

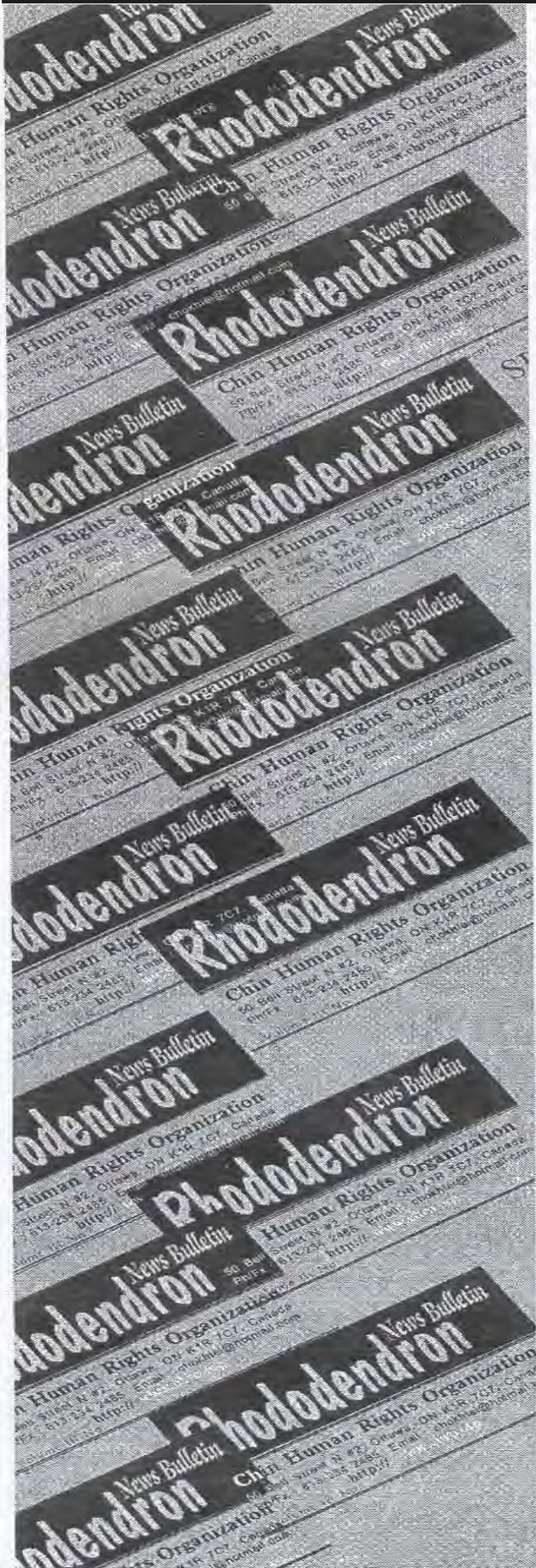
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Chin Human Rights Organization



Refugee woman savagely assaulted in Delhi in failed rape attempt



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Violence Against Refugees Must Stop

Refugees are one of the world's most vulnerable groups. But unfortunately, after fleeing oppressions in their countries of origin, they too often find themselves in the same kind of unsafe environment in the country they have come to seek refuge in. Such a scenario is now getting too familiar for refugees from Burma sheltering in the Indian capital of New Delhi.

In the last two months, a string of violent attacks against refugees have been reported from Delhi. Ethnic Chins make up the majority of Burmese refugees in New Delhi.

On March 29, a single refugee mother of two was returning home from work. As she approached her house, four local Indian youths accosted her and attempted to sexually assault her. When she resisted, she was hit with an iron rod across the face leaving her with severe facial and head injuries. Disoriented, she desperately tried to flee towards her house but later collapsed due to excessive loss of blood from her attacks. According to her, the whole incident was witnessed by local Indians in the neighborhood, but did nothing to stop her attackers.

The victim has only been in Delhi for two months after arriving from Chin State with her two young children. As an asylum seeker not yet recognized by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees office, she and her children enjoy no supports from the UN refugee agency and had to work at a local factory. She had only been on the job for less than a week when she was brutally attacked.

On February 25, a 12 year-old Chin refugee boy was allegedly gang-raped by a group of local Indian men after he was snatched while on his way to fetch drinking water. He was dragged into a small secluded room and sexually assaulted by the men while another was standing guard at the door. The boy managed to escape when passers-by heard his scream and asked the guard what was happening. The incident was reported to the local police, and even though the boy was able to identify his attacker, no action has been taken against the suspect apparently due to a lack of evidence.

