

TRAINED TO TORTURE

Systematic war crimes by the Burma Army in
Ta'ang areas of northern Shan State
(March 2011 - March 2016)



By Ta'ang Women's Organization (TWO)

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SUMMARY

TWO documentation of human rights violations in Ta’ang areas of northern Shan State from March 2011 to March 2016 provides evidence that the Burma Army is committing war crimes, on a widespread, systematic basis – in particular torture, shelling of civilian targets, and forcing civilians to be porters and human shields.

Since 2011, despite the ongoing peace process, the Burma Army has been expanding its forces and launching large-scale

offensives against ethnic resistance forces in northern Shan State, including the Ta’ang National Liberation Army (TNLA). The number of Burma Army troops in Ta’ang areas has increased fourfold from over 3,000 in 2011 to over 12,000 in 2016, with at least 7 combat divisions deployed from central Burma. Fierce attacks, including aerial bombing, have caused displacement of over 14,000 Ta’ang villagers, most of whom remain unable to return home.

The most frequently documented violations, constituting war crimes, are summarized below:

Violations	Location	No. of villagers suffering from violation	No. of Burma Army battalions/divisions committing violations
Torture	33 villages, 8 townships	117	18
Shelling/ bombing of civilian targets	29 villages, 9 townships	Thousands endangered, 17 killed, 35 injured	19
Forced portering; use as human shields	24 villages, 7 townships	Over 1,000	20

In particular, the widespread use of torture provides compelling evidence that war crimes are being committed systematically. Many of the 117 civilians tortured – including village leaders and a monk -- suffered serious injury or mental derangement. Four died as a result of the torture.

The most common torture methods involved tying up villagers with rope, kicking and beating them with guns. Video evidence of this torture was widely circulated on social media, when 11 villagers were tortured by troops of IB 324 and Pansay militia troops in Say Kin village, Namkham township on December 23, 2015.

Other torture methods used by Burmese government troops include suffocation with plastic bags, pouring petrol down throats, stabbing with knives, burning, and slicing skin off villagers' arms. TWO has also documented three incidents of skinning alive, before killing, of eight TNLA prisoners of war, by Burmese government troops.

The similarity of torture methods used by troops from local as well as centrally-based battalions, indicates they are included in combat training and authorized as standard practice, despite

the fact that torture is a blatant war crime.

Other repeatedly committed crimes include extrajudicial killing, sexual violence, looting and destruction of property. Military confidence of impunity for rape prevails. On November 25, 2015, a soldier raped a mute girl in full view of other villagers, who did not dare intervene because he was armed.

TWO is gravely concerned that the Burma Army, which remains exempt from civilian oversight under the current constitution, is not only continuing its offensives in the ethnic areas in defiance of the “peace process”, but is also systematically committing war crimes against the ethnic peoples in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law.

It is urgently needed for the National League for Democracy (NLD) to act to curb the military's power, its criminal practices and impunity. Simply sharing power with the Burma Army under the current government will only maintain the military status quo, perpetuating the war and condemning the ethnic peoples to untold ongoing suffering.

TWO therefore make the following urgent demands:

To the new NLD-led government:

- To authorize an immediate ceasefire throughout the country, and begin a new fully inclusive peace process, in which all ethnic resistance forces can take part in genuine political dialogue.
- To denounce and call for an end to the human rights violations including the shelling of civilians areas being committed by the Burma Army in the ethnic areas.
- To set up an independent fact-finding commission to investigate Burma Army war crimes
- To invite the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC) to carry out an investigation into war crimes committed by the Burma Army.
- To allow humanitarian aid agencies to freely access and assist IDPs in conflict areas until it is safe for them to return home voluntarily.

To the international community:

- To pressure the Burmese government to stop the Burma Army offensives and abuses against ethnic peoples, and to allow aid agencies to freely access and assist all IDP populations.
- To immediately end all military-to military engagement with the Burma Army, as it has had no impact on its systematic criminal practices, and has simply legitimized an abusive institution.
- To prioritize aid for the basic humanitarian needs of IDPs and refugees in all locations, and provide this aid through local community based organizations.

METHODOLOGY

TWO's Information Documentation and Research Department was set up in 2006 to document human right violations in Ta'ang areas, with the aim of seeking truth and justice for local communities.

Information is collected through a network of field workers in Ta'ang areas, who interview community members that are victims and eyewitnesses of abuses, opening a space for them to share their experience and voice their feelings and concerns.

This report is a compilation of human rights violations documented by TWO's field workers between March 2011 and March 2016 in areas they have been able to access in the following townships and sub-townships of northern Shan State: Namkham, Namsan, Mogoke, Mongmit, Muse, Kutkhai, Tarmony, Namtu, Mantong and Tangyan.

After compilation, the violations were analyzed by TWO staff in relation to international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions, their added protocols, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

BACKGROUND

The Ta'ang (Palaung) people are one of the indigenous ethnic people of Burma, with a population numbering over one million. The majority of Ta'ang people live in northern Shan State, with some living in southern and eastern Shan State. The Ta'ang people are traditionally hill dwellers, who in the past enjoyed self-rule and a self-sufficient economy, mainly depending on tea and paddy cultivation. The customary lands of the Ta'ang people are rich in gems and minerals such as silver, zinc, gold and aluminum.

However, decades of dictatorship have left control of most resources in the hands of the Burmese military and their cronies. The tea industry has been monopolized, driving down prices of tea and causing loss of livelihoods. Increasing numbers of Ta'ang farmers have been forced to migrate, or have turned to opium growing for survival. This has caused widespread drug addiction among Ta'ang men, as documented in previous PWO reports “Poisoned Flowers” (2006) “Poisoned Hills” (2010) and “Still Poisoned” (2011), and a growing incidence of trafficking of Ta'ang women and girls, mainly to China, as documented in PWO's 2011 report “Stolen Lives”.

Ta'ang people have suffered decades of abuse and oppression from the Burmese military. To resist this, some Ta'ang leaders formed the Palaung State Liberation Army (PSLA) in 1963, with the aim of restoring democracy and a federal system in Burma. However, in 1991, the PSLA agreed to a cease-fire with the Burmese government, without any guarantee of rights for the Ta'ang people. Later, the PSLA were forced to disarm in 2005.

The disarming of the PSLA created more economic and social problems for the Ta'ang people, as without PSLA protection they became more vulnerable to human rights violations and the drug scourge flourishing in areas under the control of the Burma Army and its militia allies.

