



# KAREN STATE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE GROUP REPORT



JUNE 2009

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Karen State Education Assistance is the most comprehensive education support program in a conflict zone, not just in Burma, but the world. The scale of this operation is massive and complex, especially due to the conflict, but it works because of the tremendous local level community support and desire for education.

## MAP OF KAREN STATE

This map of Karen State was produced by the Karen Human Rights Group. This map uses Burmese names for Karen State districts whereas we use the Karen names in the report. Please note the following differences: Nyaunglebin is Kler Lwe Htoo district. Papun is Mutraw district. Thaton is Doo Tha Htoo district. Only the top of Mergui-Tavoy district (see Tenasserim division) is shown on this map.



# JUNE 2009 Karen State Education Assistance Group Report

## 1. Overview of KSEAG Activities Over the Past 6 months

In our last report, December 2008, we looked at the distribution of annual subsidies of 2000 THB (approximately \$60 USD) to **3,200** Karen State teachers. During this period, we delivered school materials to **940** schools (home to **3,200** teachers and **66,671** students). KSEAG again provided teaching & learning materials, education resource books, and sports equipment. And this year, we were able to add health provisions for students, such as vitamin A & B and Iron, to the list. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The majority of the **103,237 kgs** of materials had to be carried on the backs of over **10,000** community volunteers who had to walk as much as 3 weeks to return to their communities. Over 80% of materials were delivered from Thailand with the remaining amount having to be purchased inside Burma. At the time of writing this report, all materials have arrived to the schools. This means that when students began their school year in June, the materials were waiting for them.

Unfortunately, the political situation in Karen State continues to deteriorate - rapidly in some areas. In 2008, we saw a marked increase of DKBA aggression in the southern areas, especially in Dooplaya and Pa.an districts. Over the past 2 months, the Burma Army and DKBA have made great efforts to consolidate power along the Thai-Burma border regions in the attempt to create 'Border Guards' consisting of local militias friendly to the junta. This has been most acutely felt in Pa.an district where approximately **3000** villagers have been forced across the Thai border just north of Mae Sod since early May and thousands more have been internally displaced within Karen State. While local and international aid agencies are attempting to address the immediate needs of these villagers, the build-up of Burma Army and DKBA forces, threaten to cut off the already limited humanitarian access to communities across Karen State.

In this report, we will take a closer look at the schools themselves. We will get more acquainted with the teachers, the students and the communities in which they live. Then, we will take a closer look at the current political situation across Karen State. Having done this, we will follow the process of school material distribution from January through May 2009. We will then examine policy decisions taken by education leaders at the Karen Education Department's annual meeting in May. Finally, we will list our next steps and future plans.

## 2. Getting to Know the Schools

There were a total of **1002** schools operating during the 2008-9 academic year. KSEAG supported **940** of them (the rest receiving support from other outside donors). These schools vary greatly depending on the geographical, economic and political landscape in which they find themselves.



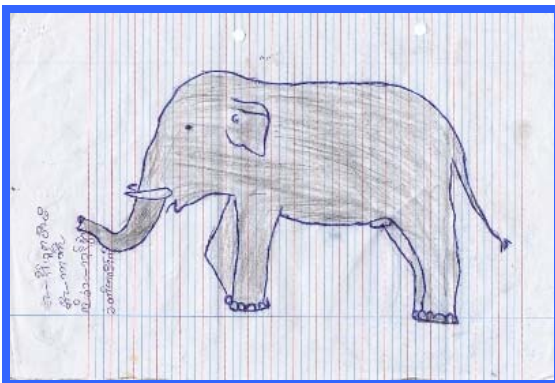
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a. *Students*

The largest school which happens to be a high school in the SPDC controlled lowlands of Dooplaya district has **963** students whereas the smallest, a primary school in the mountains of Mutraw district, has only **4** students. The average school has **71** students where **53%** are female and **47%** are male. The ratio of female to male students remains constant as we move from primary through to high school levels.



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**68%** of all students are studying in the lower primary level (kindergarten, standard 1-2). **20%** are studying in upper primary (standards 2-4) while **10%** are in the middle level (standards 5-7) and only **2%** are in the high school level (standards 8-10).