On April 21, a refugee father who was walking with his six year-old daughter to fetch water from a public tap was knocked down unconscious after local men hit him with what appears to be a brick on his head from behind. At least two more violent attacks against refugees have been reported since the last incident.

Little protection or assistance is available for refugees living in the Indian capital. Since the early 2000s, the UN refugee agency has phased out financial supports to refugees under its protection and has sub-delegated much of its work to the local non-governmental organizations partners. The refugees have since been forced into the 'informal sectors' of employment, leaving them further on the fringe and more vulnerable to exploitations.

Violence against refugees must be stopped. The UN Refugee Agency can play a more active role by more closely working with the local Indian authorities and civil society groups in making sure that refugees and asylum seekers are better protected in New Delhi.

High Price For Butchery License Put Town In Jeopardy

20 February 2010

Residents of Hakha town are struggling with the economic effects of the drastic price increase for the sale of butchery license by the Township authorities, which saw an eight-fold jump from last year.

The butchery license for the entire Township in 2009 was sold to the highest bidder for 20 million Kyats. However, local authorities have increased that amount to 100 million Kyats for the year 2010.

The increase of 80 million Kyats on butchery license will affect butchers throughout the township and will drastically increase the price of meat.

“We now have to pay 70,000 Kyats in tax for one pig, which used to be only 40,000 Kyats. And 100,000 Kyats for one cattle killed. Of course this will have immense effects on the price of meat,” said a local butcher.

He speculated that with the increase in effect, one kilogram of pork will be sold for 7000 Kyats instead of 5000 Kyats in the previous year.

The municipal office has yet to respond to a written request submitted on 15 January by butchers in the township.

Similarly, in neighboring Gangaw Township of Mergui Division, butchery license was sold to the highest bidder for 20 million Kyats, an increase of five millions from last year.

There are around 400 butchers in Hakha Township alone. Based on the size of their kills, individual butchers are to pay permission fees to the license holder.

Authorities Set Deadline For Fund Submission For Drinking Water Reservoir

7 March 2010

Hakha residents were told to clear a 6,000 Kyats imposed on each household by the municipal office before the end of the April or to face punitive action.

The fund is meant to support the development of a water reservoir for the Town, although residents are aware that there is a 20 million Kyats already appropriated by the State.

Hakha Town is divided into seven wards with about 10,000 households.

Fund collection from the public was started in October 2010, but few households have since paid up the money due to the knowledge that the necessary funds have been sanctioned by the government.

“The municipal office has now issued instruction to aggressively enforce the payment requirement,” said one ward official who cannot be named.

Patients Charged Fees At Kalay Govt. Hospital

5 March 2010

Patients receiving treatment at the government hospital in Kalay, Sagaing Division are required to pay various 'donations' despite the fact that such services are supposed to be free of charge.

U Ling Kha's son was suffering from Tuberculosis and was taken to the hospital for treatment. "Upon arrival at the Kalay General Hospital, we were charged a 500 fee for admission, 1000 for paper work and another 2000 for other patients receiving treatment at the hospital. All of these are supposed to be free," U Ling Kha testified to Chin Human Rights Organization.

He continued, "We ended up paying as much as if we went to a private clinic. What was rather surprising was they even charged us for the TB pills, which we know for certain are to be given free of charge."

Kalay Hospital currently has about 500 in-patients, according to a general worker at the hospital.

Army's Sale Of Liquor Corrupts Local Youth

5 February 2010

Village elders are blaming the sale of liquor by the Burmese soldiers as the source of degrading characters among the youths in Sopum Village of Thantlang Township.

The sale of liquor has been prohibited by church leaders and village elders since 2008. However, Burmese troops from Light Infantry Battalion (266) who are temporarily stationed in the village have been selling alcohol to local youths in contravention of the prohibition.

The sale of liquor is creating social problems within the community as drunken youths are often involved in street brawls, as well as, arguments with their family. The local church leader said, "We were able to get the Village headmen to issue an order prohibiting the sale of alcohol in our community and everyone had complied until the Burmese soldiers started selling it."

The village elders approached the commanding officer to plead him to stop his soldiers from selling but the officer denied about the involvement of his men in the sale of liquor.

