvement to the security situation in northern Burma under the NLD. The pattern of Burma Army abuse and impunity is the same as under the previous government, while the offensives have worsened. This is gravely disappointing, given the NLD's stated prioritization of peace building, and bodes ill for the current peace process.

KWAT therefore makes the following urgent recommendations:

To the NLD-led government:

1. To call for an immediate end to the Burma Army offensives so that inclusive political dialogue towards genuine federal reform can begin
2. To lift all restrictions on humanitarian aid to conflict-affected communities
3. To impose a moratorium on all resource extraction and large-scale infrastructure projects in ethnic areas until there is peace and federal reform
4. To allow and facilitate independent investigations into human rights violations by the Burma Army, including an investigation by the KBC into the rape-murder of the two Kachin teachers
5. To immediately repeal the Unlawful Association Act

To the international community:

1. To end all military-to-military engagement with the Burma Army
2. To publicly denounce the ongoing offensives and abuses by the Burma Army in ethnic areas
3. To stop all investments in resource extraction and large-scale infrastructure in ethnic areas until there is peace and federal reform
4. To provide sufficient humanitarian aid to conflict affected communities, through community based organizations, including cross-border where necessary
5. To ensure that peace funding is not skewed in favor of the government side of the conflict
6. To not promote IDP or refugee return until there is a lasting peace settlement, guaranteeing their safe, voluntary and dignified return

To the Burma Army:

1. To immediately end military offensives throughout the country, and start withdrawing troops from front-line areas, so that political dialogue can begin
2. To stop the widespread practice of abuses such as torture, extrajudicial killing, arbitrary arrest and detention, and to stop blocking efforts to bring military perpetrators of abuses to justice
3. To stop blocking humanitarian aid to displaced populations

INTENSIFIED BURMA ARMY OFFENSIVES IN KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

During the past year, the Burma Army has been reinforcing its front line positions near KIA areas, and deploying an estimated 15,000 troops from over 100 battalions to launch new offensives to clear the KIA from strategic locations.

It can be seen from the map (next page) that a main target for military operations during the past year has been Phakant, where over 20 battalions have been deployed to drive out the KIA from this hugely lucrative jade mining area, with heavy fighting taking place in May.

In July, these same troops also launched an operation against the KIA in a gold mining area north of Phakant, south of Tanai. Claiming they were cracking down on illegal gold mining operations, they drove out the KIA from the area, and secured control not only of the gold mines, but also a strategic section of the former Ledo Road -- now being eyed for development by China as a major trade route.

Apart from attempting to seize control of these key mining areas, the Burma Army has stepped up efforts to clear the KIA from its strongholds along the China border. There have been ongoing operations during 2016 against the KIA along the northern Shan-China border, and particularly since mid-August, shortly before the 21st Century Panglong Conference, the Burma Army has escalated attacks near the KIA's Laiza headquarters on the Kachin-China border, using heavy artillery and fighter aircraft.

NEW DISPLACEMENT, BUT MISINFORMATION AND RESTRICTIONS BLOCK AID



New IDPs camp in Shatuzup village

The Burma Army offensives during 2016 have led to fresh displacement and setting up of new Kachin IDP settlements. The operations south of Tanai in July 2016 led to the displacement of over 1,000 people. Over 500 were migrants working in the gold mines, who the Burmese government arranged to send back to their places of origin in August. About 400 IDPs from four local villages -- Lawt Ja, Awng Len, Hka Da Zup and Hkaw Seng -- are still unable to return to their homes, as Burmese troops remain guarding their villages and have laid landmines in the area. These IDPs are staying in Shatuzup village in

several makeshift camps. When they first fled, some aid groups came to deliver aid, but in August 2016 the Burma Army's Myawaddy TV news announced that the IDPs had all returned home, and since then no aid groups have come to the area.

In Mong Ko, Muse township, there have been 100 IDPs sheltering at the Chinese border, in a makeshift settlement, after the Burma Army burned down houses in their village in May 2016. About 200 Lisu IDPs were displaced in July, 2016 from Mong Maw, Mantong township, and are sheltering in a church in Nam Lar village, Namtu Township.

Over 100,000 IDPs already sheltering in camps in Kachin and northern Shan State remain unable to return home, but have faced cuts in aid from funding agencies. Government and military authorities have also placed increased restrictions on humanitarian access, both to government and non-government controlled areas. For example, the Burma Army has blocked aid deliveries to the IDP camps in Man Win Gyi, in a government-controlled area west of Namkham on the China-Burma border, which shelters about 4,500 people, since August of this year.



New IDPs camp in Muse

BURMA ARMY ABUSES DOCUMENTED BY KWAT

(Nov 2015-Oct 2016)

Torture

KWAT has documented the torture of twenty one people, including a 16-year-old boy, from November 2015 until October 2016, in six townships in Kachin and northern Shan State.

Troops carrying out the torture were from Divisions 66, 88, 99, Battalions 217, 424, 426, 427, Regional Operations Commands 7 and 3, and local government militia.

Most of those tortured were accused of being members of armed resistance groups. The 16-year-old boy was accused of being the son of a KIA soldier. Some were arrested in their houses; others while walking to or from their farms, or foraging for food or firewood – sometimes at checkpoints set up by the military between villagers’ farms and homes.

In most cases, the victims were beaten or kicked as soon as they were arrested, then taken to a military post or base, where they were again tortured while being interrogated. Victims were usually blindfolded and tied up during torture. Forms of torture included being hit with guns on their heads and body, having bamboo rolled on their shins, and being stabbed with knives.