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*b. Teachers*

There are a total of **3502** teachers in our KSEAG database. The real number is more likely **3560** as **6** schools which are supported outside of KSEAG did not provide us with their complete statistics. The typical Karen State school has **4** teachers, of which **3** are female and **1** is male. That being said, a great number of schools in the more remote, mountainous regions have only one teacher. The largest school has **32** teachers. There is a significantly greater number of female teachers (**73.4%**) compared with male teachers (**26.6%**). The greatest female to male disparities are found in Mergui-Tavoy district (**86% female**) and in Dooplaya district (**82% female**) whereas in Mutraw district women make up only **66%** of all teachers.



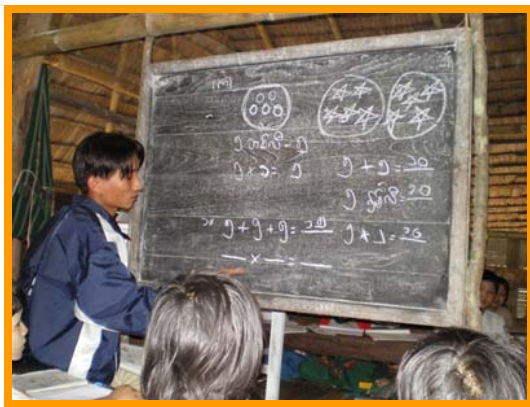
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The average teacher was born in late **1978** and has been teaching for **5** years. The youngest teachers, where the average was born in **1982**, are found in Pa.an district and have only **3.5** years of experience. Kler Lwee Htoo district has, on average, the oldest teachers, born in **1976** with **6.5** years of experience. We have seen a drastic change in the number of years teachers remain in their positions since teacher training and education assistance programs began in 2003. At that time, teachers only had an average of **2.3** years of experience. We believe that greater experience in the classroom coupled with more exposure to teacher training programs provided by KTWG and KED leads to greater teacher competency and better learning environments for the students.

The most common subject taught by teachers is English (**71%**). Burmese (**68%**) and Maths (**65%**) are also common. These 3 subjects, as well as Karen, form the primary level curriculum. **51%** of teachers reported to teach Science whereas **42%** said they taught Geography and **34%** said they taught History. In Dooplaya and Doo Tha Htoo districts, where there is a predominant Pwo speaking population, only **24%** and **21%** of teachers respectively, half the national average, reported to teach the Sgaw Karen subject. Standard 2 is the most common standard taught by Karen State teachers (**50%**). The least common, as might be expected, is Standard 10 (**2%**).



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*c. Community Support for Their Schools*

**81.9%** of Karen State schools have their own school committee. School committees are most prevalent in Mutraw district where 90.6% of schools have one and least common in Mergui-Tavoy district where only they are present only **48.1%** of schools. Only **80 schools (8% overall)** have their own dormitories. The majority of these schools provide middle or high school level instruction.

The average level of annual student fee is **55 THB** per student. However, student fees range widely from school to school: from **2500 THB** in some schools in Dooplaya district to none at all.

Communities, on average, provide their teachers with a **2280 Baht** annual stipend plus rice (less than one tin on average) and other food support such as vegetables, chilli, and salt. This support is in addition to the support KSEAG provides. So for example, the average Karen State teacher receives **2000 THB** from KSEAG plus **2280 THB** from the community for a total of **4480 THB** per year.

*c. Community Profile*

As with schools, the size of communities varies greatly across Karen State. In the lowland areas such as in Dooplaya and Doo Tha Htoo districts, communities are much larger. In the mountains north of Karen State, communities tend to be much smaller. On average, Karen State communities have 55 houses and 93 children under the age of 15 who do not attend school. The largest community that we have on record, which is in Dooplaya district, has 798 houses and 1120 children under the age of 15 who do not attend school. Some communities in Mutraw and Kler Lwee Htoo districts can have as little as 2 or 3 houses.