A local youth who have purchased the booze from the soldiers said, "My friends and I regularly buy the liquor from them. But they don't just sell it out to anyone, but only to people who have taken the militia training."

One villager familiar with the situation testified that since the prohibition of alcohol, bootlegging has become a profitable business for army personnel. A bottle of OB (a kind of industrial alcohol) bought in Hakha (Chin State capital) for just 1500 Kyats can be resold for as much as 6000 Kyats in the village.

80 Villages Perform Compulsory Labor For ‘Self Support’ Road Construction

13 February 2010: Hundreds of villagers in Hakha Township have been engaged in a ‘self-support’ road construction project since the beginning of 2010, Chin Human Rights Organization has learned.

The construction project is to connect Surkhua and Pangva Villages. Residents of the two villages are to contribute human labor for the construction while about 70 villages from other Village Tracts are indirectly involved in the project through financial contribution at the rate of 13,000 Kyats per household.

“We are now constructing the road under the direct supervision of the village headman. We are the ones contributing the needed human labor while the rest of the villages participate through financial contribution,” said a villager of Pangva.

The construction is just a small portion of a larger project that will run through to Mergui Division and the Indian border.

Part of the official India-Burma trade route project, the new road will pass through 20 villages up to the Indian border. Residents of these villages are to be responsible for the construction through a “self-support” system.

Demands For Porter Service Add To Villagers’ Hardships

10 March 2010

Villagers residing in Pangva Village Tract areas are facing increasing hardship due to constant calls for porter service demanded by Burmese troops from Light Infantry Battalion (266) who patrol the area.

“Our farm works are constantly disrupted by the demands for porter service, which happen two to three times each month,” said an elderly farmer from Pangva Village. “Many people in the village have moved to town just to avoid having to serve as porters for the army,” he said.

About 15 to 20 porters are regularly demanded by the troops depending on the size of the patrol column. But the farmer said that sometimes one person from each household in the village has to serve as porter when the patrol column involves more troops and goods.

Porters usually carry army rations and equipments, but sometimes they are also used to help in the search of army deserters. Young girls are also recruited as cooks for the army.

The elderly farmer said that up to 10 families from his village have relocated to Hakha Town just since the latter part of 2009 to avoid the various demands of the army. The families were forced sell off their lands and properties at very cheap price.

“Three villagers were taken away as guide for the troops since February 10 and they haven’t come back till today (Feb 20th). The guides are U Len Tluang, Van Thang and Ling Peng,” he said.

Pangva Village Tract consists of four villages in Hakha Township and problems of porter demands have been reported in all the villages.

Buddhism To Be Taught In All Primary Schools In Chin State: Monk Claims

20 March 2010

State-sponsored Buddhist missionary monks in Chin State will be establishing a primary school in every village in which Buddhism will be taught as part of the official curriculum, a Buddhist monk abbot at Mindat Town of southern Chin State has told Chin Human Rights Organization.

“As per instruction from the State, we are to establish Buddhist religious schools in every village in Chin State. The main objective is to proselytize Buddhism. But since Chin State is very backward in education, students will receive Buddhist teachings along side the secular education,” the abbot said.

He said that 100 missionary monks are being dispatched out of two Buddhist seminaries in Rangoon and Mandalay to States with a significant Christian population including the Chin, Kachin and Karen States.

He said that the program has already succeeded in establishing the Buddhist schools in almost every village in Mindat, Kanpalet and Paletwa Townships, and that, efforts are being made to cover all the Townships in Chin State. However, he said that two to three villages might have to share one school in certain areas.

The monk also said that the program was started since 2005 in Chin State.

Residents Forced to Pay for Buddhist Festival

17 April 2010

Residents of Chin State’s capital Hakha have yet again been asked to pay for the cost of celebrating the Buddhist water festival.

Each household, numbering over 10,000 in total, is being asked to pay 1500 Kyats to cover the costs associated with the celebration. The costs included the erection of platforms and celebratory shacks, entertainment for high officials, water sports etc.

According to one resident, this is the second time households have had to pay for the festival celebration.

“This is on top of the 500 Kyat we had paid before the festival. Having to pay an additional 1500 Kyats is excessive. This is essentially a Buddhist festival. It is very unfair that Christians are being made to pay for their celebration,” a local resident who cannot be identified for his security said.

The additional money was collected by Ward leaders by visiting door to door on April 16th.

The 4-day celebration was held from April 13-17 in Hakha.