In the following testimony, a 50-year-old farmer from Mong Baw, Muse township in northern Shan State, describes being tortured by troops of ID 99:

“On April 21st, 2016, my wife and I and my child had gone to Mong Ko quarter 7 by motorcycle to give some gifts to my wife’s relative. The next day, my brother-in-law took me with him to his farm. On the way back home, at around 5 pm, three Burmese soldiers from Division 99, posted in quarter 7, shouted at the two of us to stop. Since we had not done anything wrong, we stopped walking. Then the three soldiers commanded us to follow them to their base. After we arrived there, a commander and another soldier called the head villager of quarter 7, and asked whether he knew the two of us. The head said he knew my brother in law, but not me.



Scars from bamboo rolled on villager’s shins

After that, we were blindfolded, and sacks put over our heads. We were also tied up with nylon rope, and our faces hit with guns. They interrogated us, asking us: “Where are you from?” “Are you Shan? Or Ta-ang?” “Which group are you from?” We replied that we were Kachin and lived in Mong Ko, in quarter 7. Our face, chest, head, and body were hit with a gun while being interrogated. We could not even move our body a little bit. If we moved our body a little,

we were kicked. They also rolled bamboo over our shins, and my right leg was stabbed with a knife 4-5 times. They tortured us all night until our body got swollen. We were tied up all night in front of the military office. Our faces were slapped. They also took my money, 100 yuan and 2,000 kyats. They did not give us any food or drink. They just tied up all night and tortured us. They sometimes came and splashed water around the place where we were tied up.

The whole of my body was in pain. I became so exhausted and weak. We were tortured the whole night until morning. I could not even believe that I would still be alive. I thought I was going to die here without my family knowing. I could not do anything at that time.

After we had been tortured all night, the next day on April 23, 2016, in the morning at around 10 am, a soldier called out to a boy passing by on a motorcycle. They got rid of all the rope they had tied us up with and told us we could go home. They then asked the boy to take us home with his motorbike. As soon as I arrived home, I had to go to the clinic for 3 days for medical treatment. On April 24, I went back to my house by bus. When I arrived home, my children were afraid of me, because my whole face had become swollen. So none of them came close to me, and they were just crying outside the house.

It has been already over one month, but I am still suffering from my wounds. My body is still so painful. Sometimes blood comes out from my nose, and blood comes out from my throat. My legs also still hurt. Also, blood comes out every time I cough. Our family does farming for our livelihood, but now I cannot do farming and cannot help the family anymore. Our family situation has become very difficult.”

The similarity of torture methods used by different battalions, and the fact that torture was carried out in military posts, indicates torture is being authorized as a standard practice by the Burma Army.

Extrajudicial killing/disappearance

Between December 2015 and August 2016, KWAT has documented seven incidents of extrajudicial killing or disappearance – involving six men and two women -- with proven or suspected involvement of Burma Army troops from IB 381, IB 602, IB 727, IB 297 and IB 417. Five incidents took place in Kachin State, in five different townships, and two incidents took place in Muse township of northern Shan State.

One of the victims, a 47-year-old Kachin militia member (out of uniform), was tortured to death near a village in Monyin township. His wife found his body under a tree with his teeth knocked out.

Another victim, a 51-year-old cow dealer was witnessed being shot dead by troops of IB 381, in Waimaw, while crossing a road. When the family members went to retrieve her body, the Burmese troops admitted killing the victim “because they suspected she was KIA”

and handed over 300,000 kyat (approx USD 230) to the family. However, they refused to hand over the body to the family.

In May 2016, a 22-year-old woman from Mansi township disappeared while riding her motorbike with her boyfriend and five other people to Man Win Gyi IDP camp. She was witnessed being arrested by Burma Army troops from IB 602 along the way, and has not been seen since.

Arbitrary arrest and detention

KWAT has documented twenty-five incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention of nearly 200 civilians in Kachin areas by Burma Army troops during the past year. In five incidents, groups of over 20 people were detained together.

In one of these incidents, on January 11 2016, 43 villagers, including men and women, were detained by over 90 soldiers from Burma Army IB 11 in the Catholic church in their village. Most of the villagers were released, but five men were taken to the Battalion 567 military post and detained there for over a month on charges of being linked to the KIA. One man was released in February, but four men were then handed over to the Thein Ni police station on March 1. They remain in detention until today.

In another incident on March 16, 2016, 24 villagers from Manje quarter of Mong Ji town, were arrested from their homes by troops of IB 4, and taken to the Buddhist compound in the village. They were interrogated, and urged to admit they were KIA soldiers, then detained there for four nights and three days before being released. They were not given any food or drink. Among those detained were two boys, aged 12 and 14.

On October 11, 2016, 49 villagers from Putao in northern Kachin State were arrested at a Burma Army checkpoint when returning from an agricultural training organized by church leaders in a KIA area. The group, including six women and several elderly men, have been charged with unlawful association and are being detained in Moe Mauk Prison.



Detained Putao villagers

Looting, destruction of property, burning of homes

KWAT has recorded several incidents of large-scale looting and destruction of property by Burma Army troops and militia. On July 30, 2016, after 60 families from the village of Lawt Ja, Phakant township, had fled their homes because of Burma Army attacks, troops of LIB 29 camped in their village, and looted and destroyed property in most of the houses. Even iron roofing was looted from the houses.

