



Rhododendron News

Bimonthly Publication since 1998



Chin Human Rights Organization

ချင်းလူ့အခွင့်အရေးအဖွဲ့

CHRO.CA

Volume XV, Issue III

May-June 2012



Nursery school in Nupo Refugee Camp (Photo: MP)

ချင်းအမျိုးသားတပ်ဦး နှင့် ပြည်ထောင်စုအဆင့် ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေး ဆွေးနွေးရေးအဖွဲ့ ကိုယ်စားလှယ်များက ချင်းငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးအကျိုးဆောင်ကိုယ်စားလှယ်များအား အသိသက်သေပြုလျက် သဘောတူလက်မှတ်ရေးထိုးသည့် သဘောတူညီချက်များ



Chin locals waiting for drinking water (Photo: CHRO)

Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO)

2-Montavista Avenue,
Nepean, K2J 2L3,
Canada

Ph: 1-613-843-9484
Email: info@chro.ca
Web: www.chro.ca

Table of Contents

Arbitrary Taxation & Extortion	Page 03-04
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locals Forced to Contribute Money for Drinking Water • Soldiers Forcibly Collected Money for Bikes from India • Soldiers Forcibly Collected Money from Local Trader • Money Forcibly Collected for Rope Bridge Construction 	
Forced Labour	Page 05
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Admin Issued Order to Construct Toilet 	
Freedom of Religion	Page 05-06
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian Meeting Agreed to Demand Re-Construction of Crosses • Buddhist Youths Attacked Chin Christians in Chin State 	
Other Human Rights Violations	Page 07-09
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 160 Families in Trouble after Forced Relocation in Kalaymyo • Chin Locals Interrogated for Lemro Dam Project • Rescued Chin Maid Admitted to Mental Hospital in Rangoon 	
Event & Protest	Page 09-10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration Planned to Protest ZNC Registration Refusal • Former Chin Political Prisoner Named among Hero Award Recipients 	
Humanitarian Situation	Page 10-11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm-Hit Villagers Still Struggling in Chin State • Water Shortages Worsen in Falam due to Military Constructions 	
Situation of Refugees	Page 12-14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Nursery School Opened at Nupo Refugee Camp • Fraud Allegations Prompt UN Investigation of Chin Refugee Groups • Chin Refugee Family Made Homeless due to Overdue Payments in Delhi • Chin Refugee Woman Hit to Death by Car in Malaysia 	
Chin State Government & Chin National Front	Page 15-20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNF Delegation Arrives in Chin State for 2nd Round of Peace Talks • New CNF-Govt Agreement Defines Terms of Peace Process • Text of CNF-Govt Agreement (Unofficial Translation by CG) 	
Statement	Page 20-22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family's Statement in Commemoration of Student Leader Salai Tin Maung Oo 	
Poem & Cartoon	Page 22-23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I Want to Go Home • Cartoon by Kocik & Vapual 	

Arbitrary Taxation & Extortion

Locals Forced to Contribute Money for Drinking Water

05 May 2012:

Locals from Matupi town, Chin State have been forced to make financial contributions for pipeline construction to get drinking water in summer and winter seasons, a Chin local reported to the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO).

A total of 5,000 kyats was forcibly collected from each household in the town of Matupi in April 2012 as part of the water project managed by the township administration.

The administration officer of Matupi Township and other staff members from five Wards in Matupi

held a meeting, seeking help from the local parents to make contributions for the water pipe construction.

"It would cost 300 lakh kyats, excluding labor cost to get water from a stream near Amsuai village, which is 12 miles away from Matupi," said the Chin meeting participant.

"The government allocates only 200 lakhs kyats and the township administration conducted forcible collection of financial contributions from the local people," added the Chin leader.

The township administration office has bought required plastic pipelines on credit and the water project is scheduled to be completed in May 2012, with contribution of labour and money from the local people as well as government staffs, he added.#

“... the total acre of land confiscated has reached 139 and another 15 acres have been claimed to be seized again for construction of an airport. About 24 acres of the latest confiscated land might also be used for the airport construction.”

Soldiers Forcibly Collected Money for Bikes from India

17 May 2012: Soldiers from Burma Army Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) No. 140 based in Falam seized bikes imported from India and forcibly collected money from the owners, according to a source from the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO).

Around 8:00 pm on 4 May 2012, Burma Army soldiers based in Tibual Village seized six bikes the son of Pu No Sun, an elected village head during the 2010 election, and his friends at Leilet village, demanding an excessive amount of money from them.

The local, whose name is not revealed, said the soldiers gave three bikes back but demanded six lakh kyats for the remaining three bikes, adding: "There is no other way to deal with the situation if they do not pay the demanded amount." #



Scooters in Hakha, Chin State (Photo: KNT)

Soldiers Forcibly Collected Money from Local Trader

“...The soldiers collected excessive amounts of money from us without issuing any kind of receipts...”

23 May 2012: Soldiers from Burma Army Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) No. 140 based in Falam, Chin State have forcibly collected an excessive amount of money from a pig trader, a Chin Human Rights Organization’s source revealed.

The soldiers seized 40 pigs owned by Mr. Duh Ling, 40, from Thinghual Village around 7 pm on 20 May 2012 at Thingcang village in Falam Township and demanded 3,000 kyats.

The second incident took place around 9pm at Leilet village when the soldiers from the same LIB stopped the Chin trader and demanded another 4,000 kyats while

travelling towards Mizoram State of India.

“Due to difficulty of daily livelihood, the local people like me have borrowed goods and sell them to Mizoram. The soldiers collected excessive amounts of money from us without issuing any kind of receipts. They would arrest us again at another village and would conduct extortion from us,” the local added.

The Chin trader said people hoped the situation would change under the new government but traders are still much worried as there have not been any changes on the ground. #

Money Forcibly Collected for Rope Bridge Construction

25 May 2012: Head of the Zawngte Village Tract forcibly collected money from the locals for construction of Laiva Rope Bridge construction in Falam Township, Chin State, a member of Haimual village administration reported to the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO).

A total of 95 households from six villages in Zawngte Village Tract have been ordered to pay 500 kyats each for the bridge construction which will connect the road between Lairal Hills of Chin State and Farkawn of Mizoram, according to the local.

“Members of village administra-

tion councils have been directed to collect the money latest by May 2012. It is difficult to cross Laiva in rainy season and villagers of Farkawn contributed the requested steel ropes and the villagers have been forcibly collected money for the floorboards with no inclusion of their opinion,” he added.

“There is different opinion among the locals on the construction of the rope bridge. Those who use the way on where the bridge is being proposed accepted and those who use Leilet way do not support the idea of the village tract head. However they are afraid of being fined that they have paid Kyat 500,” he added. #

Forced Labour

Village Admin Issued Order to Construct Toilet

20 May 2012: Head of the village administration in Falam Township, Chin State issued an order that every household would construct a toilet and anyone failing to follow the instructions would be fined, a member of the village block administration reported to the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO).

