

Copy of statement by Nai Shwe Kyin that came out in the Report of a Survey on Human Rights Abuse In Frontier Areas of Burma, 1986-1987 published in September, 1987 by Project Maje, 14 Dartmouth Road, Cranford, N.J. 07016, USA.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Dated 28th August 1987

Human Rights Survey 1987

Name: Nai Shwe Kyin

Age: 74 Sex: Male Nationality/Ethnic group: Mon/Mon-Khamer family

Profession: President. The New Mon State Party, Mon State, Burma

Member of which organisation opposed to Burmese government, if any: The New Mon State Party.

Military rank/government position, if any: Commander-in-Chief of the Mon National Liberation Army and Executive Head of the parallel Administration.

Reason for observing the Burma political situation/frontier war: To topple the military dictatorship of Bo Ne Win and restore peace, democracy, freedom and equality in the Federated Union of Burma. Civil war along the Thai-Burmese border.

1. Military abuse (such as using civilians for forced labour, taking civilian hostages purposely endangering the lives of civilians, committing criminal acts against civilians):

On October 1986, the 61st Regiment of the Burma Army stationed in Ye Township, Mon State, Burma, started its 'Four Cuts' operations - meaning prohibition of support, transport, logistics and information to the dissident ethnic groups by the general masses while the army is in action. On pretext as collaborators of resistance groups Burmese soldiers tortured the Mon and the Karen villagers and ransacked and plundered their belongings in remote villages from their headquarters. To avoid such atrocities thousands of Mons and Karens fled from their villages in Burma across the border into Thailand. Hundreds of them are still displaced to this day. Those who could not flee were concentrated in enclosures of barbed wire without any shade and fed meagerly.

During the months covering November and December 1986 and the first quarter of 1987, villagers from different parts of Mon and Karen States were press-ganged as porters by army battalions under the command of the Southeast Military Region stationed at Moulmein. These porters were ordered to carry heavy arms and ammunitions and were also used as human shields at the front line. Those who fell ill were not treated properly but left to die or killed in the jungles.

Since independence from Britain in 1948 and forty years of civil war thereafter, all the indigenous peoples of Burma had encountered innumerable instances of robbery, rape, murder and destruction in villages of their ancestral domain by the Burma Army.

2. Imprisonment (imprisonment without charges or without trial, imprisoning someone for non-violent expression of political beliefs or because of their ethnic group or religion, torturing prisoners)

Fundamental democratic rights are not tolerated by the military government led by the Burmese Socialist Programme Party. The state-controlled press gives out choked news to distract the general public from reality. A good example of it is as follows:

In retaliation to the five Burmese soldiers killed by a hand grenade lobbed into their midst by a Mon commando, Capt. Lun Maung, Commander of 5th Company, 61st Battalion of the Burma Army, ordered his subordinate Lt. Thein Maung to launch three 81mm mortar shells into the Mon mass gathering at the pagoda festival at Lamaing village, Ye Township on the night of 12th March 1987. The mortar blasts killed 20 civilians including 2 monks and wounded over one hundred and fifty villagers.

To cover up their action of racial prejudice, a misleading news report, under strict government censorship, was given to the BBC Burmese section by its correspondent U Maung Maung saying that the deed was done

by a Mon soldier under arrest who got injured during the blasts. The news further deceived the public by adding that proper medical treatment had been given to him.

Actually a young villager from Duya village, Ye township was arrested and tortured to admit that he did the mischief. Only two out of three mortar shells exploded. The unexploded shell was kept as an exhibit for evidence by the village elders.

3. Civil Rights (denying rights or benefits because of ethnic group or religion; suppressing religious practices, cultural expression, or language):

Movement to re-vive the colloquial and written Mon language in Mon dominant areas by social-welfare minded Mon youths were frustrated by the local Burmese authorities, under secret orders from the central government.

It is regrettable to state that though developed foreign countries such as America, Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Japan appreciated the richness of Mon literature, the Burmese government is indifferent. Thanks to the research work made by Drs. Halliday, Haswell, Blagden and Luce into the intricacies of the Mon language covering the ancient, medieval and modern periods Mon scripts are now readable. Just as in Britain where Mon language is taught at the London School of Oriental Studies and African Languages, the Japanese government intends to teach the language at the Institute of International Languages, Kyoto. The Japanese Embassy's repeated request to permit Nai Pan Hla, a Mon scholar who worked and retired as Mon Cultural Officer in the Archaeological Department of Burma, to work as Mon Professor at the Institute were summarily rejected by the Burmese government.

It is not only the Mons but also other ethnic groups are facing the Burmanisation policy of the Burmese Socialist Programme Party government.

The bankruptcy of political and economic policies of the Burmese government had resulted in its application to the UN for "poorest nation status". Instances of the plight of farmers and workers are shown below:

The state ownership of land and treatment of farmers as serves had retained the semi-feudalistic system of farming. The state collection of all paddy in the fields leaving only marginal amount to the tillers deprived them of their fruits of their labour who are forced to subsist on the black market. This economic repression converted many small farmers into landless labourers who subsist as agricultural seasonal labourers or driven to urban areas to seek work.

Labourers have no say in Burma. Their cheap labour is exploited by those who employ them. This sector which provides substantial contribution to the economy of the country lived in penury. The overall situation in the country needs immediate rectification.

\*True Copy\*

NWH  
President's Office  
The New Mon State Party.  
Mon State