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Communities in the lowland areas tend to be under the constant watch/control of Burma Army forces whereas in the mountainous regions of Mutraw and Kler Lwee Htoo districts tend to be under the authority of the KNU. That being said, it is the KNU-controlled areas which are vulnerable to devastating seasonal Burma Army attacks. For example, 1 in 3 Karen State communities reported KSEAG June 2009

suffering Burma attacks during the 2007-8 school year. However, there were no attacks reported in Doo Tha Htoo district and only a few in the border areas of Dooplaya district. In Kler Lwee Htoo there was an average of **1.13 attacks** per school and **0.73 attacks** per school in Mutraw district. One school in Mutraw reported being attacked 15 times. It should be noted that when KSEAG collected information, we qualified an 'attack' as any event where an enemy force entered the village and villagers were forced to flee. Human rights abuses in their many forms are commonplace throughout Karen State. Given the current political situation in Karen State, where Burma Army and DKBA forces are asserting themselves throughout the border regions, we expect that these statistics to change drastically in the upcoming year.



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In our school profile surveys, we also asked communities to identify the primary and secondary languages used in the community. Having reviewed the information repeatedly we have our doubts whether all the forms were completed fully and properly. Given that the majority of teachers are native Sgaw Karen speakers, even where Sgaw Karen is not predominant in the community, and given that the Karen curriculum is in Sgaw Karen, it is possible that the profiles were completed in a manner to emphasize Sgaw Karen language use. That being said, **84.3%** of schools stated that the primary language in their communities was Sgaw Karen. **3.5%** claimed Pwo Karen to be the community's primary tongue and **2.2%** claimed Burmese to be the most commonly used language in the village. **8.4%** of schools did not respond. **59%** of schools said that Burmese was used by many as a second language whereas **38.4%** claimed Sgaw Karen as a second language, **6.3%** for Pwo, **2.5%** for Shan, **2.1%** for Mon, **0.3%** of English and **0.2%** for Other.

#### d. School Profiles

The [school profile database](#), which is available to all KSEAG supporters, provides in depth view of each school. The profiles include in depth information about the teachers, students and community support for the school. It also includes photos, drawings, community maps and letters form teachers. Below, is a brief profile of 3 schools: the smallest, a mid-size and the largest schools.

School Name:	<b>XXXXXX</b>	Students:	<b>4</b>
School Number:	<b>XXXXX</b>	Houses in Village:	<b>3</b>
District:	Mutraw	Children Under 15:	<b>15</b>
Township:	<b>Bu Tho</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Language:	<b>Sgaw Karen</b>
School Type:	<b>Primary School</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Languages:	<b>Burmese</b>
Teachers:	<b>1</b>	KSEAG Support:	<b>XXXXXX</b>

School Name: **XXXXXXXX**  
School Number: **XXXX**  
District: **Kler Lwee Htoo**  
Township: **Mone**  
School Type: **Primary School**  
Teachers: **3**

Students: **61**  
Houses in Village: **38**  
Children Under 15: **126**  
1<sup>st</sup> Language: **Sgaw Karen**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Languages: **Burmese**  
KSEAG Support: **XXXXX**

School Name: **XXXXXX**  
School Number: **XXXX**  
District: **Dooplaya**  
Township: **Bu Tho**  
School Type: **High School**  
Teachers: **26**

Students: **963**  
Houses in Village: **798**  
Children Under 15: **1120**  
1<sup>st</sup> Language: **Pwo Karen**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Languages: **Burmese**  
KSEAG Support: **XXXXXX**

### **3. Political Situation in Karen State**

The information in this section has been compiled either by KSEAG members directly or by local organizations, most notably the Karen Human Rights Group, the Karen National Union (KNU), the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People (CIDKP) and the Free Burma Rangers (FBR). Information has been organized into Northern and Southern Karen State. Then, a more detailed chronology has been provided. This report is in no way exhaustive and is meant only to give a sense of the situation.

#### **Northern Karen State, Burma**

In Northern Karen State, the Burma Army continues to shoot and kill people, to rape and to destroy, to dominate and to hold on to other people's land. In the past two months its main focus has been to move supplies and troops to its camps. The Burma Army has not launched any major offensives here in the north since its attacks in Mone Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District between September and November 2008. However, because of where the new roads have been placed and the troops and camps on these roads, many villagers who fled during the height of the offensive (which displaced 30,000 people) in 2006 and 2007 still cannot go home. The roads not only enable the Burma Army to stock their camps and project their power more rapidly through the area, they also serve as formidable barriers to people trying to cross them. The roads cut through farms and villages, displacing all people along their axis, and separating communities from each other. The roads are patrolled and mined by the Burma Army, and thus act as barriers to travel, trade and the sending of relief.