Burma Army troops have also deliberately set fire to civilian houses. On January 13, 2016, Burma Army troops of Division 99 and IB 290 burned down 12 houses in Hu Bung village, Tamonye, northern Shan State, after fighting had taken place in the village. On May 22-23, 2016, Burma Army troops and militia set fire to two houses in the village of Man Ping, close the Chinese border near Mong Ko, northern Shan State. On August 15, 2016, troops of the local Burma Army militia set fire to two houses in Nam Ya village, Phakant township, Kachin State.



Houses burned in Nam Mya village by Burma Army militia



Two houses burned in Man Ping village by Burma Army

Indiscriminate firing/shelling into civilian areas

During Burma Army offensives, there has been indiscriminate firing and shelling into civilian areas. On May 5 2016, Burma Army troops stationed in Phakant fired shells from a Buddhist monastery at the village of Nam Mya, which has a population of about 300. Shells exploded near two houses, killing pigs in one of the compounds, but fortunately no civilians.

At 5.30 am on September 25 2016, three 81 mm shells fired from a Burma Army mountaintop post, landed close to the Mung Lai Hyet section of Woi Chyai IDP camp, in the northern outskirts of Laiza, close to a school, child care centre and church in the camp. The IDP camp houses over 5,300 IDPs, many of whom fled in terror after the shells landed. At about 6 am on October 1, 2016, Burma Army troops of LIB 217 (under ID 99) fired six shells at Puwang village, close to the China border, in Hpawng Seng tract, Muse township, northern Shan State. A shell landed directly in the village, seriously wounding three young children playing outside. The children were rushed to hospital in China, but a 2-year-old girl died of her wounds on the way to hospital. The other two boys, aged 3 and 4, are continuing to receive medical treatment. (See box below for details of the incident)

On October 19, 2016, after fighting took place between Burma Army troops and KIA near Shwe Nyaung Pin, Waimaw township, Burmese troops shot their guns indiscriminately into Bri Bra village. A 72-year-old man was hit by a bullet in his chin and neck while in his house, and seriously injured. 15 minutes later, the Burmese troops came into the village and took the old man to hospital. He remains in a serious condition.

Burma Army shelling of village kills 2-year-old girl and injures 2 young boys



A 4-year-old boy, Bawm Lang, was hit by shrapnel in the stomach

Early in the morning of October 1, 2016, while families in Puwang village were preparing breakfast, three young children (a 4-year-old boy called Bawm Lang, a 3-year-old boy called Ting Kyang and a 2-year-old girl called Zung Myaw) were outside playing in a yard.

Suddenly six shells exploded around the village. One of the shells landed close to where the children were playing, and shrapnel injured all three children. Bawm Lang was hit in the stomach, causing his intestines to come out. Ting Kyang was injured in his knee. Zung Myaw was injured in her shoulder, close to the neck. They were taken to the Shaokai hospital on the Chinese side of the border, but Zung Myaw and Bawm Lang

were immediately referred to Mangshi hospital, about two hours away by car. Unfortunately, the 2-year-old girl, Zung Myaw, succumbed to her injuries on the way to Mangshi hospital.

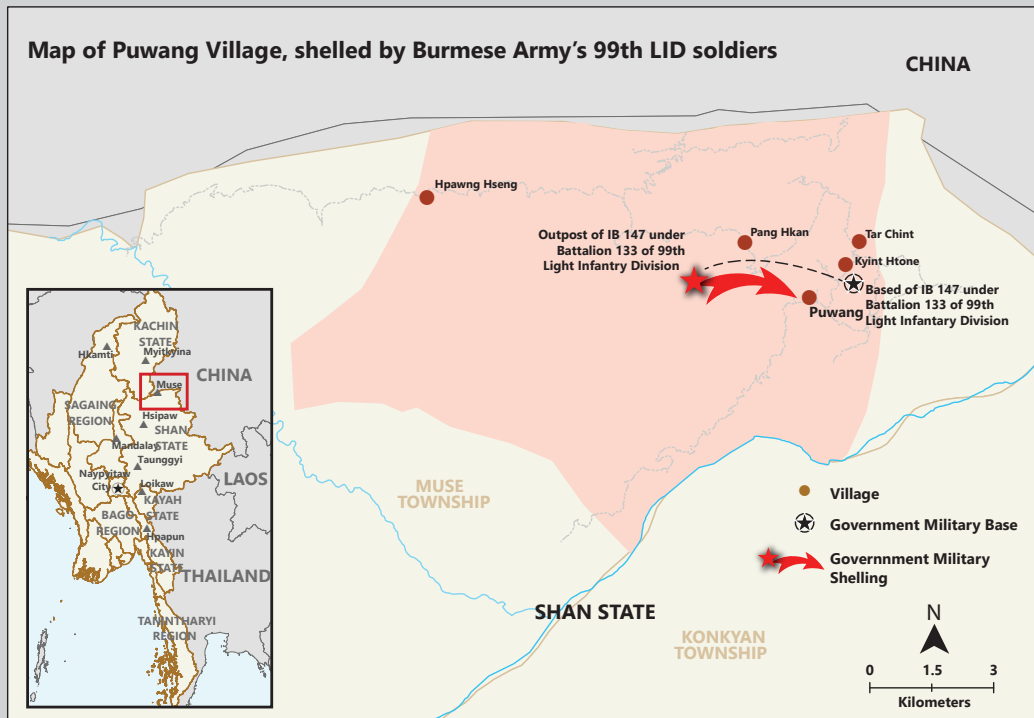
The Chinese driver of the car carrying Zung Myaw didn't want to transport the dead body any further, so her parents had to carry her body for about one and a half hours back to the border and across to their home. They held a funeral the next day, on October 2, 2016, and some Burma Army soldiers from LIB 217 came and paid 200 yuan to the family.