On 20 May 2012, at least six villages in Zawngte Village Tract have been forced to build a toilet per house by the Village Tract Head Pu Run Hlei Thang.

“The full texts of the order mention that digging for

the toilet must be completed in May 2012 and the administration will conduct an inspection in the first week of June 2012, together with two soldiers from Burma Army battalion based in Tibual,” said the Chin local, who asked not to be named.

“Anyone failing to do so would be fined 5,000 kyats. Anyone who cannot pay the amount has to give their belongings worth of 10,000 kyats and they must claim them back with 5,000 kyats within a fixed date,” he continued.

Toilet construction has interrupted the work of the local people, who mostly depend on cultivation and farming. #

Freedom of Religion



posed by the Chin Minister only if the three-point demand, which was faxed on 25 April 2012 to Dr. Ba Maung, is accepted:

1. To construct crosses on the spots where the crosses were destroyed
2. To give church construction permission to Christians in Kyindwe
3. To allocate equal proportion of funds to all religions in Chin State from the Ministry of

Religion.

Christian Meeting Agreed to Demand Re-Construction of Crosses

08 May 2012: Local Christians in Kanpetlet Township of Chin State have agreed during their recent meeting to demand the re-erection of Christian crosses destroyed in Kyindwe village.

The emergency gathering held on 21 April 2012 ahead of meeting with Chin Minister Dr. Ba Maung decided to make a demand of three points from the government of Chin State.

Local Christians said they would attend meetings pro-

A series of peaceful demonstration are planned on 22 and 23 May 2012 by the local Christians in southern parts of Chin State as no proper action has been taken against the demolition of Christian crosses.

U Ling Htun, representative of local Christians and Salai Myo Chin, of youth department of the Chin National Party, organized the emergency meeting on 21 April 2012.

Chin Buddhist youths were ordered to destroy two Christian crosses planted near the newly completed suspension bridge on Mung (Hmolong) River in Kyindwe village, Kanpetlet Township, Chin State on 28 July 2011. #

Buddhist Youths Attacked Chin Christians in Chin State

28 May 2012: Nine local Buddhist youths interrupted a Christian service and physically attacked worshipers in Nga-Shaung (Ng' Ghong) village, Mindat Township of Chin State last Wednesday.

The Chin Buddhists entered Pu Kee Law's house 'uninvited' where a worship service was held around 8pm at night by members of the Gospel Baptist Church (GBC), violently beating up the Christian leaders including Rev. Ling Thang, Rev. Ling Tam and Saya Mnai Ling.

"The Buddhist youths came into Pu Kee Law's house suddenly and ordered the worship service to stop. Then, they started attacking the worship leaders."

One of the local Christian leaders, who eye-witnessed the incident, said: "The Buddhist youths came into Pu Kee Law's house suddenly and ordered the worship service to stop. Then, they started attacking the worship leaders."

"Some [Buddhist youths] grabbed Rev. Ling Thang's hairs, shook his head and punched him all over his body while others kicked Saya Mnai Ling, music leader. They hit and broke the guitar into pieces," added the Christian leader.

Rev. Ling Thang, who is in his 50s, got minor head injuries while the 22 year-old Christian music leader was said to have his nose broken and bleeding in an unprovoked attack.

The nine Buddhist youths led by Pu Mnai Khui Shing pointed their fingers at the Christian leader, saying: "You, Christians, said your God can save you, where is your God to save you now? We do not want Christians in this village. You all Christians get out of this village."

Pu Kee Law was threatened to lock his house and get out of the village by Pu Mnai Khui Shing during the

incident, according to an eye-witness.

The 40-year-old house owner reported details of what had happened during the Christian worship service to the Mindat Police Station on 25 May 2012.

Since last Saturday, three police officers have been assigned to start hunting down the nine Chin Buddhists in Nga-Shaung village and its surrounding areas.

Buddhist leader Mnai Khui Shing has been accused of repeatedly throwing verbal abuses against local Christians and harassing some Christian family members in the past, according to local sources.

One of the Chin Christian government employees said: "What had happened at the house of Pu Kee Law was unfair and discriminatory. He wants justice and reported the case to the police. As Burma has been claimed as a democratic country now, there must be freedom of worship."

The Buddhist attackers include Pu Mnai Khui Shing, a married man in his 30s, Naing Thang, Thang Ha Om, Khui Shing Mang, Ha Thang and Khui Shing Ling in their 20s, and three teenagers, Mnai Khawlam, Om Hning and Kee Thung.

Pu Mnai Khui Shing has been claimed to have intentionally recruited the other eight Buddhists to disrupt the worship service and commit violent assaults against Chin Christian worshipers.

The fresh physical attack against Chin Christians took place while Rev. Ling Tam, a guest speaker, was preaching at a night worship service to a congregation of 15 Christian believers.

Cho-Chin village, Nga-Shaung, in southern parts of Chin State is comprised of 92 households in two blocks, the old Nga-Shaung and the new Nga-Shaung (Mading or Mdüing) with 5 Christian families. The rest of the villagers are Animists and Buddhists with a Buddhist monk from Naungcho Town of Shan State working as their missionary since late 2011.

Reporting by Jeremy Hoipang
jeremyhoipang@rocketmail.com

Other Human Rights Violations



Over 160 Families in Trouble after Forced Relocation in Kalaymyo

16 May 2012:

More than 160 Chin families are struggling to rebuild new houses in Taungphila of Kalaymyo in Sagaing Division after being forced to relocate due to an expansion of Kalaymyo Airport.

The families, who were ordered to move out from Pinlung-7 Ward near the airport in July 2010, are just given a land plot of 40ft by 60ft in a new place as compensation by the authorities, according to a local reporter.

"Families are facing trouble in constructing houses as they haven't got enough money. We heard that some families received a certain amount of money from the authorities while others got nothing. But all of them are now struggling," the Chin reporter told Chinland Guardian.

Up to date, an estimated total of 165 households have been forced for relocation due to the expansion of Kalaymyo Airport since 2010.

The local authorities in charge of the new location

have been accused of taking some plot of land for themselves out of the actual size given to each family, according to another source.

"We were told that we would get an area of land measuring 60ft by 80ft. But what we actually got is only 40ft by 60ft, which means a 20ft-by-20ft plot of land has been missing in the process," a family was quoted as saying.

Some households who had got bigger sizes of land or more than one house near the Kalaymyo Airport are given only one plot of land in the new place of Taungphila, according to the reporter, who conducted interviews with the affected families.

More than 600 family members affected by the ongoing expansion of the Kalaymyo Airport are mostly of Chin ethnicity residing in Pinlong-7 Ward of Kalaymyo.

"We made a report of the situation to the local authorities but no action has been taken regarding this unfair matter facing the local people until today," complained one of the families.

The expansion construction of the airport has been undertaken since March this year by a construction company owned by U Tay Za, a Burmese business tycoon closely linked to Senior General Than Shwe.#

More than 600 family members affected by the ongoing expansion of the Kalaymyo Airport are mostly of Chin ethnicity ...