In 2011, Ta'ang people in northern Shan State were impacted by the Burma Army's new offensives, breaking a 22-year ceasefire with the Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA) and a 17-year ceasefire with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA). These offensives, aimed to force the ethnic armies to become Border Guard Forces under the Burma Army, led to large scale displacement of communities



IDPs arriving in Nampatkar in March, 2016, Photo by PWO

throughout Kachin and northern Shan State.

To protect their people, and to push for their right to self-determination, a new Ta'ang armed group, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), formed by former PSLA/PSLF members, began military operations in Ta'ang areas in late 2011.

Since then, the TNLA, together with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Kokang resistance force, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), has come under heavy attack by the Burmese military in northern Shan State. The offensives have involved widespread, systematic abuses against civilians, and led to large-scale displacement.

Since 2011, TWO has documented the displacement of over 14,200 villagers in Ta'ang areas (see detailed list of displacement in appendix). Most of those displaced are sheltering in IDP camps in northern Shan State, or in makeshift refugee camps in China. Only about 2,000 have been able to return home.

Burma Army expansion and spread of conflict in Ta'ang areas

In 2011, there were about 36 Burma Army battalions operating in Ta'ang areas of northern Shan State. These included ten battalions under the Kyaukme-based Military Operations Command (MOC) 1, and ten under the Hsenwi-based MOC 16. With each battalion comprising about 100 soldiers, this totalled over 3,000 troops stationed in these areas.

Since then, TWO has recorded a further estimated 90 battalions deployed into Ta'ang areas, mainly as part of combat divisions from central Burma (Infantry Divisions 11, 33, 55, 66, 77, 88, 99), bringing the total number of troops up to over 12,000 in Ta'ang areas.

Jet fighters and helicopters from Lashio and Mandalay have also increasingly been used for aerial bombing during offensive operations since late 2015.

The Burma Army expansion has led to intensification of conflict, with increased use of jet fighters and helicopter gunships since late 2015.

In 2011, only 20 clashes took place between TNLA and the Burma Army. This increased to over 50 clashes in 2012, over 100 in 2013, over 150 in 2014, over 200 in 2015, and about 60 in the first three months of 2016.



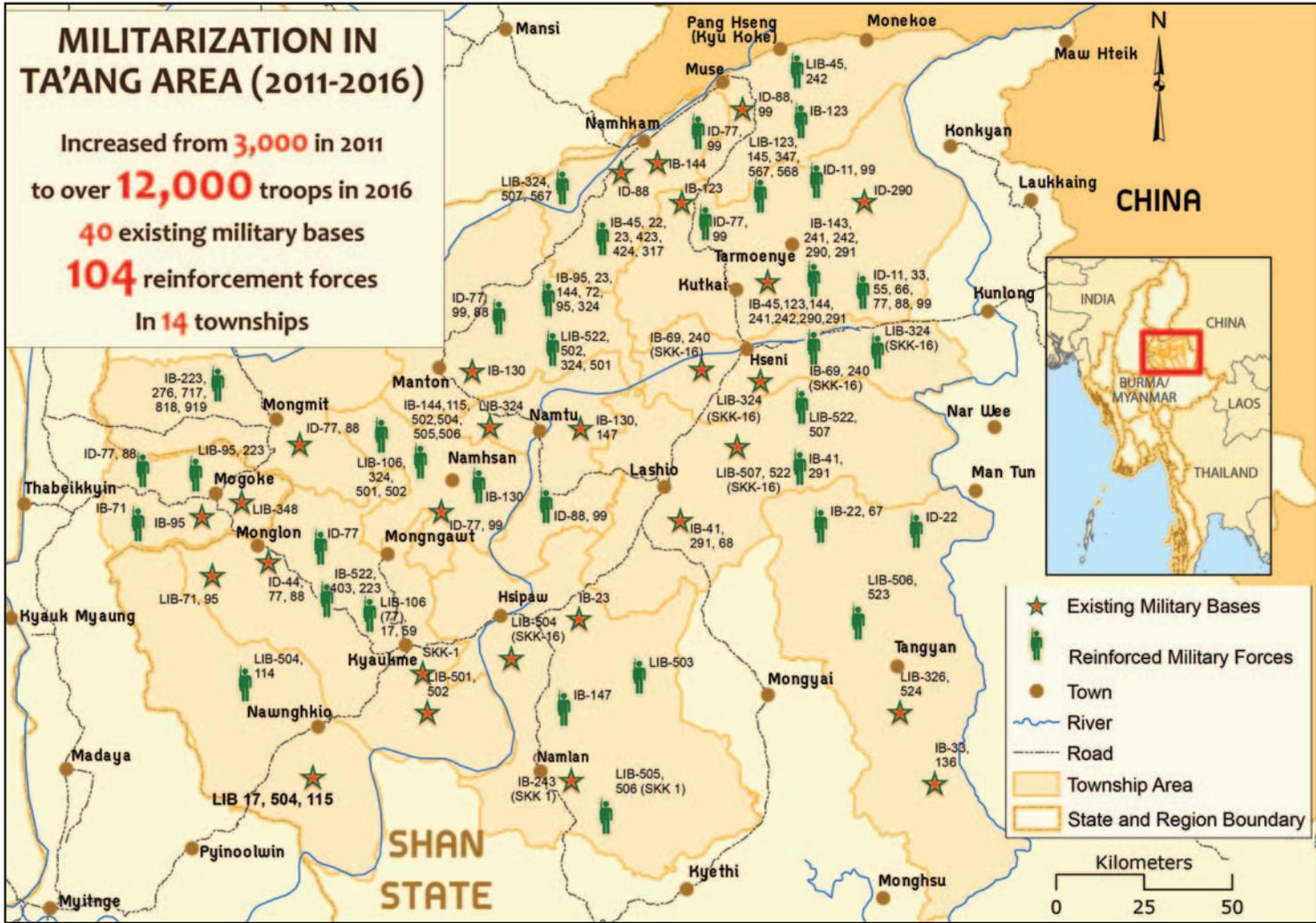
MILITARIZATION IN TA'ANG AREA (2011-2016)