Churches Closed Down In Irrawaddy Division

18 April 2010

Two churches founded by a Chin pastor in Nargis-hit villages of Labutta Township, Irrawaddy Division have been shut down by SPDC local authorities last week.

The local authorities last Saturday issued an order to stop holding worship services, and on Sunday closed down the makeshift churches in Gondoh and Padokegone villages, which were constructed by local villagers and pastors.

“We build temporary temple buildings by ourselves and they are almost finished. But the local authority stopped us and took the building materials and closed them. They warned us not to gather together even on Sunday. Please remember us in your prayers,” the Dai-Chin pastor from Mindat Township, who asks not to be named for security reasons.

The churches, with a total of about 180 members, were founded in 2008 just after Cyclone Nargis hit Burma, causing catastrophic destruction and at least 138,000 fatalities. The Labutta Township alone was reported to have 80,000 dead with thousands left homeless.

The SPDC local authorities also shut down childcare centres being run by the churches that look after homeless children orphaned by the cyclone.

Child Soldier Frustrated By Life In The Burma Army

18 April 2010

A 16-year old soldier who is being posted at a security check point at Taingen Village, Tiddim Township has testified that he was cheated into the army by his recruiting officer.

Mung Pi was recruited into the Burma Army in November 2009 at Thayakung Village of Kalay Township of Sagaing Division by Sergeant U Kyaw Htun with the promise of monetary rewards.

Before his first posting, he underwent a 4-month basic military training in Madalay in central Burma. Only 16 years old, Mung Pi said that he was promised a reward of 100,000 Kyats; 50,000 Kyats upon his enlistment and another 50,000 upon his completion of the military training. However, Mung Pi said that all had he had gotten so far was 30,000 Kyats for transportation to the training site.

The child soldier said that he wanted to quit the army but he must find five recruits first to be allowed to quit.

“Being the youngest in the unit, I get bullied all the time; they would ask me to do things that they don’t want to do themselves. They let me extort people and I get hated for it. It is very frustrating,” he said.

Mung Pi said that during his training he had met three other child recruits from other Townships in Kalay who were recruited under false pretexts.

Child Worker Threatened With Physical Harm For Asking For His Pay

5 March 2010

A child worker employed at a teashop in Kalay, Sagaing Division was verbally abused and threatened with physical harm by his employer after he asked for his pay, according to the boy’s parent.

“My son had politely asked for his January pay on February 20, but U San Maung tried to get physical with the boy without even saying anything about the pay,” the boy’s father said.

The youngest among the five siblings, the boy is only 13 years old and dropped out of school from the 4th grade.

Growing economic hardships have forced many children to work for an income. Of the estimated 5000 teashops in Kalay Town, more than half are employing Chin workers many of whom are children from poor family background.

Refugee Boy Testified Of Being Raped In New Delhi

24 April 2010

Traumatized Chin refugee boy, Khual Kham, testified how he was raped two months ago by local Indian men only after the boy's parents were informed of the incident by his close friends who are deeply concerned over his mental condition.

A shocking story of the 12-year-old boy came to light as his parents were reported that the boy has been in an 'abnormal' condition at times and stopped going to school since the incident.

"Traumatized by what had happened, the boy did not speak about it to anyone else, apart from his close friends. It was only a month later that his friends told the boy's parents as he has been behaving weird and feeling uncomfortable," said Plato Van Rung Mang of CHRO (Chin Human Rights Organisation) in New Delhi, India.

The terrible incident took place at Hastal area, Uttam Nagar of West Delhi around 1pm on 25 February, 2010 when Khual Kham was on his way to fetch drinking water from the roadside borehole water tap.

One local Indian man living in the same area called and seduced him to go to a place nearby. After a while, the man dragged him into a small room where three other local men entered in no time. Three men grabbed and sexually abused the boy while another man was standing by the door as a guard.

The boy was said to have cried out in deep pain and shouted for help. Khual Kham jumped at the opportunity and ran out of the room when the passers-by, on hearing the boy's screaming, asked the man who stood guarding the door what had happened inside the room.

The incident was immediately reported to the local police, and SLIC (Social and Legal Information Centre). However, no legal action has been taken against the offenders due to an inadequate evidence even though the boy could clearly identify the first local man.

It is said that the boy's parents would like to take no further proceedings in case it will bring negative consequences to the family and the refugee community.