Bawm Lang was taken by his uncle to Mangshi hospital, where the doctors said he needed an operation on his stomach, but the hospital demanded the cost of the operation in advance. Luckily some relatives in Mangshi provided money, so that the operation could be performed

Later, Ting Kyang was also transferred to Mangshi hospital, as the wound in his knee was worsening. At the end of October 2016, the two boys were still in Mangshi receiving medical treatment.

After the shelling, the villagers of Puwang fled to the Chinese border, about 2 miles away, but the Chinese authorities did not allow them to cross over. They therefore stayed at the border till the evening, before returning to their village.

According to villagers, the shells were fired from an LIB 217 post about west of the village. There had been fighting between the KIA and Burma Army in the area the day before the incident.



Laying of landmines

Land mines planted by the Burma Army are continuing to place the lives of innocent civilians at risk. On July 19, 2016, two farmers stepped on a landmine while foraging for food in the forest near their village in Moenyin township. One farmer, aged 42, was killed instantly, while the other was injured. The local Burma Army commander of IB 384, based in the victim's village, came and gave about 50,000 kyat (USD 40) and a sack of rice to the victim's family.

Ongoing lack of justice for military sexual violence

Even while new cases of military sexual violence have been reported to KWAT, there has been no progress in seeking justice for cases of sexual violence committed by Burma Army personnel during the previous government.

The perpetrators of the rape-murder of two Kachin teachers in Kawng Kha in January 2015 remain at large. Our report "Justice Delayed, Justice Denied" provided evidence that the prime suspects were from LIB 503 stationed in the village at the time of the crime, and that the police investigation into the case had been deliberately obstructed by the military. The Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC), which had employed the two teachers, had appealed in 2015 to former President Thein Sein for permission to conduct an independent investigation into the crime, but had received no response. In May 2016, the KBC were invited to a meeting being held by police with military personnel from LIB 503, but were unable to ask any questions. On September 12, 2016, northern Shan State police chief Aung Myat Moe told the media that they had finished investigating 28 Burma Army personnel about the case.

The 73-year-old victim of another case of military sexual violence passed away on June 19, 2016, without obtaining justice. She had suffered attempted rape in April 2015 by a Burma Army soldier from LIB 438. The culprit was arrested, and tried in a military court, but no charges of sexual violence were brought against him, despite the fact there had been witnesses to the assault. He was sentenced to seven years in prison for trespassing, use of illegal drugs, and violation of the military code of conduct. Local community leaders therefore pushed to have the case brought to a civilian court, and in October 2015 the case was opened in Moe Mauk court. However, the local police commander responsible for the case refused to appear in court, saying he needed written authorization from the military, so the civilian trial was unable to proceed. The woman's lawyer then wrote to courts at the district, state and Napyidaw level requesting them to take up the case, but they refused to do so.

The five year anniversary of the disappearance of 28-year-old mother Sumlut Roiija, who was arrested by Burma Army troops of LIB 321 on October 28, 2011, has also passed without justice. Her husband had tried to bring legal proceedings against the troops responsible, but in February 2012, the Napyidaw Supreme Court dismissed the case for lack of evidence, after listening only to the side of the military defendants.

Detailed testimony: Burma Army officers block community efforts to transfer sexual assault case to civilian court in Moe Mauk

This testimony by a local religious leader was recorded a month after the crime, which was committed on April 13, 2015.



Mrs. Hpau Kum Lu

Mrs. Hpau Kum Lu's husband passed away over two years ago, so she lived alone in Num Lang village, Myo Tit sub-township of Moe Mauk Township, Bhamo District, Kachin State, until the incident. She does not have any relatives, so her neighbors and fellow villagers care for her and take responsibility for her. Her legs have been swollen for the past two years; she cannot walk and rests in her bed most of time. Moreover, she cannot sleep well at night due to her condition.

Around 7.45 pm, on April 13th, 2015, Mrs. Hpau Kum Lu's neighbors Lahtaw Ja Kai and Maran Lu Nan heard the sound of someone being choked, and ran to check on her immediately, but the door to the house was locked. They could not see inside, so they used a torchlight, and looked through a bamboo wall to the inside of the house. They saw a man, who was fully clothed except for his pants which were pulled down to the middle of his thighs. His body was in a position to start raping her. She was completely naked, with her clothes beside her. At the same time, he was trying to strangle her neck with his hands. The neighbors were shocked at this sight and shouted to other villagers for help. Many villagers came over and tried to get him to leave the house, but he did not listen to them. He escaped through the roof of the house, but just when he was about to run away, the villagers caught him. During the struggle, his chin was injured.

When the villagers caught him, they brought him to the village administrator's house. They tied him up with rope and began to interrogate him about where he was from, and what he was doing here. He replied that he was a Burmese soldier from Infantry Battalion 438, and he had come to take care of the old woman.

At that time, another soldier said he might be from his post and went back to inform his commanding officer about the soldier. After a few minutes, Captain Than Naing and five of his soldiers arrived (three wearing army uniforms; none of them had guns). As soon as Captain Than Naing and his soldiers arrived, without asking any questions, he shouted, "Who has tied up my soldier?"

He also shouted at us to go to his command post to complain about his soldier. He did not give us a chance to explain what the soldier had done. When any villager tried to speak to him, he ordered them to go to his command post. Because of the captain's behavior, the villagers said to him, "We tied up your soldier, and if you want us to go to your command post to solve the problems concerning your soldier, you must wait until the village administrator comes. We cannot follow you to your post until the village administrator arrives". (The 438 infantry post is only about 400 feet from Mrs. Hpau Kum Lu's house.)