Chin Locals Interrogated for Lemro Dam Project

07 June 2012: At least four local leaders in Paletwa Township, Chin State have undergone interrogation for about an hour after falsely being accused of threatening engineers and passing information about the ongoing Lemro (Phunglong) Dam Project to news media.

Second Lieutenant U Saw Shwe, Deputy Head of Mrauk-U Police Station in Arakan State, interrogated Pu Ai Lăi, Pu Ma Thang and Pu Kyaw Aye from Khopheishei village and Church of Myanmar Province (Anglican) Pastor Rev. Teng Shū from Tanthaung village on 31 May 2012.

The interrogation took place after one of the engineers in charge of the Lemro Dam Project filed a complaint, accusing the locals of shooting the workers as well as engineers with catapults and of stealing construction materials.

"U Saw Shwe asked if the accusations were true and who were the leaders of the Anti-Lemro Dam Project. The nature of his interrogation was not aggressive but very tense. We don't know what will happen next but we are much worried," said one of the Dai Chin leaders.

When asked about his intervention from Arakan State on Chin issues happening in Chin State, Mrauk-U Deputy Head U Saw Shwe reportedly said he was ordered directly from Naypyidaw to investigate the situation.

Saw Shwe also made it clear that the interrogation was conducted because of the engineer's complaint, sent to Naypyidaw, against publications on the Lemro Dam Project by news media including the Chinland Guardian on 7 April 2012, according to a Christian leader from Mindat, who asked not to be named.

One of the leaders being interrogated was quoted as saying that they were suspected of spreading the news about the ongoing project, adding: "The authorities are still working hard to find out who was responsible."

A Dai Chin leader in exile has accused the government of trying to hide the truth from the people and of ignoring their voices.

Soon after the complaint sent to Naypyidaw by the engineer, U Htay Lwin, of Mindat District Administration Office, made a visit on 21 May 2012 to the site of the

Lemro Dam Project, asking the locals about the accusations.

"Firstly, he [Htay Lwin] asked the engineers and manual workers. Then secondly, he also questioned Khopheishei village leaders including Pu Ma Thang and Pu Kyaw Aye. He raised questions based on the complaint," explained the Chin leader.

"U Htay Lwin also asked why the locals are against the project, how and who organised the Anti-Lemro Dam Project. It was the first investigation in regards to the Lemro Dam Project," added the local leader.

One of the Dai Chin leaders said they had never threatened the engineers and workers to shoot with their bows and arrows and had never shot them with catapults, adding: "No one stole any materials. The site has good security as it is always protected by policemen. We don't dare to approach the site as we are not allowed to even pass by."

Another local Chin said that it was unfair as all the accusations were wrong and the locals felt disappointed because Lemro River has been invaded without their consent.

One of the Chin leaders said: "The locals are not happy with what has been going on with the river that they much depend on for their daily livelihoods. They have created a Facebook campaign 'Save Lemro River' with photos and videos uploaded."

The construction has been carried out on the Lemro River near Khopheishei village under the supervision of ten Chinese and Burmese engineers from Shwetaung Hydro-power Co. Ltd, Junction Model and High Tech Company (Burma), China Datang Overseas Investment Co. Ltd (CDOIC) and Hydro China Xibei Engineering Company (China), according to sources.

The Lemro River Dam Project, a joint venture between China and Burma starting since 2009, has been opposed by the local communities saying it would not benefit but have negative impacts on the local community.

90 percent of the electricity to be generated by the project will be sold to Bangladesh and the remaining 10 percent will be put aside for the government while local people are not informed of the possible impacts, both negative and positive.#

Reporting by Jeremy Hoipang
jeremyhoipang@rocketmail.com

Rescued Chin Maid Admitted to Mental Hospital in Rangoon

23 June 2012: Ms Aung Nang, who was flown from Singapore after working as a housemaid for about 10 months, has been admitted to Ywarthargyi Psychiatric Hospital in Rangoon, Burma since last Monday.

The 23-year-old Khumi Chin has suffered from mental problems due to exploitation and deception by her agents Daw Elly in Singapore and Daw Si Pan in Rangoon with her salary, according to her brother.

Ms Aung Nang earned only 20 Singaporean dollars a month for her work as a housemaid to a Chinese Singaporean family despite promises given to her by her agent that the salary would be 420.

Her agent named Daw Elly from Burma in Singapore took away 400 Singaporean dollars out of her total salary in advance from her employer every month, leaving only 20 for Ms Aung Nang.

"She was not only exploited by her agent but also bullied by her employer in Singapore. After 10 months, she suffered from mental disorder and depression," explained her brother Aung Htat in Rangoon.

Her brother also said her sister arrived in Rangoon from Singapore on 28 May 2012 but had been kept inside the house by her Chin agent Daw Si Pan.

"As soon as I heard the news that my sister got back to Rangoon and was picked up from the airport by Daw Si Pan, I went to her house. However, the agent didn't let me see my sister," added Aung Htat.

With assistance from the police, Aung Htat finally managed to get her sister out from the house detention on 12 June 2012 after he failed to secure her release on three separate occasions.

The Khumi Media Group quoted Aung Htat as saying that Aung Nang got unconscious in the airport when she drank what was thought to be a bottle of water offered by her agent Daw Si Pan.

Daw Si Pan, who is now sued over human trafficking, is said to have received treatment at a hospital in Rangoon after collapsing during an interrogation conducted at a local police station by the police on 12 June 2012.

Originally from Yetakhun village in Paletwa Township of Chin State, Ms Aung Nang went to Singapore on 6 July 2011 through the help of Burmese agents. #

Event & Protest

Demonstration Planned to Protest ZNC Registration Refusal

23 May 2012:

Zomi communities in Australia, Malaysia and Thailand are to protest in front of the Burmese embassy next Monday against recent rejection by Burma's government to ZNC's (Zomi National Congress) application to register as a political party.

The Monday rally will demand an official recognition of 'Zomi' as an ethnic tribal group, equal rights and freedom entitled to ethnic nationalities in the country from the new government of Burma, according to ABC Radio Australia yesterday.

The Zomi Association Australia Inc. (ZAA) said Zomis residing in Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide,

Coffs Harbour and Wollongong cities would meet in Canberra and stage a protest in front of the Burmese Embassy and the house of Australia's Parliament.

Burma's Union Election Commission turned down party registration application of ZNC on the basis that the term 'Zomi' is not included in the 130-plus 'national races' officially recognized by the Burmese government.

ZNC, a political party that won two seats from Chin State during the 1990 Elections, has been asked to change the name of the party and to submit a new application before the end of this month.

ZNC Chairman Pu Chin Sian Thang, 74, said the party is calling an emergency meeting soon to discuss issues relating to the 'unexpected' requirements set by the Election Commission to get registered as a legal political party. #

Former Chin Political Prisoner Named among Hero Award Recipients

27 May 2012: Anthony Kap Khan Khual, who was released in January this year after spending four of his eight-year sentence in Burma, is among five recipients elected for the 'Unknown Hero Award'.