Khual Kham's sister, now 18, lost one of her legs trying to escape from a failed attempt of sexually assaults by SPDC's army soldiers in Chin State before the family fled military-ruled Burma to India in 2008 in search of refuge and safety.

Deeply agonized and disturbed, Khual Kham is said to have been unable to walk properly until today and isolating himself from talking and meeting with others.

Repeated Assaults In Delhi Raised Security Concerns For Refugees

24 April 2010

A series of recent violent assaults on Chin refugees by local Indians in New Delhi has raised heightened concerns for the safety of refugees from Burma stranded in the capital city of India.

A Chin refugee, Mr. Zo Ram Thang, was last Wednesday hit on his head from behind with bricks or stones by unknown locals near Sitapuri Bazaar while he was going out with his under-six-year-old two daughters to fetch a bucket of water from a public water borehole around 8pm.

“He was unconscious for about 10 minutes and his two children were petrified, crying out loud in tears. No one came out to help him even though there were many people around. Finally, three Chin refugees passing by the street found and took them home. He was taken to the DDU hospital at midnight and back to his house around 4am after receiving necessary medication,” said Plato Van Rung Mang of CHRO (Chin Human Rights Organisation) based in Delhi.

Zo Ram Thang and his family arrived in New Delhi in 1999 and have been recognised as refugees by the UNHCR.

Another Chin refugee Moses Han Sein was last Monday attacked, beaten up and left unconscious on the ground near Jeewan Park, Uttam Nagar of west Delhi while he was on his way back from work to sleep over at his friend’s house around 9pm.

The 45-year-old from Falam Township, Burma was first stopped and teased by four local men who were later joined by about 30 locals during the attack. The local Indians ran away after emptying his pocket, with about 200 Rupees in it.

“The next morning, he [Moses Han Sein] came to my house and told me about the incident. I gave him 200 Rupees as he has got no money left at that time. Presently, he has no shelter, no food and one of our friends Mr. David is temporarily looking after him in his house. Since he cannot, after the incident, continue his work at a restaurant where he was given accommodation, he has got no place to stay,” said Ro Mawi, President of Chin Refugee Committee in New Delhi, India.

Moses Han Sein was said to have received treatment at a hospital with the help of UNHCR’s local partner, a Delhi-based NGO called the Social and Legal Information Centre (SLIC).

Late last month, a Chin refugee woman and mother of two small children, Sui Tin Lem, was brutally beaten up by a group of four local Indians in New Delhi in a failed attempt to sexually assault her. The violent beating occurred on the evening of March 29 in Citapuri neighborhood of west Delhi as the 32-year-old mother was returning home from work at around 7:00 pm local time.

Ms. Sui Tin Lem was on the way to her house after separating from two other co-workers when four local Indians accosted her and started teasing her. When she started resisting, two of the men grasped her hands while the other two tried to sexually assault her. As she tried to struggle, her assailants smashed her with a rod across the face, leaving her with severe injuries to her face.

Recent incidents have sent shockwave across the refugee community, sparking renewed fears for the safety of refugee women living in Delhi.

“The Chin are unsafe in Burma and unprotected in India, but just because these abuses happen far from Delhi and Rangoon does not mean the Chin should remain ‘forgotten people’,” said a recent report by Human Rights Watch that has called for better treatment for the Chin and for Chin refugees who arrive in India.

“The incidents prove that so many local people are seeking the opportunity to steal, tease, assault and rob everywhere. We are in an absolute difficult situation financially and legally. Some upper class and educated people are so kind to us, however most of the people under poverty line are a threat to us. There is so much risk of staying even for a short period in this city, and we are not safe here,” remarked Ro Mawi.

Out of an estimated 60,000 Chin refugees currently living in India after fleeing military-ruled Burma in search of refuge and safety, there are about 6,000 stranded only in New Delhi, with about half already registered as refugees by the UNHCR.

Hundreds Of Refugees Arrested In Recent Raids In Malaysia

27 April 2010

Malaysian authorities have recently launched a series of crackdowns on immigrants, arresting hundreds of Chin refugees stranded in Malaysia, including children and pregnant women.

An estimated 500 Chin refugees have remained in detention camps, with ‘unknown’ numbers in locked up jail, following recent measures of cracking down on illegal immigrants by RELA Corps, Malaysian Police and Immigration.

“Chin refugees are being arrested on a daily basis. It is difficult to know the exact numbers. Those holding UNHCR registration card are normally released in about a month’s time, and the fates of those with no UNHCR card can not be predicted if they can not be rescued by paying money to the authorities before further action is taken,” said a volunteer member of Chin Refugee Committee (CRC).