Increased from **3,000** in 2011 to over **12,000** troops in 2016

40 existing military bases

104 reinforcement forces

In **14** townships



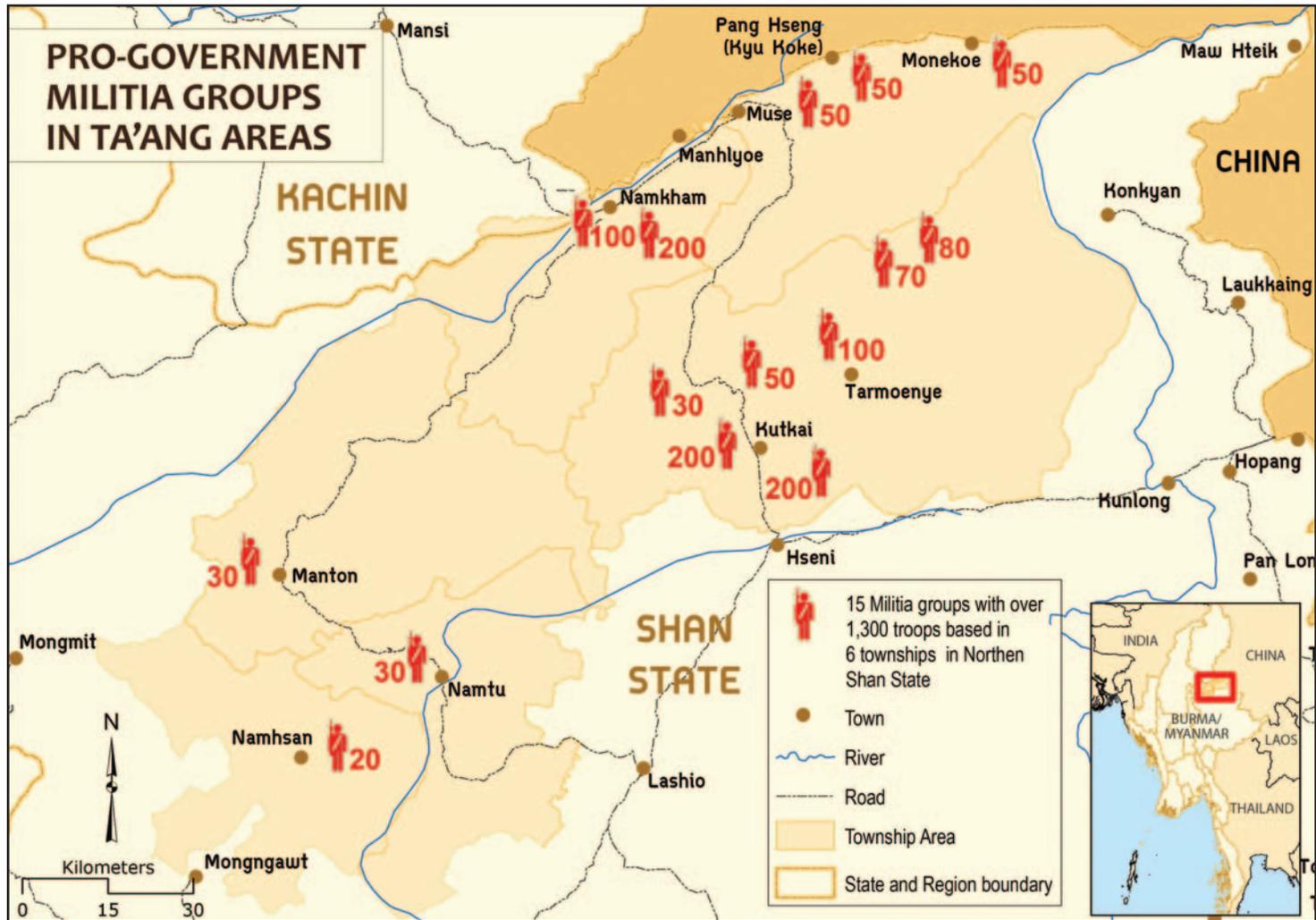
Continued reliance on local militia to “divide and rule”

A long-standing strategy of the Burma Army’s anti-insurgency operations has been to organise local paramilitary forces to help maintain control of rural areas. In exchange, these militia units have been allowed to establish lucrative local business fiefdoms, with authorities turning a blind eye to illicit dealings, including the drug trade.

There are currently 15 main pro-government militia groups in Ta’ang areas, with over 1,260 troops (see detailed list in Appendix), who have been assisting the Burma Army in military operations against ethnic resistance forces.

Opium growing and drug production have flourished in militia-controlled areas, causing increased addiction and suffering for local communities. The TNLA has sought to destroy opium fields and drug refineries in militia controlled areas, but have repeatedly been blocked by both Burmese government troops and militia, whose economic interests they are threatening.

In earlier reports, TWO has exposed the involvement in the drug trade of militia groups such as the Pansay militia in Namkham. However, their strategic importance to the Burma Army has rendered them untouchable. They have also been allowed to gain increased respectability as members of parliament for the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). The Pansay militia leader, U Kyaw Myint, served as a USDP MP for Namkham from 2010-2015. U T Khun Myat, ethnic Kachin leader of the Kaung Kha and Mai Yu Lay militias, was elected as the USDP MP for Kutkhai in both the 2010 and 2015 elections (and has recently gained even greater respectability by being appointed the Deputy Lower House Speaker under the NLD-led government.). Also re-elected as a USDP MP for Kutkhai in 2015 was U Myin Lwin (a.k.a Wang Guoda), head of the Tarmony militia. His militia’s cooperation with the Burmese military was rewarded in March 11, 2016, when approximately “Mong Wong” Chinese residents in the Tarmony area were recognized as full citizens of Burma.



Ta'ang exclusion from the peace process

Despite ongoing Burmese military aggression, the TNLA has sought to engage in peace negotiations with the Burmese government. The TNLA met with the Myanmar Peace Center, led by U Aung Min on July 31, 2013, in Muse, northern Shan State, but the Burma Army launched new attacks against TNLA in Kutkhai and Kyaukme only eleven days afterwards.

In August 2014, and then a month later, the TNLA sent official letters to the Burmese government asking for further negotiations, but received no reply.

Despite the fact that TNLA was a member of the ethnic armed groups' Nationwide Ceasefire Coordinating Team, the government refused to accept the TNLA -- together with the MNDAA and Arakan Army -- to sign the NCA, claiming they would need to sign a bilateral ceasefire agreement with the TNLA first. However, there were no approaches by the Burmese government in 2015 to discuss this with TNLA. The non-inclusive nature of the NCA was the main reason why only eight groups signed the NCA in October 15, 2015.