As a result of the incident, both groups were very angry and argued. The men of the village thought they might start to fight, so they requested that the women talk to the captain. The captain also told the women, "The rapist is a soldier from my post, so we must solve the problem at my command post."

However, the women replied to the captain, "This victim, a grandmother, is a civilian and also the incident took place in the village. That is why we must follow the instructions of the village administrator. He is not here now, so we will keep your soldier until the village administrator arrives".

However, the captain did not listen to the villagers' request about the rapist, and he took away his soldier, without the knowledge of the village administrator.

That same night, as soon as the village administrator arrived, he called the township administrator about the incident. The township administrator then informed a police officer about the incident, and the village administrator and villagers went to the police station to seek a solution. The police officer and villagers brought the victim to the general hospital to get a medical certificate for the incident. The police and the villagers all came back to the police station at midnight and interrogated the victim until sunrise.

The police officer requested that the captain of Burma Army IB 438 hand the soldier over to police custody, but the captain refused. The police officer threatened him, and the captain finally gave the police officer his soldier's number and real name. The information that the soldier initially gave the villagers directly following the incident was false.

The following day, all the villagers had a meeting. All requested that the rapist come forward as they wanted to take legal action. The rapist came for about two minutes, then left.

Another Captain, Lwin Maung Soe, of military ID no. 30957 from post 438, threatened us to stop, saying, "We pass through your village to go anywhere, and you also pass through our army post to go your farm fields. We depend on each other, but we have the authority to create conflict."

The villagers sent a complaint to the police station, accusing the soldier of violating various laws, including Articles 456, 376 (rape), and 511 (attempt to commit offence). However, the commander of Burma Army IB 348 refused to hand the soldier over to be prosecuted under civilian law, even though the villagers wanted to address the issue in a public court.

On May 13th, 2015, a female committee member from the Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) organized a coalition of protesters to demonstrate against the injustice of the crime with a silent march.

Over the last two years, the victim has had a big problem with paralysis. Before the rape incident, she felt better than she does now. Before, she accepted other people to take care of her, because her legs were swollen, and she could not move or walk well. After the incident, she refuses other people's care, and her condition has deteriorated. Recently, she has agreed to stay at the Namlung Church ward with other ladies that care for her and for her security.

DETAILED LIST OF BURMA ARMY ABUSES (NOV 2015-OCT 2016)

No	Victim(s)	Age	Date of incident	Location of incident	Perpetrator(s)	Summary
Torture and Arbitrary Detention						
1	2 men	52	Nov, 2015	Hpakant Town, Moenyin District, Kachin State	Burma Army soldiers	A farmer was eating dinner and drinking alcohol with a friend when about six soldiers broke into his home and began kicking and beating him with their guns. The soldiers brought the two men to their command post, where they blindfolded the victims' eyes, tied them up with rope, beat them, and interrogated them separately. The farmer was so seriously injured that the soldiers had to send him to hospital. Both men were later released.
2	1 man	58	23 Nov, 2015	Awng Da Pye quarter, Moenyin Township, Moenyin District, Kachin State	Police on orders of Burma Army	Two police officers arbitrarily arrested and detained the victim as he was receiving treatment at Moenyin Hospital. The police said the arrest was a command from a Burma Army colonel, who believed the man was in contact with the KIO. He was charged under Article 17/1 and detained for five months. He was released on May 5, 2016.
3	1 man	27	4 Dec, 2015	Tat Kung quarter, Myitkyina Town, Kachin State.	Burma Army soldiers	The victim was on his way home from a Christmas party late at night when he was arrested by Burma Army soldiers and taken to Wai Maw. The Burmese military forced him to admit he was a KIA soldier and hit him in the head with a gun three times. He was sent to Unit 1 Myitkyina police station and remains in detention. His trial is ongoing.
4	1 man	30	24 Dec, 2015	Tungkhkam Village, Namkham Township, N. Shan State	Burma Army LIB 217 (Division 88)	In 2014, villagers from Tungkhkam village fled to Galeng-Zup Awng IDP camp because of fighting between the Burma Army and the KIA. On 24 Dec 2015, the victim returned to Tungkhkam to check on his house and to participate in the neighboring village's Christmas celebrations. He arrived in Tungkhkam around 6:00 p.m., where he encountered about 100 Burmese soldiers from LIB 217 in Division 88. Soldiers arrested him and bludgeoned him in his ribs, chest and back with firewood multiple times. He was released after four days.