The Malaysian authorities have been severely criticised for human rights abuses, including excessive use of force, extortion of documented immigrants during raids, and destroying the documentation of legal immigrants in order to secure more arrests.

Naing Shin, Secretary General of Dai Community in Malaysia said: “Mass arrests take place day by day, with more than 200 Chin refugees arrested monthly. About 15 Dai-Chins including two pregnant women have been detained. Some are arrested in an early morning raid during their sleep while others at work and on the streets going to work.”

Dependent on meagre incomes earned from taking any available odd jobs, Chin refugees in Malaysia live in fears as they could lose their jobs, properties and salaries once they are arrested and detained.

According to Global Detention Project, Rights groups have criticised the Malaysian authorities for detaining scores of asylum seeker children, pregnant women and other vulnerable individuals, mainly from Burma/Myanmar, at various detention camps and prisons around the country, adding: “They have come to this country for no other reason than to seek a safe haven from persecution and serious human rights violations in their home country.”

Malaysia has not adopted key international instruments that protect the rights of migrants. The country is not party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. However, refugees who have been recognised by UNHCR and obtained UNHCR documents may nonetheless enjoy de facto protection at the national level, according to rights groups.

It is estimated there are more than 30,000 Chin refugees stranded in Malaysia after fleeing the military-controlled country, Burma, where they have been for decades facing various forms of human rights abuses, repression, persecutions and brutalities inflicted by the ruling regime.

Refugee Woman Savagely Assaulted In Delhi In Failed Rape Attempt

30 March 2010:

A Chin refugee woman and a mother of two small children was brutally beaten up by a group of four local Indians in New Delhi in attempts to sexually assault her. The incident is sending shockwave across the refugee community and sparking renewed fears for the safety of refugee women living in Delhi.

The sexual assault and violent beating occurred on the evening of March 29 in Citapuri neighborhood of west Delhi as the 32 year-old mother was returning home from work at around 7:00 pm local time. Ms. Sui Tin Lem was on the way to her house after separating from two other co-workers when four local Indians accosted her and started teasing her. When she started resisting, two of the men grasped her hands in attempt to sexually assault her. As she tried to struggle, her assailants smashed her with a rod across the face, leaving her with severe facial injuries.

“I screamed out for help but no one turned out to help me even though some local people were around to witness what they were doing to me,” she recounts her ordeal. “I later managed to run way towards home but fell down on the street and fainted from losing too much blood. Two local policemen saw me lying on the street but they left me be as I couldn’t explain to them what had just happened.”

Several hours later at 4:00 am in the morning, she was discovered by a Chin community member who happened to pass by the area. She was immediately rushed to the Deen Dayal Apadhyay government hospital, but was turned away apparently because the hour for patient admission had passed.

She is now being treated at her home with the help of the local charitable organization New Delhi Young Men Christian Association (ND-YMCA). She is now in serious conditions.

Ms. Sui Tin Lem and her two children arrived in Delhi only less than two months ago from Burma’s Chin State. They have been registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees office in New Delhi, but a final determination of their refugee status is pending. They do not receive any assistance from UNHCR while they await the results on their refugee claims.

Ms. Sui Tin Lem is the latest victim in increasing incidents of physical assault and sexual harassment perpetrated against Burmese refugee women by local Indian men who see them as easy prey in recent years. It also represents part of a larger problem faced by the urban-dwelling refugee community who are left to fend for themselves with little protection and assistance.

A 2009 report by Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) [“Waiting on the Margins: An Assessment of the Situations of Chin Refugees in Delhi, India”](#) found that Chin refugees living in Delhi are vulnerable to exploitations as they have very little access to physical protection and social assistance from the Indian government or from the UN refugee agency.

Concerns Rise For Pregnant Woman In Malaysian Detention Camp

7 March 2010

Concerns have grown for a detained pregnant woman who is expecting her baby around the middle of this month in Lenggeng Detention Camp in Malaysia.

The 24-year-old Chin woman, Thla Tin Sui, has been detained in the Malaysian camp after she was arrested together with her husband in their apartment during a night raid by the Malaysian Immigration at 2am on 1 August 2009.