#### **Central and Southern Karen State, Burma**

Dooplaya and Pa.an Districts have come under intensified attacks over the past year, most recently along the border regions of Pa.an district since May. On June 5th 2009, KHRG reported that over 700 villagers had fled to Thailand between June 2nd and 5th in order to avoid forced labour carrying military supplies for joint State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) / Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) forces in an attack on a Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) camp. This KNLA camp is located near to Ler Per Her camp for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Dta Greh Township, Pa'an District. At the time, displaced villagers residing at Ler Per Her had already begun to leave in expectation of the coming SPDC/DKBA attack. By the end of June 5th, the entire civilian population of Ler Per Her had fled to Thailand.

Subsequently, on Saturday, June 6th, according to KHRG field researchers operating in the area, SPDC soldiers from Light Infantry Battalions #202 and 205 and Infantry Battalion (IB) #81, under Light Infantry Division (LID) #22, along with DKBA soldiers from Brigade #999 began attacks on KNLA Battalions #101, 21 and 22, of Brigade #7, based near to Ler Per Her IDP camp. At approximately 1:00 pm on June 6th, SPDC soldiers located atop Bpoo Loo Htoo hill overlooking both Ler Per Her and the KNLA camp, began shelling the KNLA camp with multiple 81 mm mortars. Then at about 3:40 pm, the SPDC and DKBA soldiers advanced in a ground attack on the KNLA camp. The Dta Greh Township chairperson, himself a local villager, has estimated that over 900 combined SPDC and DKBA soldiers are involved in the current attacks. At around 6:00 pm the same day, the fighting died down somewhat but occasional rifle shots continued. On the morning of Sunday, June 7th 2009, local KHRG field researchers reported that fighting had resumed in the Ler Per Her area.



Residents of Ler Per Her IDP camp leave the area by boat as they flee to Thailand on June 5th 2009 to avoid joint SPDC/DKBA attacks. [Photo: KHRG]

Including those villagers from the surrounding area, over 3,000 refugees have now fled to avoid the attacks as well as forced labour carrying military supplies for SPDC and DKBA soldiers. This is the largest refugee exodus from Karen State on a single occasion since the SPDC's massive 1997 offensive in Dooplaya District further south. The villagers from Ler Per Her and the surrounding area are now taking refuge at numerous areas in Tha Song Yang District of Thailand's Tak Province. As many villagers have fled to different locations, KHRG field researchers operating in the areas do not yet have the exact number of refugees from some of the abandoned villages. Available numbers of the people and households from Ler Per Her and nearby villages who have recently fled to Thailand are indicated in the table below.

Other sources reporting the recent displacement have cited similar figures. According to the Karen-language news agency *Kwekalu*, more than 3,400 villagers have fled to Thailand from the area and have taken shelter at Htoo Hta, Mae Ploo, Au Thoo Hta and Mae Salik. The Free Burma Rangers have reported that 3,295 villagers have fled to Thailand from the Ler Per Her area and have taken refuge at Mae U Su and Noh Bo as well.

Photo on left, taken in July 2008, shows the current locations of the SPDC and DKBA camps in the background. In the foreground lies the now empty Ler Per Her IDP camp. Between Ler Per Her and the SPDC/ DKBA camps lies the KNLA camp. Photo on right, Displaced villagers from Ler Per Her IDP camp leave the area by boat as they flee to Thailand on June 5th 2009 to avoid joint SPDC/DKBA attacks. [Photo: KHRG]



Meanwhile, as attacks and displacement in the Ler Per Her area continue, combined soldiers from DKBA Brigade #555, under the command of Bya Bya, and SPDC LIB #201, also under LID #22, have advanced towards the camp of KNLA Battalion #202, which is located along the Moei River bordering Thailand, about 30 kilometres north of Ler Per Her. Expecting that the joint SPDC/DKBA forces will soon attack this area as well, residents of nearby Kler Khah, Htee Khoh Kee and Meh Gkreh villages began leaving for Thailand on Sunday, June 7th. A KHRG field researcher operating in the area has reported that those who have not yet left these villages are planning to flee shortly.