Since the signing of the NCA, attacks by government troops have escalated in Ta'ang areas. Alarmingly, the Burma Army also appears to be deliberately fuelling conflict between the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA), which signed the NCA, and the non-signatories, including the TNLA. Since the signing of the NCA, large numbers of RCSS/SSA troops have been deployed, with the collusion of the Burma Army, into northern Shan State, leading to clashes with TNLA troops in Kyaukme and Namkham townships, and fresh displacement.

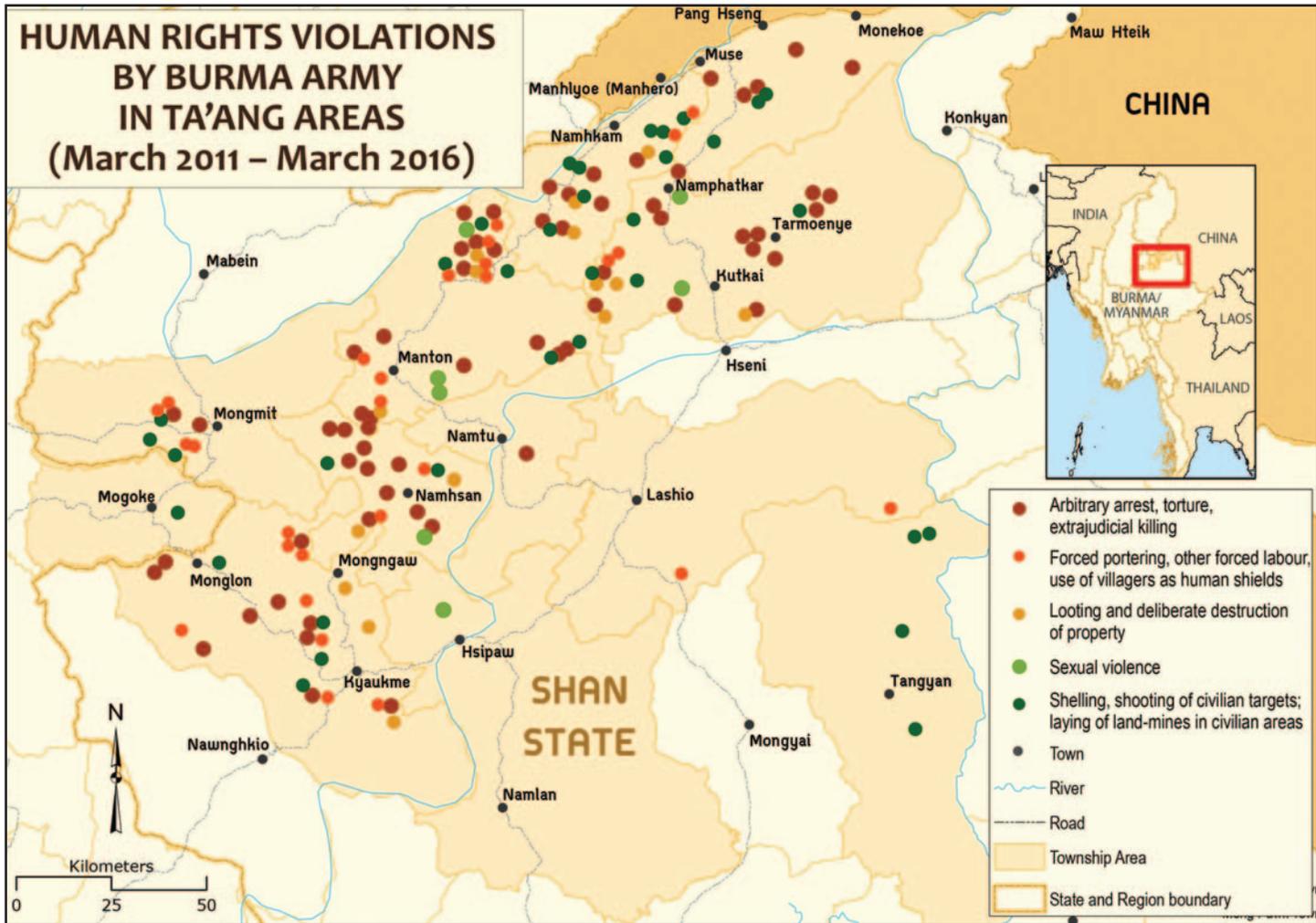
Analysis of human rights violations by the Burma Army in Ta'ang areas (March 2011 – March 2016)

Detailed lists of human rights violations by the Burma Army documented by TWO are contained in the appendix of this report. The main violations are summarized below.

Violations against civilians	No. of incidents	No. of villagers suffering from violation	No. of villages, townships	No. of Burma Army battalions/divisions committing violations
Torture	42	117	33 villages, 8 townships	18
Extrajudicial killing	8	10	9 villages, 4 townships	6
Sexual violence	7	7	6 villages/towns, 3 townships	5
Shelling of civilian targets	21	17 killed, 35 injured (thousands endangered)	29 villages, 9 townships	19
Forced portering/ guides; use as human shields	27	322 used as porters/ guides; over 700 used as human shields	24 villages, 7 townships	20
Deliberate destruction of property, looting	11	Inhabitants of 11 villages	11 villages, 5 townships	11

The violations are analyzed according to categories in the following sections of this report.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY BURMA ARMY IN TA'ANG AREAS (March 2011 – March 2016)

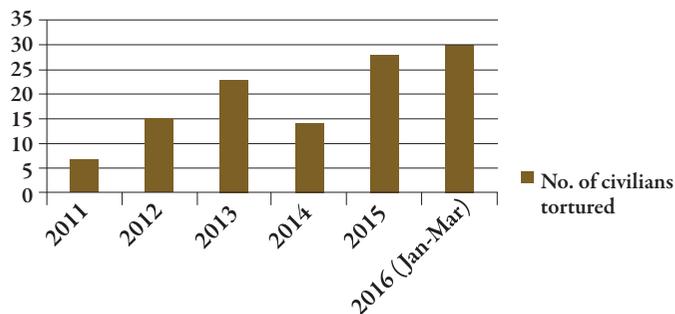


1. Torture

Over the past five years, there have been repeated, widespread incidents of Burmese government troops arbitrarily arresting and torturing civilians, usually for suspected contact with ethnic resistance forces. TWO has documented 42 incidents of torture in 33 villages in 8 townships (Namkham, Mantong, Muse, Namsan, Kyaukme, Kutkhai, Mongmit, Namtu). A total of 117 people, including village leaders and a monk, were tortured. Many suffered serious injury or mental derangement. Four died as a result of the torture.