“We haven’t got any update on our sister’s situation. She is still detained and we believe that she will have to give birth in the detention camp. The only recent update we have got is that the detainees are suffering so much as the camp is so crowded,” Ram Nun Cung of Chin Refugee Committee told Chinland Guardian.

Her husband, Tial Kio, was quoted by VOCCR (Voice of Chin Refugees) as saying that the baby is due this month and that he is so much worried his wife would not have enough energy and not be fit to have a baby when the time comes. Parts of her body have been badly swollen as a result of malnutrition and the squalid conditions at the detention camp and only God can help her in this difficult situation, he continued.

One of the unidentified web users said in response to the news by VOCCR: “Why could Malaysian authority not have concern over the pregnant refugee woman? Giving birth in the detention camp is inhumane. Why didn’t they release her so that she can have a safe and respectable maternity in the hospital? What is the UNHCR doing too?”

There has been a series of reports that reveal some serious corruption cases among the Malaysian police in dealing with illegal immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia. According to a group of newly released detainees, blankets which are meant to be given for free of charge in the camp were sold to the detainees for 30 Malaysian Ringgits by the camp guards.

Soon after their arrest as undocumented refugees in August 2009, Thla Tin Sui and her husband were separated and kept in different detention camps. Her husband, who was given one-month imprisonment and two strokes of the cane by the Kajang court, was transferred to Lenggeng camp. He was then released by the help of Kuala Lumpur-based UNHCR after staying with his wife in the camp for two months.

Thla Tin Sui has not been recognised as a refugee from Burma while her husband, Tial Kio, has received a UNHCR card since his release.

Refugee Beaten up In Delhi for Language Difficulty

26 April 2010

A Chin refugee father, Fung Ling, and his two friends who offered to assist in speaking Hindi were battered and struck with bricks by two local Indian bikers in Chanakya Place, Uttam Nagar of New Delhi, India around 6pm last Friday, 23 April 2010.

While walking on their way back from visiting a sick relative, Fung Ling, 37, and his wife were stopped and talked to by the two local men on their bike. Knowing Mr. Fung Ling has got difficulties in speaking and understanding Hindi, Than Sang who came voluntarily to give assistance in communication was slapped on his face by the Indian man sitting in tandem.

“The two men talked to Fung Ling and he simply replied he didn’t understand Hindi. When his Chin friend Than Sang asked if he could help at all, the man sitting behind slapped on his face. Then, both of them got off the bike and started attacking them. But Fung Ling and Than Sang did not fight back,” said a document by Delhi-based Chin Refugee Committee (CRC).

Fung Ling, a father of five under 12 years old, was said to have been hit on the back of his head with bricks and collapsed unconsciously while his friend Mr. Than Sang was severely beaten up and left bleeding. Another Chin refugee, Van Lal Lian, who emerged from the crowd that offered no help to the victims, was also attacked when he was seen making a phone call.

One of the two Indian men, thought to be about six foot tall, grabbed Lian’s mobile phone and smashed it to pieces.

CRC’s report said: “When the victims knew that the two men were not going to stop fighting them, they fled to the nearby refugee house and locked the door. Still, the attackers came after them up to the door and shouted at them. When they were unable to open the door, they finally went away from the place.”

Seriously injured and bleeding, the three Chin victims were after about an hour taken to the DDU Hospital where they received treatment.

Burma Centre Prague last month sent an open letter to New Delhi-based UNHCR following a series of recent incidents facing the Chin refugees in India, calling for providing a safety and legal protection of Burmese refugees living in India and immediate support for the victims.

The Chin refugee victims and their families were said to have arrived in India in 1998 after fleeing military-controlled Burma in search of safety and refuge.

No legal action has yet been taken against the offenders.

Junta Revamps Civil Militia To Help USDA In Polls

23 April 2010:

A civil militia is being revamped by the Mindat Township Peace and Development Council since March to help the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) candidates to contest the forthcoming general elections in Burma.

“Junta authorities have ordered villagers, who had attended civil militia training earlier, to attend training again. The idea behind the fresh training is to find ways to help USDA win the election,” said Mr. Salai Thanglian in Mindat town.

The training is being conducted by Mindat based LIB 274 and they are teaching not only the technique to canvass for votes but also imparting basic military training.

“The chief commander and others ranks are teaching civilians how to shoot and assemble different weapons. There are more than 50 trainees,” said an eyewitness.

The authorities are providing all necessities for the trainees including food and lodging, although during the previous training the trainees had brought their own food and other necessities.