As it is now rainy season, these refugees, including many women and children, face serious humanitarian concerns and are in urgent need of support including blankets, mosquito nets and plastic tarpaulins. They lack sufficient shelter, food and health provisions and schools have had to shut down. Local groups have already provided some assistance, but this has been limited. The Karen Refugee Committee (KRC) has provided about a week's worth of food aid, but as more refugees arrive, this aid will have to be spread between larger numbers of people. The international community must not continue to neglect the ongoing humanitarian and human rights crisis in these areas.

Thousands of villagers are in need of food and medical supplies as new Burma Army and DKBA attacks have displaced villagers in eastern Dooplaya District. Troops from Burma Army IB 545, along with DKBA battalions 907 and 333, have launched attacks designed to squeeze out pockets of already displaced villagers, expand areas and under Burma Army control, and eliminate all KNLA resistance in the area. The latest attacks, which began on 2 January, were launched against villagers and the KNLA in the areas of Oo Kray Kee and Hta Htoo Kyo. The attacks have continued, and villagers are now in great need of food, shelter and medical supplies. According to a relief team with the displaced (IDPs) on the ground now, hundreds of villagers are hoping to cross the border to seek safety in Thailand, but have been prevented from doing so.

#### **June 7, 2009 – Pa.an District**

Over 3,000 villagers have fled the area of Ler Per Her IDP camp in Dta Greh Township, Pa'an District to seek refuge in neighbouring Thailand. This includes villagers fleeing joint SPDC/DKBA attacks against the KNLA as well as those fleeing forced recruitment as porters to carry supplies for SPDC and DKBA troops engaged in the fighting. This is the largest refugee exodus from Karen State on a single occasion since 1997. Also, more refugees are expected as joint SPDC/DKBA forces have advanced towards the camp of KNLA Battalion #202, about 30 kilometres north of Ler Per Her.

#### **June 5, 2009 – Pa.an District**

Villagers in Pa'an District, Karen State, have begun fleeing to Thailand to avoid violence and forced recruitment as porters in a possible joint SPDC/DKBA attack on a KNLA camp in Dta Greh Township, located next to a now populous IDP camp along the Moei River, bordering Thailand. This news bulletin describes the events of the past four days in which SPDC and DKBA forces have advanced towards the KNLA camp and begun what appears to be preparation for an attack. SPDC soldiers have begun patrolling and have set up an 81 mm mortar not far from the site and displaced villagers living in the area have become increasingly concerned about their safety.

#### **May 27, 2009 – Dooplaya and Pa.an Districts**

Following a joint SPDC/DKBA attack on the camp of KNLA Battalion #201 at Ghaw Lay Kee in Dooplaya District on April 19th 2009, around 200 villagers living in the area fled to Thailand. This and other recent attacks against KNLA targets - and the forced recruitment used to support them - have negatively impacted villagers in both Dooplaya and Pa'an districts. Recent DKBA attacks on KNLA targets have also crossed over into Thailand. Meanwhile, new DKBA recruits from Pa'an District will reportedly be sent for training at an SPDC training centre in Magwe Division in central Burma. This

bulletin looks at the impact of the attacks and forced recruitment in these areas during April and May 2009.

### **May, 2009 - Kler Lwee Htu District**

In March, April and May 2006 , SPDC military troops light Infantry Battalion # 364, 366,368 and LIB #240,522.567 under Military Operation Command # 10 and #16, entered 18 mountain Karen villages in Moe Township of Kler Lwee Htu district and committed various kinds of human rights abuses killing, looting, threatening, burning and forced relocation. According to the offensive operation of SPDC in the areas, there are 579 students and 59 teachers from 21 schools are fleeing into the forest and hiding there until now. During these two months of SPDC operation in the areas, they burnt down 27 houses and 9 rice storage barns of schools' community. Over 3,000 villagers from 18 villages- Ken Ghar Kho, K'Law Khee, Zaw Ka Der, Ta Wor Bu, Zaw Khee, Naw Tan Bwe, Leh Klar Tha Wor, Htee Ko, Nwar Khee, Nya Mu Khee, and Keh Bo Der are fleeing and still remain hiding in the jungle. The 21 schools in the areas can not open due to the offensive operation of SPDC troops. On March 10, 2006, a teacher named Ma K'Lay was raped and killed by 3 people from SPDC collaborators. She is a teacher from Kyon Sein villages. Doopalaya District. She was raped and killed while she was going on her way to provide food for the monk in the temple.