The former Chin political prisoner, together with other four, will be presented the award on 19 June 2012, Aung San Suu Kyi's 67th birthday, in recognition of their commitment and selfless sacrifices for the peoples of Burma, according to DVB.

Kap Khan Khual, youth leader of the Zomi National Congress (ZNC) and nephew of Pu Chin Sian Thang, is expected to receive the 'Unknown Hero Award' in a ceremony to be held at the headquarters of the National League for Democracy (NLD) in Rangoon.

The five heroes elected by the Award's committee of Japan-based Burmese exiles will be awarded a medal and a monetary reward of 10 lakhs in Burmese currency.

When asked about his plans just after his release from Pa-thein Prison, Anthony told Chinland Guardian that he would continue his work as much as he could for the sake of his people and his country.

Arrested during the September 2007 uprising and convicted under the Electronic Act, Kap Khan Khual was freed during the presidential pardon in January 2012 while serving his imprisonment in Burma.#



Kap Khan Khual (Photo: www.zomimessenger.com)

Humanitarian Situation

Storm-Hit Villagers Still Struggling in Chin State

08 May 2012:

Dozens of families in southern parts of Chin State are still struggling to rebuild their lives in the 'devastating' aftermath of a tropical storm that destroyed houses last month.

Over 60 households in Khengsanu of Paletwa Township are left with no shelters after the village was hit hard by strong winds on 7 April 2012.

Pu Bu Thang, village chairman, said: "We haven't got any help so far from the government or any other organizations. Even no one seems to know about the recent natural disaster. We are surviving by helping and sharing each other on our own."

"As our village [Khengsanu] is very far away from the main towns of Paletwa, Matupi, Mindat and Kanpetlet, it is very difficult to report our situation to the government admin offices," added the Dai-Chin village chairman.

A total of 9 houses were completely destroyed, with the rest of the village being severely or partly ruined, according to Pu Bu Thang.

Some homeless families are known to have been temporarily staying in the school building while others share houses, which are also partly damaged by the storm.

A local witness from Mindat town said: "The whole village was chaotic. Children were crying, adults were shouting and domestic animals were screaming and running here and there as the wind blew for almost an hour."

Located in the interior part of southern Chin State, Khengsanu is about 4 to 5 days' walk from Paletwa, Mindat, Matupi and Kanpetlet towns as the remote village is not accessible by car.

Early last month, more than 140 houses were also destroyed by a tropical storm in Thantlang and Tedim townships of Chin State.

Reporting by Jeremy Hoipang
jeremyhoipang@rocketmail.com

Water Shortages Worsen in Falam due to Military Constructions



Bamboo-pipe (left) and plastic pipe used to bring water to community in Chin State (Photo: CHRO)

Parts of the aggravating water problems are also associated with high temperatures during the dry season and a corrupt management of the local municipal department in charge of water supplies.

29 May 2012: The situation of water scarcity has become worse in Falam of Chin State after consumption of a large volume of water for the ongoing construction projects of the military base in the northwestern town.

Burma Army soldiers from Light Infantry Battalion No. 266 based on Vankau Hill in Falam town have been accused of unfairly diverting water from the main pipeline that provides for the people in the hill town of Chin State.

About 70 households in Cinnual together with the Nursing Training School, the Falam Hospital, the Zomi Theological College as well as High School No. 2 have been most affected by the military constructions, according to a local quoted as saying by the Chin World Media.

Parts of the aggravating water problems are also associated with high temperatures during the dry season and a corrupt management of the local municipal department in charge of water supplies.

And the 'decaying' water supply sys-

tem still in use without proper maintenance has been described as a source of water problems facing the Chin locals in Burma's poorest state.

"These days, the people don't get water from the pipeline even once a week any more. The water would run only for about an hour even when it is made available. Then, the soldiers would take control of it again," said the Chin local.

Members of the local Municipal Department have also been accused of re-routing water from the community-shared storage into families who could afford to pay more money.

Some Falam locals are said to have fetched buckets of water by cars or scooters from a stream or pond about 2 miles away from the town.

Last month, people in Hakha town were collected money by the Township Admin Office on the direct order of the government of Chin State for celebrating the Burmese New Year Water Festival amid acute water shortages. #

Situation of Refugees



(Photo: Mangpu)

English Nursery School Opened at Nupo Refugee Camp

24 May 2012:

Refugees from Burma living at the Nupo Refugee Camp along the Thai-Burma border have started a new 'informal' English nursery school with 25 children in a bamboo-built house around mid this month.

The first nursery school that uses English as a teaching language in the refugee camp is established with financial contributions and donations from Chin communities and other organizations as well as individuals.

Mangpu, a leading Chin teacher of the Nursery School, told Chinland Guardian: "We are happy that we could do something for our children here in the camp. We are pleased to work although we have many challenges."

Due to insufficient fund, the initial plans to start an English Primary School this summer has not been successful, according to the Chin teacher.

"Because of some inconvenience, we could not open an English Primary School this year but plan to open it later. The current bamboo school building is 35 feet long and 16 feet wide," added Mangpu.

With limited teaching materials available for the students, the nursery school has got only two volunteer teachers at present.

Camp leaders said they are working hard to raise fund for establishing an English-medium primary school that will teach four subjects including English, Mathematics, Social Studies and Hygiene to children from the kindergarten to Grade-1 classes.

The primary school is planned to accept about 80 refugee children in the camp as students no matter what religion and ethnicity they belong to, according to the leaders.

More than 50 Chin children under the age of 13 are currently stranded in the Nupo Refugee Camp, home to about 5,537 students out of an estimated total population of 15,000 with the majority being Karen. #



(Photo: Mangpu)

Fraud Allegations Prompt UN Investigation of Chin Refugee Groups

19 June 2012: The UNHCR in Malaysia has since late last month taken investigative measures against some Chin communities in Kuala Lumpur over a fraudulent practice committed among member refugees.

Chin refugee communities are still going through a series of investigations after being accused of taking money from their member refugees during the UNHCR name-recording process, which was to be conducted free of charge.

A UNHCR staff member in Malaysia was quoted by a Chin newsletter as saying of their knowledge that some leaders of the Chin refugee communities had taken bribes for the name-listing programme, adding: "Only after we could identify those responsible for this kind of fraud will the name-recording resume."

UNHCR's new move called 'Bio-Data Collecting Exercise' was conducted in collaboration with members of COBEM (Coalition of Burma Ethnic, Malaysia) from 10

April 2012 in attempts to record details of 'undocumented' Chin asylum seekers ahead of a major crackdown planned by the Malaysian authorities.

The programme has been suspended since 25 May 2012 following the 'bribery' allegations after the UNHCR had completed the name-recording of Chin refugees staying outside of Kuala Lumpur and of refugees of other ethnic groups from Burma.