The same renewed civil militia training is to be conducted in Hakha town.

The military junta’s backbone, the USDA has not yet registered for the 2010 general elections with the Election Commission, but it begun campaigning for the polls, though other political parties have not given permission to campaign by the junta yet. –

Khonumthung News

Chin Political Party Registers For Election

9 April 2010

The Chin National Party (CNP), set up by Chin political leaders, has registered with the Election Commission on 7 April for the forthcoming 2010 general elections in Burma.

This follows a discussion by Chin political leaders in Yangon city and representatives of Chin people in all townships in Chin state. They have agreed to field candidates from one umbrella political party.

A number of Chin political leaders went to Naypitaw, capital of Burma on 29 March and registered their political party, the Chin National Party (CNP).

Khonumthung News tried to contact the leaders but there is no official word as to whom all will be nominated as candidates from among Chin politicians.

Till date, 13 parties have applied to contest in the election. Of these 11 political parties have already registered with the Election Commission to participate in the elections later this year.

Meanwhile, the New Light of Myanmar newspaper said that the Election Commission has announced the formation of state and division sub-commissions for the election. Sub-commission offices will be opened in the respective state and division General Administration Department offices.

However, the date of the election is yet to be announced, although the junta has announced its electoral laws on 8 March. - Khonumthung news

Election Commission offices in Chin State

28 April 2010

Offices of the Election Commission for the forthcoming general elections in Burma are being set up in various townships in Chin state under the tutelage of the Township Peace and Development Council (TPDC).

There are 15 members in each Election Commission in the townships of Chin state. The members are prominent citizens and retired government employees.

In Hakha Township, Mr. Bawi Hoe, retired District Education Director, is acting as the Chairman of the Election Commission. The General Secretary is the district general commander and others are retired persons, said Mr. Van Lian, the Chairman of NLD.

In Falam township Mr. Saliangkap is the chairman and the secretary is the district general commander. The rest are six locals and seven government employees.

Similarly, in Teddim Township and Thantlang Township retired people and prominent citizens are in the Election Commission, Mr. Thangdolian told Khonumthung News.

Meanwhile, in Matupi Township the Election Commission is gearing up to work at the village and block level. – Khonumthung News.

‘Ex-Gen.’ PM Leads New Political Party

29 April 2010

Burmese Prime Minister Gen. Thein Sein who quit his generalship Monday has now become leader of the newly established Union Solidarity Development Party (USDP), according to a source in Rangoon.

“The USDP today applied for registration with the Election Commission with PM ‘U’ Thein Sein as its leader and 27 Central Committee members,” the source says.

It wasn’t immediately clear if any of the leading USDP members are cabinet ministers who resigned from their military posts early this week.

Over 20 senior officials in the Burmese cabinet quit their military ranks this week in what is widely seen as a carefully staged maneuver to ‘civilianize’ key military leaders in the run up to the planned elections later this year.

The USDP emerged out of the former Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), a junta-backed mass social organization. The transformation has been widely expected especially in light of the junta’s preoccupation to put on a ‘civilian face’ before this year’s election.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has reportedly approved registration for the National Unity Party (NUP), another pro-junta party that had contested in the 1990 elections. (Chinland Guardian)

**Chin Human Rights Organization
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The Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) is a non-governmental, non-profit advocacy organization. It was formed in 1995 on the India-Burma border by a group of Chin activists committed to promoting democracy in Burma and raising international awareness of previously unreported human rights abuses being perpetrated against the Chin people by the Burmese military regime. As it is impossible to register the organization in Burma and its neighboring countries, it is legally registered as not for profit organization in Canada.

The scope CHRO's activities have expanded since the days of its founding to cover not just monitoring and documentation but also internationally-focused advocacy campaigns, capacity-building trainings, and support for grassroots community initiatives. CHRO is the primary rights-based advocacy organization for the Chin people and has worked with Chin communities throughout the world continuously since the very beginning of the conflict in Burma. Over the years, CHRO has nurtured working relationships with the Chin, developed the institutional capacity, and become a trusted voice of the Chin people and a leading and respected advocacy organization for Chin communities throughout the world.

CHRO Aims:

1. To promote human rights and democratic principles among Chin people
2. To empower the people, especially the victims of human rights violations
3. To provide accurate and reliable information about the human rights situation in Chin State and Burma to the international community.

To learn more about the important works of CHRO, please visit us at;
www.chro.ca