No	Victim(s)	Age	Date of incident	Location of incident	Perpetrator(s)	Summary
5	43 people	19, 33, 39, 44	11 Jan, 2016	Man Lun Village, Man Lun tract, Thein Ni Township, N. Shan State	Burma Army ID 11	A man on his way to visit a friend in Bang Hak village, encountered about 100 soldiers from Burmese military Post 11 marching near him. The soldiers arrested all the villagers from Bang Hak and anyone passing by. The soldiers detained 43 people inside a Catholic church in Man Lun. Later in the evening, all the women were released, and there were around 13 men left in the church. Then, the militia captain from Post 4, Mr. Lau, came and took eight Chinese men from the church. The Burmese military took the remaining five men to Battalion 567 camp. On February 26, 2016, one man was released by the Burma Army. On March 1, 2016, the Assistant Pastor of Man Lun village informed other villagers that the four remaining men were still being detained in Thein Ni police station. They are being charged under Article 17/1.
6	22 men	16, 22	9 Mar, 2016	Kawng Lem village, Manje Town, Tamonye, Kutkhai Township, N. Shan State	Burma Army ID 66	The victims left Kawng Lem village with three other people at about 8:00 a.m. to collect firewood a mile away in the Manoi area. Once there, they encountered around 100 soldiers from the Tamonye-based Burma Army Division 66, who then forced the two victims to carry their supplies the whole day. They arrived at Na Yi village around 7 p.m. and were then transferred to the Division 99 post at Tamonye. They arrived at 2:00 a.m. and were interrogated and tortured by soldiers along with 20 other Ta'ang people. One victim, who the Burmese army soldiers believed was the son of a KIA soldier, was punched in the chest three times and pricked with a knife in the throat and the chest. They were detained for eight days and then released with 13 Ta'ang people.
7	1 man	27	13 Mar, 2016	Nawng Lem village, Man Je tract, Mong Si, Kutkhai Township, N. Shan State	Burma Army ID 88	The victim was visiting his grandparents' graves when he encountered about 80 soldiers from Division 88. Suspecting he was a KIA soldier, the Burmese soldiers tortured him until he was unconscious and took him to the Tamonye military post. They interrogated him for a month before transferring him to the Kutkhai police station. The police from Kutkhai ordered his family to bring about six million kyat (USD 4,600) for his release. As his family did not have the money, the victim is still in Kutkhai prison.

No	Victim(s)	Age	Date of incident	Location of incident	Perpetrator(s)	Summary
8	24 people		16 Mar, 2016	Man Je Village, Mong Si, Kutkhai Township, N. Shan State.	Burma Army ID 66, and IB 4	Two brothers, aged 12 and 14, were sleeping when Burmese soldiers from Division 66 and IB 4 entered their house and ordered them to go with them to meet their captain. When they arrived at the army compound, they were interrogated and asked if they were KIA soldiers. Later even though the village leader, also a school committee member, explained to the Burmese military captain that the two boys were students, they arrested them and detained them with 22 other people for four nights and three days.
9	27 people	26	3 Apr, 2016	Man Je village, Mong Ko Town, Muse Township, N. Shan State	Burma Army LID 99	On 3 April 2016, the victim from Man Je village of Mong Ko town took her brother and dropped him off at Mong Ko market. On the way back, the local commander of Burmese military soldiers of LID 99, located in the center of Mong Ko town stopped her and asked questions about KIA. When the victim replied, he slapped her twice and brought her to the house of the administrator of Mong Ko, and took her to a room. He kept her there for the whole night with 26 other people.
10	2 men	50, 50	22 Apr, 2016	Mong Ko town, Muse Township, N. Shan State.	Burma Army LID 99	On their way home from their farm on 22 April 2016, the victims were followed and stopped by three Burma army soldiers. The soldiers took the two men to their battalion base, tied them up with nylon rope, and interrogated them separately about the KIA. The men were hit with guns, kicked, stabbed with knives, and had bamboo rolled on their shins. They were released the following day.
11	1 man	51	14 May, 2016	Hpakant town, Hpakant Township, Moenyin District, Kachin State	Burma Army LID 66	Burmese soldiers from Division 66 came to the victim's house to arrest him. They accused him of having connections with the KIA and exploding a bomb in Hpakant. He explained that he worked at the Kachin culture center, but they still brought him to military camp and tortured him. They said if he did not confess they would kill him. They left him outside in the rain, kicked him, and slapped him. He had to receive medical treatment for his injuries after being released several days later. The police came to his house again the following month, and he is now afraid of staying in his home.

No	Victim(s)	Age	Date of incident	Location of incident	Perpetrator(s)	Summary
12	2 men	19, 24	29 July, 2016	Na Hai village, Moe Gaung Township, Moenyin District, Kachin State	Burma Army's local militia	The two victims were arrested as they left a motorbike repair shop in Ma U Pyin. They traveled to Hpakant from Na Hai village in search of jade. The soldiers accused them of communicating with the KIA. They were taken to Hpakant police station and charged under Article 17/1. They remain in custody pending trial.
13	6 men		1 Aug. 2016	Sharaw Hka, Hpakant Township, Moenyin District, Kachin State	Burma Army LIB 424	The six victims were arrested in their homes by soldiers from Battalion LIB 424. They were accused of being KIA soldiers. Three men were severely beaten and had to be hospitalized. The other three men are currently detained at Hpakant police station, and their trial is ongoing.
14	2 men	19, 20	8 Aug. 2016	Htoi San Village, Ka Mai Town, Hpakant Township, Moenyin District, Kachin State	Burma Army ROC 7	The victims live in Htoi San village in Hpakant township. They were arrested when passing through a Burmese military gate located between Htoi San and their farms. They were accused of being KIA soldiers, taken to a nearby Burmese military operation post, blindfolded, and tied up. Soldiers kicked them in their legs and chests and hit them in their heads with guns. They were detained for three days and then released when the head village and church leaders affirmed that they were civilians. They both suffered internal injuries and had to be treated at Myitkyina Hospital.
15	1 man	39	11 Aug. 2016	Na Hai village, Moe Gaung Township, Moenyin District, Kachin State	Burma Army LIB 427	The victim was on his way to collect his wages when he saw seven trucks with Burmese soldiers. He decided to return home, but on the way back he encountered five Burmese soldiers who accused him of making bombs. They hit him in the head with their guns, tied his hands with rope and brought him to the Buddhist compound of Na Hai village. They detained him for three days.