One of the Chin refugees, who returned from the Full Gospel Assembly Church where the name-listing was scheduled to take place, told Chinland Guardian: "When I got there, I was told that the name collection has been postponed because some Chin communities took money from their members."

A Chin woman in her late forties complained: "All 'undocumented' Chin refugees in Kuala Lumpur have now suffered because of one or two money-loving leaders. They [community leaders] are to help but not to make us suffer like this."

It is claimed that there are more than 10,000 undocumented Chin refugees and asylum seekers stranded in Kuala Lumpur alone, out of an estimated total of over 45,000 in Malaysia.#

Chin Refugee Family Made Homeless due to Overdue Payments in Delhi

27 June 2012 - NEW DELHI: A Chin refugee family of three including a one-year-old baby have been made homeless in New Delhi, India since 12 June 2012 after being unable to pay the rent for six months.

The Indian landlord locked out the room rented in Bindapur area, Janakpuri of New Delhi by Mr. Van Ngai, 21, and wife Decemhing, 20, with their baby son as the Chin family could not afford to make their payments.

Van Ngai said: "My family try our best to survive as a refugee but unfortunately due to many problems, we could not pay the rent for months and have owed our land-

lord a total amount of 11,800 Rupees. As our room was locked, we are not allowed to get our documents including the UNHCR cards and other belongings back."

"I earned about 3,500 Rupees a month from my work but was not enough for our expenses as we have a baby and my wife has got health problems. My son has got skin diseases since birth and there are wounds all over his body. We go to a government hospital in our area and the medicines cost us at least Rs 600-1000 per month for his medication," added Van Ngai, from Matupi Township in Chin State, Burma.

Currently, the 'evicted' Chin refugee family has been temporarily accommodated by a Falam Chin widow in her rented apartment with her four children, three daughters and one son.

"We are so worried now as a local Indian landlord has started complaining that too many people are staying in his apartment. We feel so concerned for the host family as our baby keeps crying especially during the night,"

The Chin family eventually approached the implementing partners of the UNHCR including SLIC (Socio-Legal Information Centre), Women Protection Centre and Don Bosco for help but in vain.

"Now, we are temporarily sheltering at one of our refugee colleagues and the landlord also complaints us a lot and we are in a very difficult situation since we have no money to contribute for daily food. We don't even have clothes and some refugees are donating for us," said the wife, from Valangpi village in Matupi Township, Chin State.—

continued on next page

Mrs Van Ngai expressed her deep concern about their belongings, especially the UNHCR certificates and medical documents as they are the only IDs they have for future references.

It is confirmed that the room, previously rented by Van Ngai and his family, has recently been occupied by other tenants and that the belongings are still in the hands of the Indian landlord.

"My husband was dismissed from his job as he was absent for three days due to this unfortunate situation.

We wrote an application to UNHCR and we are waiting for their reply. We are much worried since Don Bosco could not help us and we don't know how to handle this situation," Decemhing said.

Van Ngai and wife Decemhing arrived in New Delhi on 1 March 2008 as refugees after having fled their native Chin State due to various forms of repressive measures inflicted upon the locals by Burma's military authorities.

Reporting by A Hmun

About 800 out of over an estimated 45,000 Chin refugees currently stranded in Malaysia are of Khumi Chin tribe from Burma.



Khumi Chin community at funeral in Malaysia (Photo: KMG)

Chin Refugee Woman Hit to Death by Car in Malaysia

28 June 2012: Chin refugee woman Ma Seaug Koe, 22, died on the scene after being hit by a car in Kajang town in Selangor, about 13 miles away from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia around 9:30 pm last Monday.

The incident took place while the 22-year-old Khumi Chin, originally from Karameik village in Paletwa Township, Chin State, Burma, was crossing the road with her husband, Aih Aung Than, on their way home from shopping at night.

The Khumi Chin community in Malaysia sent their deep sympathies and condolences to husband Aih Aung Than and her

family as well as relatives, who in remote parts of Chin State might not have received news about Seaug Koe's untimely death.

Her body was first taken by the Malaysian police and kept in a mortuary at a local hospital in the region in Malaysia, according to the Khumi Media Group (KMG).

Ko Lwin Lwin, Coordinator of Paletwa Khumi Community in Malaysia, said a funeral service was held at the Sungai Buloh cemetery on Tuesday with over 40 Khumi Chin refugees.

It is estimated that there are about 800 Khumi Chin refugees currently stranded in Malaysia.

Reporting by Peter Lu

Chin State Government & Chin National Front



Delegation of CNF and government officials of Chin State during their second round peace talk in Hakha (Photo: CG)

CNF Delegation Arrives in Chin State for 2nd Round of Peace Talks

2 May 2011:

A 17-member delegation of the armed group Chin National Front has arrived in Chin State's capital Hakha for a second round of talks with the Burmese government as part of the ongoing peace process between the two adversaries.

The two sides are to discuss further plans towards the peace process and to define the "Terms of Reference" regarding the original nine-point agreement reached between the two parties in January 2012.

Developing the terms of reference or 'TOR' in the cease-fire process has been seen as crucial to maintaining an effective mechanism towards halting armed hostilities as both parties try to observe the agreement. The ToR is supposed to be the operational basis for determining the specific role of each group in meeting the points of the agreement.

Some of the points of the original agreement, among others, include provisions that would allow the CNF and its unarmed members to travel across Burma freely and for the two sides to work together on 'development projects' in Chin State as a preliminary confidence-building measure before substantive political settlement takes place.

The CNF, which took up arms following the 1988 uprising in Burma, has been demanding self-determination in the form of local autonomy and a federal democracy in Burma.

Further talks are to be held between the two parties to discuss more substantive political issues, according to the original agreement.

From the Burmese side the talks will involve Railway Minister U Aung Min, Forest Minister U Win Htun, as well as Chin State Chief Minister ex-Brig-General Hung Ngai, Border and Security Affairs Minister Col. Zaw Min Oo. CNF will be represented by a 17-member delegation led by its chief negotiator Dr. Sui Khar, who also led the previous rounds of peace talks on the CNF's behalf.

According to the official statement from the CNF released on Monday, the discussion will be focused on mechanisms for cease-fire monitoring, peaceful resolution of conflict, fundamental human rights and the issues affecting the Chin Diasporas.

The CNF delegation, which arrived through Falam Town to Hakha, is set to leave for Matupi in the southern part of Chin State before heading back to the capital for official talks with the Burmese delegations from both the State and Union levels.

The CNF delegation was received in the capital by Chief Minister Hung Ngai and senior cabinet members. Facilitated by the Chin Peace and Tranquility Committee led by Christian religious leaders, the peace



The Chin National Front

Chin Self-Determination, Democracy and Federalism

New CNF-Govt Agreement Defines Terms of Peace Process

9 May 2012: A new agreement between the Burmese government and the armed resistance group Chin National Front this week has defined the terms of the peace process, bringing more clarity to the 9-points preliminary cease-fire agreement in January 2012, and paving a way for greater level of trust between the two former adversaries.