### **May 18, 2009 – Doo Tha Htoo district**

All village headmen from Pa an township and 6 village tract leaders forced to attend meeting in Oh Taw (DKBA Battalion 333 headquarters). After the meeting, DKBA went to the villages to forcibly recruit soldiers.

### **May 5, 2009 – Doo Tha Htoo district**

Th Waw Pya (school #1067) villager, 32 year old Saw Kyaw Moo Tha, was killed by DKBA Batallion 333 was lead by Major Bo Lwei.

### **April 23, 2009 – Doo Tha Htoo District**

Noh Aw La (school #1083), and Hpga Hgaw(school #1095) villagers were forced to pay 172,000 Kyat to DKBA Battalion 333 commander Col Thaw Ma Na.

### **April 22, 2009 – Taungoo District**

A Burma Army troop in Klaw Mee Der force Saw K'Pleh,40yrs(a villager) to clear landmines and carry materials to Htee Nya Peh. On April 23 around 9:00 am, he was injured by landmines on the way.

### **April 10, 2009 Kler Lwee Htoo District**

Burma Army batallion 9, LI 350 troop forced Pay Htu, Hsa Leh and Keh Cho villagers to cut bamboos and carry them to their military base. They asked villagers to send them food for batallion 8 troops in Mone Township.

On the same day, a Burma Army IB 542,566 truck was bombed near K'Moo Loh Thet village. The army were very angry and orderd Saw Poe Hte, K'Moo Loh village head and Saw Loe Loh, village secretary to meet them. They tortured them: poured hot water on them and asked them two questions 1) Should we put villagers in same house and burn them, or 2) Will you show us KNU base? The troops kept the other five villagers with them.

### **April 8, 2009 – Doo Tha Htoo District**

In Tha Htu township, these villages were forced to pay Col. Pa Chu Kay of the Burma Army Battalion 777 the following amounts: Lah Aung Hker (school #1107) 120,000 kyat, Sway Yaw Pya (school #1111) 110,000 kyat, Kya Ta Raw (school #1103) 1,500,000 kyat, Ga La Hker (school #1114) 60,000 kyat.

**April 4, 2009 – Kler Lwee Htoo District**

Burma Army Gen. Aung Win forced Paw Pi Der villagers to cut bamboo and rebuild their military office. They banned villagers from leaving the village and they looted villagers' food.

**April 3, 2009 – Kler Lwee Htoo District**

Gen. Kyaw Thu Yah, Burma Army LI 53 head forced Kay Pyah villagers to be security watchers. They ordered four villagers, but they only asked two of them to be watchers and charged the other two with 1500 Kyat each.

**April 2, 2009 – Taungoo District**

In Taw T'Htu Township, a Burma Army troop forced each of five villagers from Per Loh, Plaw Tawh Der, Lay Oh Loh to carry food for them from Play Hsa Loh to K'Mu Loh. On the same day, they forced another 14 villagers to follow steam roller and clear landmines.

**April 2, 2009 – Taungoo District**

In Hsa Loh village, 30 villagers to provide food to SPDC. 14 villagers forced to clear landmines on the roads.

**March 30, 2009 – Taungoo District**

SPDC Military Operation commander Kaung Myat ordered three leaders from Pla Hsa Loh village to meet him. Leaders did not return.

**March 30, 2009 – Taungoo District**

In Taw T'Htu township, Taungoo district, a troop of Burma Army that stayed in Play Hsa Loh village captured five old villagers: Saw Kya Khin Oo(53 yrs), Maung Dah Poe (50 yrs), Maugh Htu Paw (56 yrs), Saw Hta Moo Htuh(59 yrs), Saw Maung Doh(61yrs). The army forced them to follow steam roller for road construction. They were forced to dig holes. Finally, they were put there and haven't returned yet. The army ordered all villagers not to disturb them, ordered no shooting and no fighting in near villages during their road construction. If any shooting happen, they will forced all Play Hsa Loh villagers to move to Tha Pyin Nyoh with no return. A few weeks ago, the army ordered three older men: Saw Teh Lah, Saw Mya Heh, Saw Maung Heh to go to meet them at Kler Lah village, but those three never return yet. Untill now, there are no certain new about what happen to them.