No	Victim(s)	Age	Date of incident	Location of incident	Perpetrator(s)	Summary
16	2 men	-	22 Aug, 2016	Ma U Pin village, Hpakant Township, Moenyin District, Kachin State	Burma Army LIB 424 and local militia	Two men from Ma U Pin village were heading to Nam Ya stream to fish when they ran into Burmese soldiers from LIB 424 and a local militia. They were stopped and beaten. After about three hours, they were able to escape and run away, but they were shot at five times.
17	1 woman	32	17 Sep, 2016	Kap Maw Zup village, Ka Mai Sub-township, Hpakant Township, Moenyin District, Kachin State	Burma Army's local militia	A woman on her way home from her farm encountered about 15 Burma Army militia troops near the village pond. They arrested her and tied her up. She was kept in a separate place from the militia, and she was able to escape and run away several days later. She did not know where she was, so she stayed in the forest and found her way home two days later.
18	1 man	25	23 Sep, 2016	Namya village, Kamai Sub-township, Hpakant Township, Moenyin District, Kachin State	Burma Army's local militia	After the local militia leader, U Myo MyinTun, was shot in his arms and belly by two youths wearing black clothes on a motorbike, he ordered his militia members to gather all the young men from two sections of the victim's village. The victim was not involved in the shooting but was wearing a black shirt, so the leader ordered him detained. He was tied up and kicked in his eyes, jaw, chest, and chin until he was unconscious.
19	43 men, 6 women		11 Oct, 2016	Sein Lone checkpoint near Loije town, Moe Mauk Township, Kachin State	Burma Army troops from LIB 370	The 49 men and women were from Putao. They had travelled to Laiza to attend an agricultural training arranged by Christian religious leaders. On their way back, via Loije, they were arrested at a military checkpoint and have been detained in Moe Mauk Prison. They have been accused of unlawful association with the KIA (under Article 17/1).

No	Victim(s)	Age	Date of incident	Location of incident	Perpetrator(s)	Summary
20	2 men	24, 39	17 Oct, 2016	Loi Seng village, Mung Si tract, Muse township, N. Shan State	Battalion (Ts. Hk. Hk) no. 10 under Division 99, led by Commander TunTun	The two victims were staying in their house with their mother; when three soldiers from Division 99 appeared and forced the victims to follow them to their military camp. After that, the family members did not hear anything for about 2 weeks, and searched around until finally they found that the two victims were detained in Mung Ji police station, Muse township.
21	2 men		23 Oct, 2016	Lung Shayang village, and Nawng Hkai village, Putao Township, Kachin state	Police from Putao town	The two men were arrested by police from Putao on 23 October, on charges of having connection with the KIA agriculture department. They were detained under Article 17/1.

No	Victim(s)	Age	Date of incident	Location of incident	Perpetrator(s)	Summary
Extrajudicial Killings and Disappearances						
1	1 man	47	21 Dec, 2015	Mai Nawng village, Moenyin Township, Kachin State	Burma Army troops	The victim was a member of KIA Battalion no. 26. While travelling from his farm to his camp, he was arrested, tortured and murdered by the Burmese Army. His wife found his body under a tree on the side of the road. All of his teeth had been knocked out.
2	1 man	33	7, March, 2016	Pyin Lung Village, Maje Town, Mong Si, Muse township, N. Shan State	Burma Army soldiers	On March 7 2016 in the morning when the victim had finished his breakfast, he went to the forest to collect flowers. In the evening he did not come back home. On the same day in the evening at the top of Pying Lung village the villagers heard about three or four gunshots. The villagers assumed he was killed by Burmese military soldiers who had passed through the area beforehand. On March 16th, 2016, KBC church committee members and villagers went to look for the victim. The villagers took their dogs with them, who found the victim buried. They burnt his body, held a funeral and buried him there.
3	1 woman	51	16 Mar, 2016	Ta Gaya village, Wai Maw Township, Kachin State.	Burma Army IB 381	The victim was a cow trader. She and her friends were crossing the Nam San Yan and Ban Dawng roads on the way to Myitkyina when they were shot at by the Burmese Army. The victim was shot dead. The army refused to return her body to her family members. However, they admitted they had killed the victim because they suspected she was a KIA soldier and gave the family 300,000 kyat (USD 240).
4	1 woman	22	30 May, 2016	Mai Hkawng village, Man Si Township, Kachin State	Burma Army IB 602	The victim was travelling from Mai Hkawng village to U Lang Pa with her boyfriend and five other people on three motor bikes. When they passed through Hka Shang village, they were arrested by the Burma Army from IB 602. The victim is still missing (and believed dead).
5	1 man	19	20 June, 2016	Chyun Pin Tar quarter, Myitkyina Town, Kachin State.	Burma Army Battalion 727	The victim was a 19-year-old computer student who lived in Myitkyina. One night, he was driving around on a motorbike with three friends when he was shot dead by Private Maung Maung (Tha/511568) from Burma Army Supply and Transport Battalion 727. The case is still under investigation.

No	Victim(s)	Age	Date of incident	Location of incident	Perpetrator(s)	Summary
6	2 men	36,30	12 Aug, 2016	San Pya quarter, Jahtu Zup village, Hpakant Township, Kachin State	Battalion 297	The two victims were arrested while drinking coffee at Mr. Ko Oo's coffee shop. The day after the arrest, their family members and the village leader went to the Burma Army Battalion 297 post and asked for their release, but the military refused. Two days later, a soldier from the Burmese army called the former village leader and said that these two men had admitted to being KIA soldiers and would not be allowed to return to their army camp. The victims' families filed a complaint at the police station but never received a response. The two victims are still missing.
7	1 man	21	Oct 23, 2016	Mong Baw, Muse township, N. Shan State	Burma Army troops from IB 417 under ID 99	The young man was walking past the temporary camp of IB 417, when he was arrested, tied up with rope and interrogated after there had been a battle with KIA in the area. He has since disappeared.