Scheduled for a two-day discussion on 7-8 May, the negotiation between the CNF and the Burmese Union-level delegation wrapped up in just one day, as much of the proposals put forward by the Chin side were agreed to by the Burmese delegation.

The agreement, signed between Burmese Railway Minister Aung Min and Dr. Sui Khar of CNF outlines specific terms of reference (ToR) for each of the nine-point original agreement between the two parties early this year. The stated rationale is to ensure that both parties observe the ceasefire to avoid military confrontation in order to move the peace process forward so that they can work together towards a permanent political settlement of the long-standing conflict in Burma.

Speaking to Chinland Guardian from Hakha, Dr. Salai Ngun Cung Lian, the CNF delegation's spokesperson who participated in the previous negotiation said, "We feel that there has been more openness from the government side compared to the first round of negotiation. The fact that the negotiating team from their [government] side now includes different government ministries, as well as military command structure, shows their seriousness about this [peace] process."

The Burmese side was represented by Railway Minister Aung Min as chief negotiator, and accompa-

nied by Forestry Minister Win Htun, two Deputy Ministers from the Electricity Energy (I) and Border and Security Affairs Ministry, Deputy Attorney-General, General Zaw Win from the Department of Defense and key representatives from the Northwestern and Western Commands – both of which has command responsibility for Chin State. State-level delegation included Chief Minister Hung Ngai and Col. Zaw Min Oo, Border and Security Affairs Minister.

The CNF side was represented by a 17-member delegation led by Dr. Sui Khar as chief negotiator and Dr. Salai Ngun Cung Lian as a deputy.

For the first time since the initial peace negotiation with the ethnic armed groups began late last year, the CNF-Burmese govt. talks included third party independent observers with representatives of the Norwegian Peace Initiative and the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO). Ashley South from the NPI and Salai Bawi Lian Mang of CHRO were present in the meeting to observe the talks.

However, the parties did not arrive at an agreement on two points due to technical reasons.

According to the CNF delegation spokesperson, the two points are on the Special Economic Zone and the proposal on the CNF side to freely distribute past and current CNF publications to the Chin public. Salai Ngun Cung Lian told Chinland Guardian that in the case of the SEZ the government is rewriting the law regarding SEZ and that it would be futile to define the terms while there would be a new law governing the Special Economic Zone. He said that the government peace team has pointed out that allowing the CNF publication to be distributed freely would amount to infringing on the mandate of the Censorship Board, and that the delegation will consult with the Board first.

—continued on next page

Text of CNF-Govt Agreement (Unofficial Translation by CG)

17 May 2012: *Chinland Guardian* is pleased to present the unofficial translation by CG of the 15-point agreement between the Chin National Front and the Burmese Union-level Peace Team specifying the Terms of Reference for the original preliminary 9-point agreement in January.

Points of Agreement between the Chin National Front and the Union-level Peace Delegation in the Presence of Witnesses from Peace Facilitators

The following agreement having been solemnly reached on the 7th of May 2012 between the Chin National Front and Union-level Peace Team in the presence of witnesses from peace facilitators upon frank and sincere discussion, is aimed at specifying the terms of reference that each party is obligated to observe, implement and materialize on a step-by-step basis, based on the nine-point original preliminary agreement on the 6th of January 2012 at Hakha, Chin State between the CNF and State Govt-level Peace Team, towards realizing eternal peace, justice, equality and socio-economic development through peaceful cooperation.

Point of Agreement (No 1) On Ceasefire

The Union-level Peace Team reaffirms the preliminary agreement between the Chin State Government-level peace team and the Chin National Front Peace Team reached on January 6, 2012 as having valid and effective on the date of entry with the view of putting a stop to military confrontation and other kinds of hostilities between the two parties towards finding solution to a permanent peace. On this basis, the two parties agreed to work together in ensuring that conflicts are put to an end throughout the Union so that there are no longer military and other hostilities.

Point of Agreement (No 2) Agreement Relating to the Establishment of Temporary Bases in Accordance with the Preliminary Agreement

The parties further agreed to enable members of the Chin National Front and the Chin National

Army to establish bases and move freely, without limitation, within the areas designated for such temporary bases as outlined in the original preliminary mutual agreement between the Chin National Front and Chin State/Union Government: Tlangpi, Dawn and Zangtlang Village Tracts of Thantlang Township, and Zampi and Bukphir Village Tracts of Tedim Township. With regards to the establishment of CNF bases in Kung Pyin, Para and Pathiantlang Village Tracts of Paletwa Townships, the parties also agreed to carry on further discussion at the second-round Union-level talks considering that those areas fall within the command responsibility of the Western Command. Furthermore, the parties agree to discuss further at the second-round Union-level talks matter pertaining to additional demand regarding the establishment of CNF bases within Thantlang Township's Belhar, Vanzang, Lungding Village Tracts, as well as Lulpilung village; Tedim Township's Dampi, Tui Dial Village Tracts; Paletwa Township's Ra O and Shweletwa Village Tracts, as well as Ra Kan Village.

Effective from the date of signing this Union-level agreement, if the Myanmar Army and Myanmar Police Force wishes to carry out activities to facilitate the peace process within the temporary base areas designated for the Chin National Front and Chin National Army, they can only do so by pre-informing such a plan to pertinent Liaison Offices, which shall have been agreed to by both sides in advance. In case of emergency situation, both sides may execute troop movements upon informing the pertinent local commanders from the other side. However, the pertinent Liaison Office shall be informed of this at the earliest possible time.

Outside of the designated temporary bases, all members of the Chin National Front and the Chin National Army, barring wearing military uniforms or bearing arms, have the same rights as other citizens of the Union of Burma to freely move legally within all territories of the Union of Myanmar effective upon this Union-level agreement, in accordance with the original preliminary agreement. Where situation arises for the need to make troop movement or other matters in which arms should be carried, prior permission must be sought with the nearest Myanmar Army camps and after obtaining approval from both sides, which shall have granted such permission for travel within designated routes.

Point of Agreement (No 3) Rights and Responsibilities of Liaison Offices

The preliminary agreement stipulated that Liaison Offices shall be established in Thanglang, Tedim and Matupi Towns. Such establishment was to carry out upon that agreement. In this context, the parties agreed to ensure that the Liaison Officer will be provided treatment consistent with diplomatic protocols that reflect his position within the CNF if such a person is a member of the Central Committee of the CNF. The Chin State Government shall provide necessary measures to ensure the physical security of the Liaison Officer. The parties agreed to observe the agreed rules of ceasefire within the above-mentioned territorial areas and in accordance with the existing laws of the Chin State Government.

Point of Agreement (No 4) Basic Principles for Political Dialogue

As was agreed upon during the State-level talks, the political talks at the Union-level dialogue will be based on the ideals of the "Three National Causes": Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and the perpetuation of national sovereignty. The parties agreed that such a dialogue will be held with the view to establish a genuine Union based on the ideals of equality and self-determination rooted in the Spirit of Panglong.