The incidence of torture has increased during 2016, with already 36 people being tortured in the first three months of the year.

Number of Civilians Tortured by Burma Army
(2011 - March 2016)



The torture was carried out by troops of at least 18 battalions/divisions. Almost all the torture incidents until late 2014 were carried out by locally based battalions, in particular Mantong-based IB 130, Kutkhai-based IB 45, (under the Lashio-based Northeast Regional Command) and LIB 324, 501, 502, 507 (under Military Operations Commands 1 and 16, based in Kyaukme and Hsenwi respectively). from combat divisions (ID 11, 33, 77, 88, 99) deployed into the Ta'ang area from central Burma.

The most common torture methods involved tying up villagers with rope, slapping them in the face, beating them with guns, and kicking them (including in the head) while on the ground. Usually, the villagers were questioned about their links to the TNLA, and the whereabouts of Ta'ang troops.

A villager from Namphatka described being tortured in April 2013 by troops from Kutkhai-based IB 45: "12 villagers were arrested in the morning and they asked us about the TNLA. They asked: 'Do you know the TNLA and when they were at Lwae Kyayan Hill?' We knew nothing about the TNLA but they forced us to go to Lwae Kyayan Hill. They forced us to go in front and followed us with their guns pointed at our backs.

They said: 'If we hear the sound of firing at Lwae Kyayan Hill, we will kill you all.' When we arrived at Lwae Kyayan hill, there were no TNLA soldiers. When they didn't see TNLA troops, they tortured us and asked us where they had gone. They beat us with guns, sticks and slapped our faces. We suffered a lot. I still can't stand up properly because of the beating I received to my ribs. I haven't been able to stand up for two days and I have to take pain relief medicine. My friends also suffered like me."

Some villagers have been forced to take off their clothes, allegedly to look for marks that would indicate they had undergone military training as TNLA members.

Despite the supposed purpose of trying to locate TNLA troops, sometimes torture by the Burma Army appears simply to have been a collective punishment against Ta'ang villagers. In a well-publicized incident on December 23, 2015, captured on video, 11 villagers were tortured collectively by troops of IB 324 and the Pansay militia in Say Kin village, Namkham township. They were told: "You Palaung are all rebels. We will kill you all."



U Saw Maung from Moe Meik Township was tortured brutally by ID - 88 and got wounded on his eye

A villager described his experience:

"First they shelled with heavy arms. We were trying to escape from the shelling by organizing the old people, children and women together. But before we finished, they entered the village and ordered all the men who were hiding to come out. They said: If you don't come out, we U Saw Maung, tortured and wounded in the will burn down the whole eye by LID 88, in Mong Mit township scared, and all the men came out after they threatened us. When we came out, they tied us with rope and forced us to lie on the ground. They hit my waist and my back with a gun, and kicked and trod on my face and head with boots. My mouth was bleeding and I couldn't breathe. I got seriously wounded in my waist and back. I am using traditional medicine for treatment now."

Other torture methods used by Burmese government troops include suffocation with plastic bags, pouring petrol down throats, stabbing with knives, burning, and also slicing skin off villagers' arms.

This widespread use of torture against civilians by troops from locally-based as well as centrally-based battalions, indicates that torture is being included as part of standard training to army personnel. authorized as a standard practice by the Burma Army. The similarity of the torture techniques by the different battalions also indicates that these methods are being

Clearly, these inhumane practices against civilians are not isolated criminal acts by individual soldiers, but are being authorized and institutionalized by the Burma Army.

Torture, cruel treatment and outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment of civilians, are a grave breach of international humanitarian law (see Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Convention, Article 4), and constitute war crimes.

After a torture incident in November 2014, a local villager asked the LIB 106 troops (under ID 77), why they had tortured his fellow villagers, and received the chilling reply: "It is our duty."

Torture and killing of Ta'ang prisoners of war

TWO has documented four cases of torture and killing of Ta'ang soldiers captured by the Burma Army. In two cases, the soldiers were captured on a private visit to their home villages. In the other two cases, the soldiers were captured while patrolling.

In each case, the soldiers were treated with extreme brutality. 8 of the 9 soldiers captured were not only beaten, but skinned alive before being shot dead. One was half buried in the earth, and then his face and arms skinned.

The incidents took place in four consecutive years -- 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 -- in different townships (Mantong, Namsan, Kyaukme and Muse), with torture carried out by members of three different battalions (IB 130, IB 504 and ID 77). The skinning was carried out by members of IB 504, a locally based battalion under Military Operations Command no. 1 in Kyaukme, and members of ID 77, a combat division deployed from Pegu since 2013 to provide support to the operations in northern Shan State.

This not only indicates the existence of a policy within the Burma Army to employ torture against prisoners of war, but

also suggests that training has been given in skinning as a method of torture. This contravenes Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Convention and Additional Protocol II, which prescribe humane treatment for persons deprived of liberty related to non-international armed conflicts, and protection against murder, torture, as well as cruel, humiliating or degrading treatment.

Torture by government-allied militia

At least six of the incidents of torture of civilians documented by TWO were carried out jointly by Burma Army troops together with members of the government-allied militia, in particular the Namkham-based Pansay militia. Thus, whether or not the Burma Army has given formal training in torture methods to its militia allies, the militia units are being shown by example that such crimes are accepted practice.

It is therefore not surprising that the militia have independently carried out torture of civilians. On January 12, 2014, two local staff of UNODC who were travelling from Namkham to carry out crop monitoring in the Pansay area, as part of a government-approved program, were physically assaulted by the Pansay militia. They were beaten with guns, on their bodies and heads, and suffered bruising. Regrettably, the UNODC made no public complaint about this.



Burma Army troops and Pan Say militia beat villagers in Say Kinn Village, Namkham Township, December 2015



Mai Nyi Puu who is Say Kinn Villager were beaten by IB 324 and Pan Say Militia

2. Extrajudicial killing of civilians

Eight cases of extrajudicial killing of civilians by Burma Army troops have been documented. The killings, of ten civilians, were carried out by troops from six different battalions, in nine villages in four townships.