No	Victim(s)	Age	Date of incident	Location of incident	Perpetrator(s)	Summary
Death, Injury by Burma Army Landmines						
1	2 men	42	19 July, 2016	Sing Gat Yang Village, Sa Maw, Moenyin District, Kachin State	Burma Army IB 383, 384, LIB 105	The two victims were picking vegetables in the forest seven miles away from their village when they set off a land mine. One victim was killed, and his friend was injured in the arm and head. The Burma Army commander from IB 384 went to the house of the villager who had been killed and gave about 50,000 kyat (USD 40) and a sack of rice to his family members.
Shelling, shooting at civilian areas						
1	2 Families		May 5, 2016	Nam Mya village, Hpakant Township, Moenyin District, Kachin State	Burma Army MOC 7, 3, LIB 102, IB 472	On May 5, there was fighting between the Burma Army and the KIA in the Hpakant area. After that, Burmese soldiers based in a Buddhist temple compound about 150 yards away shelled Nam Mya village. One shell landed in the compound of one family, killing three pigs. Another shell landed in another compound.
2	5302 Internally Displaced Persons		25 Sept, 2016	Woi Chiyai IDP camp, Laiza, Daw- Hpum Yang Sub-township, Bhamo district, Kachin State.	Burma Army	Three 81 mm mortar shells fell near the Mung Lai Hkyet section of Woi Chiyai IDP camp, in the Laiza area, at around 5:30 a.m. The mortar shells fell close to a primary school, a child care center, and a church building.
3	3 children	4,2,3	1 Oct, 2016	Pu Wang village, MungKo Township, N. Shan State	Burma Army 217	Shelling killed one child, age 2, and seriously injured two others, aged 3 and 4, as they were playing in a yard outside their house. The walls of the house were also destroyed.
4	1 Man	72	19 Oct, 2016	Bri Bra village, Wai Maw Township, Kachin State	Burma Army 321	The victim was shot by Burma Army soldiers at his house in Bri Bra village. Local sources said Burmese soldiers randomly fired into the village after they heard two explosions near the 321st Light Infantry Regiment's base in ShweNyaung Pin. The victim was shot in the chin and neck and later taken to a military hospital in Myitkyina by Burmese soldiers. He was discharged, but the bullet remains in his neck and his health is in critical condition.

No	Victim(s)	Age	Date of incident	Location of incident	Perpetrator(s)	Summary
Sexual Violence						
1	1 Woman	20	10 Jun, 2016	Nr. Bhamo town, Kachin State	Soldier from Burma Army IB 437	A Burma Army soldier from IB 437 took shelter from the rain in a shophouse. After the rain stopped, he said he was leaving but went round the back of the house and climbed in the window of the shopkeeper's 20-year-old daughter. The woman shouted out, and the soldier ran away. Neighbors caught the soldier, and he was taken to the police station.
Looting, Destruction of property, Burning of houses						
1	8 families		Nov, 2015	Nawng Bat village, Namkham Township, Mue Se District, N. Shan State	Burma Army's Pan Se militia	In November 2015, the Burma Army's Pan Se militia occupied Nawng Bat village, took all of the property from eight households, and destroyed the things they did not want. They took all of the villagers' ID cards and family registration documents and stole 80,000 Kyat from a widow's house. When the villagers fled to their farms, the militia followed them and destroyed their fields.
2	12 families		13 Jan, 2016	Hu Bung Village, Tamonye Sub-township, N. Shan State	Burma Army ID 99, LIB 290	Hu Bung village has 49 households. In January, soldiers from the Burmese military Division 99 and Tamoeyye-based LIB 290 fought with the TNLA near the village and fired into the village. The villagers fled, and soldiers from ID 99 occupied the area. People from neighboring villages witnessed the Burma Army burning down 12 houses during renewed fighting.
3	2 families		22 May, 2016	Man Ping Village, Hpawng Seng tract, Mong Ko Town, Muse Township, N. Shan State	Burma Army soldiers	Fighting between the Burmese military and the KIA broke out in Man Ping village, which has 14 households, in May. The Burma Army stayed in the village for two days. Burmese troops burned one house to the ground the first day, and they set fire to another house the following day.
4	60 families		30 July, 2016	Lawt Ja village, Hpakant Township, Moenyin District, Kachin State	Burma Army LIB 29, and local militia	In July, about 1,000 people from Lawt Ja village fled fighting between the KIA and about 800 Burmese soldiers and militia members in the gold mining area of JahruZup, Hpakant. The Burma Army LIB 29 and militia members staying in Lawt Ja village looted all of the possessions from most of the villagers' houses, including the iron sheets from their roofs.

No	Victim(s)	Age	Date of incident	Location of incident	Perpetrator(s)	Summary
5	2 families		15 Aug, 2016	Nam Mya village, Kamai Sub-township, Hpakant Township, Moenyin District, Kachin State	Burma Army's local militia	One member of the local militia was injured during fighting between the militia and the KIA above Nam Mya village in August. The militia leader U Myo Myint Thu then ordered the militia to burn Kachin houses. One of the militia members set fire to two villagers' houses, but fortunately one failed to catch fire.



Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT)

Email: kwat.office@gmail.com

Website: www.kachinwomen.com

Published in November 2016