**March 26, 2009 – Doo Tha Htu District**

In Pa-an township in Doo Tha Htu district, DKBA settles in Kyaw Kay Kheee forced villagers to cut wood for thier building and cook for them. When they travel, villagers have to be thier portars. If villagers refuse their demands, they would distroy all cutting wood machine.

**March 18, 2009 – Doo Tha Htu District**

DKBA Maung Kyi ordered all village heads from Bee Lay Township, Pa-an township, Kaw Heh, Shewn Ooh and Khaw Poe Pleh vilagettracts to meet them in Ooh Dawn village. They orders village heads that SPDC wants more soldiers, so villages with larger population like Pwa Ghaw, Baw T'Pro, Noh Aung Hla, Kru Si, Kaw Heh, Khaw Poe Plen and Htee Hsi Baw have to send four people from each village and village with smaller population need to send two people from each village at the end of June. If

villagers don't arrive on time, DKBA and SPDC will enter the villages and recruit soldiers by themselves.

### **March 2009 - DooTha Htu District**

In Pa-an township in Doo Tha Htu, villagers from Kaw Heh, Mya Heh, Htee Hsa Khee and Kwee Lay were forced to cut wood by DKBA. DKBA forced two people from every village to carry weapons for them, to carry their belongings and to cook for them. If villagers refused these demands, DKBA would attack and kill everybody.

### **February 13, 2009 - Doo Tha Htoo District**

Gloo Kyee (school # 1099) villagers from Pa an Township were forced to pay 500,000 Kyat by Burma Army Battalion 214 led by Major Myant Lwin.

### **February 15, 2009 – Kler Lwee Htoo District**

in Kwi Lah village area at Ka Dee Mu Der and Hti Baw Hta forced these 300 and a further 142 people into hiding. The troops stayed in the area for a few days, searching for the IDPs and their belongings, causing further hardship to the villagers who had already fled numerous attacks.

### **February 11-13, 2009 – Kler Lwee Htoo District**

In Kyauk Kyi Township, just south of Mone Township, the Burma Army moved into the vicinity of Mu Kee, an area with many IDPs, leading them to fear a fresh attack. Two battalions of Burma Army troops did attack in the Kyauk Kyi area, forcing nearly 300 villagers from Keh Der, Ta Kaw Der and Thaw Nge Der villages to flee to the jungle. They returned to their homes, but remained constantly prepared to flee further attacks.

### **February 6, 2009 – Kler Lwee Htoo District**

The Burma Army fired mortars on the villages of Yu Lo and Play Hsa Lo, wounding four villagers from Yu Lo. On the same day, Saw Maung Kya, 23, from Hsaw Mi Lu village, stepped on a Burma Army landmine at Blah Lay Ko and died immediately from his injuries. The Burma Army often plants landmines around villages it has attacked in a bid to stop villagers from returning to live there or collect their possessions.

### **January 20, 2009 – Dooplaya District**

Following skirmishes on January 1st 2009 between soldiers from DKBA Battalions #999 and 907 and KNLA Battalion #103 in north-eastern Dooplaya District, DKBA troops crossed the Thai-Burmese border and have since been operating in and around Thai-Karen villages in Umphang District of Thailand's Tak province and harassing local villagers. This area also includes Noh Poe refugee camp, home to approximately 14,000 refugees from Burma, many of whom remain anxious about the ongoing military operations in the area and a potential attack on the camp.

### **January 19, 2009 – Mergui-Tavoy District**

SPDC LI 594 entered IDP place in K'Neh Kler, Ler Mu Lah township and killed Saw K'Nyaw 10 yrs, a son of Saw Poe Teh at 7:00 am. On January 14th, the same SPDC troop entered Taw Koh Khee Loh and took over Saw Dway Maung (a villager) belongings which cost more than 1, 00,000 kyat, pound of Saw Ki Moh shrimp paste, a pot, a cup, a saw and four water containers.

### **January 17, 2009 – Kler Lwee Htoo District**

Saw Cho Phyto from Aung Soe Moe village, western Karen State, was shot dead while he was on his way to farm his crops. A week later on January 24, Saw Mu Ra Hai, 25, from Saw Ki village was shot dead.