Two villagers were shot and killed when they met troops on the road, and another five were killed in their fields, one after being tortured. One villager was shot and killed while hiding in his village to escape being forced to porter.

One 87-year-old man called U Ba Aye was shot dead at point blank range, when troops from IB 130 and the Ngawn Sai militia entered his house, after fighting with TNLA in his village. They left his body in a pool of blood in the house, and did not allow his relatives to come and bathe and bury him till a day later.

Most recently, on March 14, 2016, a 17-year-old girl was shot dead by troops of ID 33 when she went back to her village in Namkham after fleeing to the jungle to escape clashes.

Most of these killings appear to have been deliberate acts of murder. Murder of civilians is a grave breach of international humanitarian law (specified in Article 4 of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions), and constitutes a war crime.



Mai Naing Jar was shot on the way to Namkhan by LID 88

3. Sexual violence

TWO has documented seven cases of sexual violence committed by Burma Army troops in northern Shan State during the past five years. This likely represents only a small portion of the actual incidence of such crimes, as many cases are not reported due to fear of military reprisal and social stigma.

The incidents documented by TWO took place from 2012 to 2016, in three different townships (Mantong, Kutkhai and Namsan), all in or near rural villages. They involved soldiers or officers from 5 different battalions/divisions. The first four incidents involved soldiers from locally based battalions (IB 115, 502 and 130); the two most recent incidents involved soldiers from combat divisions from central Burma (ID 99 and ID 33), who were temporarily camped in the area during ongoing military operations.

The circumstances of the incidents indicate confidence of impunity among the perpetrators, mostly being committed in areas where others were likely to hear or witness the violence: there was an attempted rape of a nun in a monastery compound, rape of a woman by the roadside in her village, and rape by an officer of a woman inside his military camp. On

November 25 2015, villagers witnessed a soldier raping a mute girl by the roadside on her way to a temple ceremony, but did not dare stop him as he was armed.

Only in one case did a survivor dare report the crime. The nun who had suffered attempted rape complained to the military commander whose troops were temporarily camped in the monastery. At first, the commander did not accept the complaint, but when the nun asked help from the village headman, the commander was forced to organize a line-up so that the nun could identify her attacker. The soldier was then beaten publicly.

In the other cases, no survivors dared file complaints against the perpetrators, fearing repercussions from the military, and also doubting they would receive justice. In two cases, the perpetrators threatened to kill the women if they dared report the crime.

Rape is explicitly forbidden under international humanitarian law in internal armed conflict, in Article 4 (2) (e) of Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions.

4. Shelling, shooting at civilian targets



*Houses were destroyed in shelling at Man Aung village, Namkham
by LID-88, 99, IB-45
Photo by Sanao Tem*

Over the past five years Burma Army troops have repeatedly used heavy weapons to fire indiscriminately into populated villages, either shelling from ground positions or using aircraft. Attacks were made against 29 villages in nine townships, killing 17 civilians, wounding 35 -- including elderly, women and children -- and endangering thousands of lives.

These attacks were carried out by troops from at least 19 battalions, both locally based as well as from combat divisions from central Burma (ID 33, 77, 88 and 99). All incidents of shelling of civilians in early 2016 have been carried out by ID 33 and 99.

In some cases the shelling was carried out together with allied local militia (Pansay militia and Myo Ma militia in Namkham).

Apart from shelling of civilian targets, TWO has documented seven incidents when Burmese troops have indiscriminately shot at civilians, killing two and injuring eleven, including women and girls.

Troops have opened fire on civilian vehicles, and shot at villagers running away from fighting.

The consistent pattern of indiscriminate shelling and shooting of civilian targets indicates this is a deliberate strategy of the Burma Army during its offensives in northern Shan State. This practice is in direct violation of international humanitarian law. Article 13 of Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions states: “The civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack.” Furthermore, Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court states that “attacking or bombarding, by whatever means, towns, villages, dwellings or buildings which are undefended and which are not military objectives” is a war crime.



9 years old girl was shot by LID (33) in Kutkhai



A women got wounded during the shelling in Sai Lain village, Moe Miek by IB 71

The secretary of Shwe Nyaung Pin village, Moe Meik, killed by shelling of IB 223



5. Forced portering, use of civilians as human shields



Aik Naing Pann was shot during the clashes in Man Puu village by IB-22, IB-23, IB -144; IB 88 and Pansay militia

The Burma Army has been systematically using forced labour throughout Ta'ang areas in the past five years. TWO has documented 27 incidents of forced labour, from mid-2011 until March 2016, involving at least 20 battalions/divisions.

A total of 322 villagers in 24 villages of seven townships were used as forced labour. Most were forced to serve as porters, carrying military supplies, with

some forced to act as guides for troops, or to build military camps. The villagers were either fed little or not at all during this work. None received any financial recompense for their labour. Being forced to accompany troops in areas of active conflict placed the villagers at grave risk. Two porters were killed by landmines, and four were injured in battle.

The incidence of forcing villagers to be porters has increased during 2015 and early 2016, with at least 148 villagers forced

to be porters during this time. This has been mainly by the combat divisions deployed from central Burma, including ID 33, 77, 88, 99, showing that the policy of conscripting porters is continuing to be authorized from the central command.

Almost all villagers taken for forced labour were men, but in March 2013 three girls, aged 14, 15 and 16, from a village in Tangyan were forced at gunpoint to act as guides for Burmese troops from Lashio-based LIB 41. One of the girls described her experience: "Around 30 soldiers arrived in our village at 5 pm and ordered us to guide them to Hway Pu village. We didn't want to go. We were afraid. We cried when the soldiers aimed their guns at us. We slept one night in the forest. Fortunately, the soldiers did not rape us. The soldiers did not dare venture around the forest, so they forced us to fetch water for them. They released us around 7 am the next day."

In fact, even the act of fetching water was extremely dangerous. The very next day, two men from the same village forced to porter for the same unit were killed by landmines while fetching water for the troops.

The son of one of the victims, forced to porter at the same time, described what happened. "The Burmese soldiers tied us up in pairs. Then they told us to collect water for them. We were in front and the soldiers were behind us. My father and U Hlaing



*Mai Yan Than Tun, a Namkham villager,
was shot and blinded his eye*

Kham were right in the front. They stepped on the mines and died in front of me. I was so shocked I could not speak.”