Point of Agreement (No 5) On Matters Regarding International Agreements

During the Union-level talks, consideration will be made regarding the international agreements that have been acceded to by the Government of the Union of Myanmar, as well as other international human rights moral obligations.

Point of Agreement (No 6) On Public Consultation

The parties agreed that the Chin National Front can freely hold consultations with relevant responsible persons and the larger public towards durable peace in the Union of Myanmar based on its three objectives and the 'Three National Causes'.

Point of Agreement (No 7)

On Matters Regarding Humanitarian Organizations

The parties agreed on principle that the relevant Union Ministries will issue licenses to both international and local humanitarian organizations desiring to implement humanitarian work inside Chin State when such requests have been made to the CNF. The parties agreed that in carrying out humanitarian work inside Chin State, the CNF shall be consulted when a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between the Chin State Government and a humanitarian organization that has been granted permission by the Union Government.

Point of Agreement (No 8) Promoting Human Resources and Capitals

Organizations working for the promotion of socio-economic progress and development of human resources, whether based inside the country or exile, for the benefit of Chin State and Chin people, shall freely operate in Chin State with prior consultation with relevant governments and in accordance with the existing laws.

Point of Agreement (No 9) Joint Effort to Eradicate Illegal Drugs

The Chin National Front will cooperate with different levels of drug eradication bodies at the State, District, Township, Wards and Village Tracts, which has been established in accordance with the Government's Order No. 17/2011 towards curbing narcotics and other mind-altering drugs.

Point of Agreement (No 10) On Visas

The parties agreed that the Union-level Peace Team will assist in issuing visas and necessary permits for Chin nationals who have made such a request to CNF, who have obtained citizenship from other countries wanting to make a visit to the Union of Myanmar.

Point of Agreement (No 11) Chin National Day

The parties shall strive towards official re-recognition of February 20 as the Chin National Day. They will strive towards recognizing February 3 as the Chin State Day.

**Point of Agreement (No 12)
Matters Regarding the Chin National Front
and Chin National Army**

The Chin National Front and Chin National Army remain unlawful organizations under the existing laws. The parties, therefore, agreed to do away with this designation once sufficient level of confidence has been built towards eternal peace.

The parties agreed that the Union-level Peace Team submit to the President the need to declare amnesty to anyone who have been arrested and imprisoned on account of CNF and CNA since the establishment of the organization, effective the date of the signing of this agreement.

The parties agreed to provide the immigration department of Chin State each copies of CNF identity card. All individuals who have been issued identity cards by the CNF shall have the right to obtain the National Identity Card from the Immigration Department.

The parties agreed that the Union-level Peace Team shall carry forward with removing such names in accordance with the law that have been blacklisted as members of the CNF.

The parties agreed that there shall be complete immunity for any members of Chin National Front and Chin National Army after the signing of this CNF-Union-level agreement from retrospective criminal prosecution.

**Point of Agreement (No 13)
On Basic Human Rights**

The Constitution of the Union of Myanmar, Article (449), states that 'the Constitution is the basic law of the nation.' As such, freedom from interference, obstruction, restrictions, discrimination and physical abuse against religious practice under articles 34, 348, 362, 363, 354 (e) of the Constitution, cannot be alienated except in situations of "Widespread civil war, foreign invasion and civil uprising in the whole Union". The parties agreed to cooperate in working towards ensuring the non-violation of these constitutional provisions.

The parties agreed to cooperate in ensuring unconditional and due punishment for anyone for viola-

tions of basic human rights in accordance with the law, as well as ensuring that no parties violates the constitutional basic human rights of the people in the future during the course of the ceasefire agreement. This is grounded in the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Burma under Chapter 8 "Citizens, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens" – rights that cannot be abrogated except in situation of "Widespread civil war, foreign invasion and civil uprising in the whole Union".

Both parties agreed to not engage in activities that run counter to the constitution, in Chin State such as forced labor, slavery, human trafficking etc. during the term of the ceasefire agreement in accordance with Article 358 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Burma.

**Point of Agreement (No 14)
Ceasefire Monitoring Body**

It is agreed that both parties shall consultatively form a "Ceasefire Monitoring Body", whose role will be to monitor observance of the peace agreements by the two parties with the view of materializing permanent peace out of the initial ceasefire. This group will primarily consist of the Chin Peace and Tranquillity Committee with the participation of other legal experts.

The parties agreed that the Ceasefire Monitoring Body shall immediately send notice to the 'Crisis Mediation Group' in the event that the Union Government, the Myanmar Army, Myanmar Police Force, Chin State Government, Chin National Front and Chin National Army failed to observe any of points of the agreements, including the preliminary 9-point ceasefire agreements.

The parties agreed in principle to institute and duly authorize independent and impartial international observer groups when such need arises.

**Point of Agreement (No 15)
Institution of Peace Mediating Body**

While both parties have agreed to strictly avoid accidental confrontation and to strictly observe the mutual agreement, the parties shall accept the final arbitration of the crisis mediating body should there be any such physical violence resulting from the accidental nature.

It is agreed that such a mediating body shall be formed under the leadership of the Chin State Border Areas and Security Affairs Minister that will also involve Liaison Officer of the Chin National Front and the Chin National Army in charge of the areas where such incident took place, or commander or in-charge of the Chin National Army, commander of the Myanmar Army or Police Force, and Chairman of the Chin Peace Monitoring Body or such duly authorized person.

The Minister (Chin State Border Areas and Security Affairs Minister) call a meeting within seven days of receiving a report of allegations about a breach of any of the preliminary or Union-level agreements having been reported by Liaison Officer of the Chin National Front/Chin National Army, responsible person(s) of the Myanmar Army, the Ceasefire Monitoring Body so that such matters can be resolved peacefully.

If the two parties agreed on a decision having been reached by the Crisis Mediation Body, which is based on the preliminary 9-point agreement, such a decision will be considered final.

If such a decision cannot be agreed to by one or

both parties, an alternative peaceful solution will be sought with the involvement of leaders of the CNF/CNA, members of the Chin State Government, relevant members of the Western and Northwestern Commands of the Myanmar Army, members of the Union Peace Team and Crisis Mediating Body.

The above 15-point has been solemnly entered into an agreement on 7th May 2012, 2 Kasone 1374 of the Myanmar Calendar, at the Union Guesthouse in Hakha, the capital of Chin State. In signing this agreement, the parties mutually recognize without reservation, the obligation for full observation and, of following through the terms of the agreement, having accepted the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, perpetuation of national sovereignty, and the flourishing of the ethnic affairs and democracy as the basic principles of the agreement.

editor@chinlandguardian.com

Note: *Chinland Guardian requests any news organization wishing to re-post this on their websites to do so provided that Chinland Guardian is properly cited as the translator.*

Statement

Family's Statement in Commemoration of Student Leader Salai Tin Maung Oo

26 June 2012: *The Chinland Guardian is pleased to present a statement of Salai Tin Maung Oo's family on the 36th anniversary of his execution carried out by the military regime in Burma's notorious Insein Prison on 26 June 1976.*

Today marks the 36th anniversary of the unjust execution of student leader Salai Ko Tin Maung Oo. Even though it has been 36 years, our family's hearts are still crushed, saddened at the remembrance of our beloved brother and son.