### **December 27, 2008 - Kler Lwee Htu district**

A Burma Army soldier abducted, raped and killed 7-year-old Ma Ne Mya of Ma Oo Bin village in the area close to Kyauk Kyi Town, Nyaunglebin District. According to a report from teams in the area, upon entering the village at around 6 pm, a soldier from LIB 350, abducted the girl and proceeded to take her outside the village and begin to rape her. The soldier shot and killed her when she began to cry loudly. LIB 350 is under the command of Captain Thet Khaing.

The body of the 7-year-old girl was found near her house with gunshot wounds in her chest and signs of rape in the village of Ma Oo Bin, Kyauk Kyi Township, Nyaunglebin District, in the evening of December 27, 2008. Villagers had seen a soldier from SPDC Light Infantry (LI) 350 enter the village shortly beforehand, and then heard sounds of a girl crying out and rifle shots.

### **January 24, 2009 – Kler Lwee Htoo District**

The Burma Army has threatened and is now trying to bribe the family of 7-yr-old Ma Ne Mya, who was raped and killed by a soldier from LIB 350 on 27 December, 2009. According to the latest report from a relief team in the area, the girls parents and the local village leaders petitioned the Burma Army for justice in the incident. In response, the commander of LIB 350, Capt. Thet Khaing, forced 10 local business owners to provide a total of 1,000,000 Kyat (\$800) in order to pay off the girl's parents. The team also reported that the Burma Army has threatened the parents that they must accept the money as sufficient payment for the crime or face punishment. LIB 350 has now been replaced by IB 73 in the area. The girl's parents and village leaders went to report the case the next day to Captain Thet Khaing, the local commander of SPDC LI 350, stationed near the village, but no action has been taken yet.

### **October 28, 2008 - Dooplaya District**

Three villagers and one Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) soldier were killed in attacks by the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) and the Burma Army; more than 250 people from Dooplaya District fled into Thailand and set up a temporary camp next to the river at Ta Kaw Bi Klo, some 50 miles south of Mae Sot.

The DKBA burnt houses in Ker Law Lu and Htee Per Kee villages and four villagers were injured by newly-planted landmines. Families from these villages have fled to a hiding site for Internally Displaced Persons in Karen State.

IDPs are now being squeezed between attacking troops and the Thai border and it is expected the attacks will continue. Due to border sensitivities and travel restrictions, it is now difficult for IDPs to receive relief materials. Naw Xx Xxx Xx, aged 29, said: "When I left the village I could not carry much. I have to carry my three month old son in front of me and my husband carries some stuffs and my oldest son. We cannot carry much clothes and food. It was very difficult for us. We could not get our plastic sheets. The DKBA and Burma Army took all of our stuffs. We came through rain for three days. Now, my older son feels sick. I do

### **June 5, 2008 - Mutraw District**

On 4 June between 7am - 8 am, Burma Army battalion IB 240 attacked, drove the people out of the village, burned rice barns, looted homes, badly damaged the church and destroyed farms in Te Mu Der village in Papun District. Te Mu Der is located at N18 25 05 E 097 17 15, just south of the Kyauk Kyi-Hsaw Hta road in north central Papun district. Villagers ran with what they could carry and the Burma Army looted what they left behind. The Burma Army fired mortars into the village and one round hit the church, damaging the roof. They then entered the village and at the church destroyed one piano, 2 amplifiers, two speakers and stole one guitar. They went through the village, looting and destroying property and fences. The troops burned down three rice barns with over 300 tins of paddy rice belonging to Saw Kyaw Soe 45 yrs, Saw Kwe Lay Moo, 43 yrs and Saw Gwey Hu, 55 yrs. On 4 June,

Burma Army battalions LIB 429 and LIB 531, both under the command of Myo Win Hlaine entered Bwa Doh village. They captured a villager, Saw Ko Blu, 33 yrs old. They beat him until his head split open and shot at another villager who ran away. The Burma Army units then proceeded to Kwa Kee as another battalion, LIB 530 arrived at Kay Kaw village one and a half days walk northwest of Kwa Kee.

#### **4. School Material Distribution**

**INFORMATION CANNOT BE PROVIDED ON THE ONLINE VERSION OF THE REPORT**

#### **5. Annual Meeting**

**INFORMATION CANNOT BE PROVIDED ON THE ONLINE VERSION OF THE REPORT**

#### **6. Next Steps**

**INFORMATION CANNOT BE PROVIDED ON THE ONLINE VERSION OF THE REPORT**