The Burmese troops offered financial compensation of 500,000 kyat (approx USD 500) to the families of each of those killed by the land mines, admitting they had been laid by the Burma Army. However, as one of the other porters said: “Is the life of a person only worth 500,000 kyats? They are so cruel. The victims were the breadwinners for their family, but

now they have gone. How will their family be able to continue for survival?”

Villagers serving as guides or porters have also been used as “human shields” to deter attacks by Ta’ang forces. In June 2015, six women and one man were made to walk in front of troops shooting from behind.

In one incident, over 700 villagers were forbidden by Burmese troops from leaving their village, even though it had been bombed, as they wanted to use the villagers as shields against a possible attack by Ta’ang forces.

The Burma Army’s use of uncompensated and abusive forced labour is a violation of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions, which provides that persons deprived of their liberty for reasons related to the armed conflict “shall, if made to work, have the benefit of working conditions and safeguards similar to those enjoyed by the local civilian population.” Endangering civilians by forcing them to carry military supplies in active war zones and act as human shields, also violates the same Additional Protocol, which specifies: “the civilian population and individual civilians shall enjoy general protection against the dangers arising from military operations.”

*Houses in Kutkhai burned
by LID 33 in 2016*



*Looting and deliberate destruction of civilian
property*

TWO has documented eleven incidents of looting or deliberate destruction of homes and property in twelve villages in 5 townships, by Burma Army troops from eleven different battalions/divisions. Houses were broken into, and items including rice, other foodstuff, money, motorbikes, mobile phones were stolen.



Sacks of paddy were burned by ID 33

Most recently, in March 2016, Burma Army troops have been deliberately burning down houses and food stocks of villagers. In Kutkhai, 19 houses and all rice stores in three villages were entirely burned down by troops of ID 33.

The looting/pillaging of civilian property is a violation of international humanitarian law, specified in Article 4 of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions, as is the deliberate destruction of food stocks (Article 14 of the same Additional Protocol).

Lack of access to justice

In most cases of abuse by Burma Army troops, villagers have not dared file any complaints to the authorities, as they are too afraid of reprisals by the army. As explained by a villager who had been forced to work as a porter “We want to submit a complaint letter. However we don’t have a place to submit the complaint, and even if we did, we would not dare to do so. The army camp is so close to our village, so we are scared of them”

In rare cases when villagers dared complain, military authorities have usually not taken responsibility for any injuries or death inflicted on civilians. Only in one case, in February 2015,

when village leaders complained to the Burma Army after a villager was injured and became deranged due to torture by ID 77, did the local commander provide 500,000 kyat (USD 500) to pay for his medical expenses.

Villagers also have little hope that the police authorities will take their side against the military.

In two cases documented by TWO, police themselves committed grave abuses against civilians. In one case, in March 2012, a boy was shot dead by the local assistant commander of police in Nampatkar town,

Kutkhai, after an argument. In August the same year, two migrant workers were hospitalized after being beaten with an iron bar by police in Muse.

In October, 2015, after relatives of 57-year-old U Aik Lin, found beaten to death in his fields near Muse, took the body to Muse Hospital for an autopsy, the police filed the case as a suspected suicide.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report provides evidence that the Burma Army is committing war crimes – in particular torture, shelling of civilian targets, and enslavement of civilians as porters and human shields -- on a widespread, systematic scale during its ongoing offensives in Ta'ang areas of northern Shan State.

The fact that the crimes are being committed with complete impunity, not only by locally based battalions, but increasingly by battalions deployed under combat divisions deployed from central Burma, indicates clearly that the crimes are being authorized from the central command.

TWO is gravely concerned that the Burma Army, which remains exempt from civilian oversight under the current constitution, is not only continuing its offensives in the ethnic areas in defiance of the “peace process”, but is also systematically committing war crimes against the ethnic peoples in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law.

It is urgently needed for the National League for Democracy (NLD) to act to curb the military's power, its criminal practices and impunity. Simply sharing power with the Burma Army under the current government will only maintain the military status quo, perpetuating the war and condemning the ethnic peoples to untold ongoing suffering.

TWO therefore make the following urgent demands:

To the new NLD-led government:

- To authorize an immediate ceasefire throughout the country, and begin a new fully inclusive peace process, in which all ethnic resistance forces can take part in genuine political dialogue.
- To denounce and call for an end to the human rights violations including the shelling of civilians areas being committed by the Burma Army in the ethnic areas.
- To set up an independent fact-finding commission to investigate Burma Army war crimes
- To invite the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC) to carry out an investigation into war crimes committed by the Burma Army.
- To allow humanitarian aid agencies to freely access and assist IDPs in conflict areas until it is safe for them to return home voluntarily.

To the international community:

- To pressure the Burmese government to stop the Burma Army offensives and abuses against ethnic peoples, and to allow aid agencies to freely access and assist all IDP populations.
- To immediately end all military-to military engagement with the Burma Army, as it has had no impact on its systematic criminal practices, and has simply legitimized an abusive institution.
- To prioritize aid for the basic humanitarian needs of IDPs and refugees in all locations, and provide this aid through local community based organizations.

APPENDICES

Detailed list of violations by the Burma Army and other state security forces, documented by TWO (March 2011-March 2016)

1. *Arbitrary arrest, torture, extrajudicial killing*

No.	Date of violation	Location of violation	Type of violation	Details of violation	Battalion or Division of perpetrator(s)
1.	Mar 17, 2011	Man Sat village, Namkham	Torture	2 drivers of charcoal cars were interrogated and beaten, their faces slapped for no reason	Corporal Aung Htike, Myo Aung ID 88
2.	Apr 14, 2011	Kaung Tain & Nyaung Pin La villages, Kyaukme	Arbitrary arrest and torture	1 ex-member of PSLF from Kaung Tain and 1 farmer from Nyaung Pin La were arrested arbitrarily on suspicion of connection with ethnic armed groups, beaten with sticks on face, head, and kicked. Note: On April 17, 2011, 1 was given an 8 year prison sentence, the other 2 years.	MOC (Sa Ka Kha) 1, LIB 502
3.	Aug 16, 2011	Lwae Suang village, Mantong	Extrajudicial killing	1 villager was shot and killed when he hid in the village afraid of being forced to be a porter	IB 130 (led by Zayartun)
4.	Oct, 2011	Pan Khar village, Mantong	Torture, leading to death	Secretary of village and chairman of village were beaten severely; causing death of the chairman	IB 130
5.	Dec, 2011	Pan Khar village, Mantong	Torture	1 villager was beaten with gun on his back and feet for disobeying a curfew order in village	IB 144 led by Colonel Aung Phyo