Especially today, on the anniversary of his execution, we think of how he would have been spending his last hours, how he would have been feeling emotionally, and what he would have been thinking about in his jail cell.

Salai Ko Tin Maung Oo was the type of individual

who dearly loved not only his parents and siblings, but also all people who were being oppressed under the rule of the military dictators in Burma.

His heart must have been breaking because the military government had held his innocent parents accountable for his actions. On Friday, 25 June 1976, the day before his execution, they let him briefly meet with each of his parents, both of who were also in prison because the government had held them accountable for Salai Ko Tin Maung Oo's actions. His parents didn't know that he was going to be executed the very next day.

However, Salai Ko Tin Maung Oo knew that he was going to be put to death. He knew this was going to be the last time he would see his beloved mother and father. In spite of this, he could not bring himself to tell his loving parents that he was going to be executed. He could see that the military government had given his innocent parents 5-year prison sentences because of him. We can't even imagine how much emotional pain he must have felt upon seeing their faces



Salai Tin Maung Oo (Photo: www.chinworld.info)

that day. This demonstrates the cruelty of the military dictators. Not only were they going to kill Salai Ko Tin Maung Oo, but they also wanted to torment his emotions before his death.

Salai Ko Tin Maung Oo was a very healthy and athletic individual. When the executioners triggered the gallows, he was so strong that he did not die easily. He fought for his breath as he hung there. When they saw that he was not going to die easily, one of the cold-hearted perpetrators climbed onto Salai Ko Tin Maung Oo's shoulders and repeatedly jumped upon his shoulders in order to inflict more injury, insuring his death. This is the inhumane way that Salai Ko Tin Maung Oo's life was ended. This is the inhumane way that a dictator is willing to kill a university student.

Salai Ko Tin Maung Oo was simply a university student. During his lifetime, he expressed his desire to see a better future for his people, the people of Burma. This is not a crime. His execution was a crime.

As a young university student, only 24 years old, he faced his death with courage and conviction in his heart. His last words on the gallows were, "You can kill my body, but you can never kill my beliefs and what I stand for. I will never kneel down under military boots!" He believed that as long as dictatorial rule exists, the people would suffer injustices. That was the

truth, the conviction, which he held within his heart at all times.

Sadly, 36 years after Salai Ko Tin Maung Oo's death the military regime's dictatorial rule still exists in Burma. At the same time that our hearts are saddened at the thought of Salai Ko Tin Maung Oo, our family's hearts go out to all the victims and families who have been afflicted in so many ways under the military regime.

On 7 July 1962 the student union building was dynamited; in June 1974 the General Workers' Strike occurred in which the workers asked for more rice for their families, but were mercilessly killed instead; in December 1974 there was the U Thant Uprising in which students, civilians, and monks were violently murdered; in 1975 there was the Anniversary of the General Workers' Strike; in March 1976 there was the Thakin Kodaw Hmaing Centennial March; in 1988 there was the 8-8-88 Peoples' Uprising in which thousands of people were slaughtered; there are victims from the Depayin Massacre of May 2003; and in 2007 there was the Saffron Monk Uprising.

Throughout all of these, there have been countless victims, and those who are even now becoming victims, of the civil war that is continually raging in the ethnic areas, and currently raging in the Kachin state in particular. Women are being raped; homes and entire villages are being pillaged and burned to the ground; and family members are being put into forced labor, never to be seen again by their loved ones.

It is completely unacceptable that those who committed the crimes are being protected by impunity, found in Article 445 of the 2008 constitution. Those unremorseful criminals are walking free, enjoying their impunity. The law of impunity should be abolished and all the victims should be able to freely seek justice. There should be a thorough examination of all the heinous crimes that have been committed by the Burmese military regime. Otherwise, how can one say that the rule of law exists within Burma?

The current regime in Burma should take note of what has happened recently around the world to other dictators, as well as to ones who have committed crimes against humanity, such as Muammar Gaddafi of Libya, Kaing Guek Eav of Cambodia, Charles Taylor of Liberia, Milosevic of Yugoslavia, and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.—*continued on next page*

It is sad to see that no one in the so-called "civilian" government and none of the politicians or political parties, are sufficiently focusing on these victims or their rights. The so-called reconciliation process has been silent on this critical issue of recognition of victims' rights. We believe that genuine national reconciliation cannot be attained without first formally acknowledging the victims and their rights by the state; then, holding accountable those who committed heinous crimes so that similar crimes are never committed again; and then, effectively transforming state institutions such as the judiciary, the army, the police, and other security forces so that they become mechanisms for seeking human rights, justice, freedom, and peace, rather than oppressive tools for successive military dictators. If those steps are not taken, then the healing process for the victims will never be complete.

In order to facilitate the above-mentioned three-step healing process for the victims, we demand the newly created military regime, which camouflages itself with

civilian dress, to start implementing, inter alia, the following measures at the very least, if it wants to prove its political will to establish a genuine national reconciliation:

- (1) To formally announce now that a documentation process for all the victims of heinous crimes, including the students who were massacred on 7 July 1962, will be initiated by the state as soon as possible;
- (2) To keep memorial records along with brief biographies of student leaders who have sacrificed their lives, in the new Student Union building, which should be established soon; and,
- (3) To allow the formation and operation of student unions nationwide freely, and to this end, amend all laws deemed necessary.

Salai Ko Tin Maung Oo's family in Canada

Poem

I Want to Go Home C. Van Lian Tu

I well remembered the night, violent but silent
It was dark and even the dogs dared not bark
Only my family and buddies shared the daunting chill
Of that instant I left my motherland against my own will!

I sat on the hilltop though my heartbeats didn't stop
It was cold but the heated feelings inside stood bold
Only the blood and the flesh seemed to know the reality
Of what had happened in Chinland and O, her liberty!

I stared at the unlit houses as the night birds sang
It was faraway but my love and loyalty didn't go astray
Only women and children guarded the wooden gate
Of a helpless Chin village against the invading brigade!

I turned grey as I prayed and struggled for the new sun
It was, aha, o'er twenty years since a drop of my first tears
Only now a ray of hope dimly shines upon the lonely hills
Of a land stripped of her peace and freedom today till

I want to go home now, I want to go home now!
It's the land of my ancestors and where I belong
Only you and I can heal the ill, the wound and the pain
Of Chinland enslaved long under the hands of many a villain

Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO)

www.chro.ca

2-Montavista Avenue, Nepean, K2J 2L3, Canada
Ph: 1-613-843-9484; Email: info@chro.ca

Cartoon



MOST
POPULAR
CANDLE (WAX) ...
IN THE
WORLD



VAPUAL 12