6.	Jan 3-4, 2012	Mong Wee, Namkham	Shooting and torture of civilian (leading to death)	1 local villager was shot and handcuffed. He was pulled along on the ground after being shot and his relatives forbidden from giving him medical treatment; he died of his injuries	LIB 507 and Pansay militia
7.	Mar 13, 2012	Moe Lom & Moe Nwet villages, Mantong	Extrajudicial killing	2 villagers were shot and killed by troops they met when returning back from their paddy field	IB 130 (led by Battalion Deputy Commander – Myo Myint and Colonel Aung Myint Oo)
8.	May 15, 2012	Lwae Khone quarter, Namphatkar town, Kutkhai	Extrajudicial killing	1 boy was shot dead for arguing with the police	Police – Assistant Commander of Police (Than Oo)
9.	Jun 9, 2012	Mat Waw village, Sai Lain tract, Mantong	Torture	1 villager was beaten and slapped for not buying food, alcohol, cigarettes for soldiers	IB 130
10.	Jul 26, 2012	Thet Mon village, Zayan Myauk, Namsan	Extrajudicial killing	1 villager was shot and killed (and 2 villagers escaped) when they met 90 military troops on their way	LIB 324
11.	Aug 15, 2012	Pan Sway village, Mantong	Arbitrary arrest and torture	Father and son were arrested and interrogated for suspected contact with TNLA, beaten with gun, tied with rope, suffocated with plastic bags	IB 501 (20 soldiers)

12.	Aug 12, 2012	Muse township	Torture	2 local villagers who had migrated to work at China-Burma border were beaten with an iron stick on their heads and hospitalized	2 policemen from Muse Police station
13.	Aug 18, 2012	Twin Hoke village, Mantong	Torture	1 villager was tied with rope, stabbed with knife on his neck, and accused of being TNLA soldier, when he went to his farm	IB 324
14.	Aug 30, 2012	Taung Mae village, Namsan	Arbitrary arrest	1 villager was arrested arbitrarily for suspected contact with SSA	IB 115 -Captain-ThanTun and Namsan militia
15.	Sep 1-7, 2012	Pan Swe village, Mantong	Extrajudicial killing	1 TNLA member was arrested in his village when off duty, severely tortured and killed (found with wounds on his head and gunshot wounds in his body)	IB 130
16.	Sep 4, 2012	Ohm Khme & Ohmatat villages, Namsan	Torture (while forced to be porters)	3 villagers from Ohm Khme and 1 villager from Ohmatat were forced to show the way, carry military supplies and beaten in the head	IB 115 (based in Naung Cho)
17.	Sep 10, 2012	Htat Kyat village (Man Punn), Mantong	Arbitrary arrest, torture	Father and son were interrogated, detained one night and beaten with guns, slapped and forced to take off their clothes (to look for marks that might show they were TNLA)	IB 130
18.	Sep 16, 2012	Namtan village, Mantong	Arbitrary arrest, torture	1 villager was arrested, handcuffed, beaten with a gun on his arm, slapped on his face	IB 130
19.	Nov 19, 2012	Kwan Salan village, Mong Ngaw, Kyaukme	Torture	1 villager interrogated, beaten	Commander of IB 502

20.	Nov 24, 2012	Bhayagyi village, Namsan	Extrajudicial killing	U Aik Sai was shot dead by troops on his way back from Pansayee to Bhayagyi	IB 502
21.	Nov 26, 2012	Man Pay village, Namsan	Arbitrary arrest, disappearance	U Aike Pwae was arrested and interrogated for suspected contact with TNLA; disappeared	IB 502 and Namsan/Ngawn Sai militia – (led by Tun Myat Lay)
22.	Dec 15, 2012	Lwae Mauk village, Mantong	Torture	1 villager and 1 headman were accused of contacting TNLA; beaten with guns on their chest	IB 130
23.	Mar 20, 2013	Sounhin village, Namsan	Torture, extrajudicial killing	3 TNLA soldiers tortured, killed, while off duty; found with gunshot wounds on their body; their bodies and faces had been skinned	IB 504
24.	Apr 14, 2013	Lwae Kyayan village, Nampaka, Kutkhai	Torture	12 villagers arrested, tortured (tied with rope, beaten with guns, slapped)	IB 45 and Pansay militia
25.	Apr 15, 2013	Lwae Kyayan village, Nampaka, Kutkhai	Arbitrary arrest and torture	5 villagers were arrested and tortured	IB 45
26.	May 29, 2013	Pan Yan village, Namsan	Extrajudicial killing	U Ba Aye (87 yrs old) was shot and killed in his house	IB 130 and Ngawn Sai militia
27.	Jun 20, 2013	Man Sat & Na Aw Gyi villages, Mantong	Threatened with guns	3 villagers threatened with guns for contacting TNLA	IB 130
28.	Jun 21, 2013	Lon Kan, Pain Pune, Man Sein, Kutkhai	Torture	3 village headmen beaten severely	LIB 145 (Kunlong) & Pansay militia

29.	Sep 2013	Sailean village, Mantong	Arbitrary arrest	2 villagers arbitrarily arrested	IB 502 (Kho Mon camp)
30.	Jan 12, 2014	Pansay area, Nam kham	Torture	2 male staff of UNODC were beaten with guns, on their bodies and heads, while doing crop monitoring	Pansay Militia
31.	Jan 16, 2014	Ho Main village, Namsan	Arbitrary arrest and torture	Village headman, monk and 5 villagers was arrested and beaten, their faces slapped (accused of allowing TNLA to celebrate Ta'ang revolution day in his village)	IB-502, IB 506
32.	Feb 27, 2014	Pan Pyat village, Kyaukme	Torture, extrajudicial killing	3 TNLA soldiers were arrested and tied up in village as prisoners of war; one was half buried in the earth; all were tortured by skinning their face and arms, and hit with guns; finally shot dead; their commander emerged from his hiding place to try to save them from torture, and was shot dead	ID-77
33.	Jun 17, 2014	Pan Swe village, Mantong	Arbitrary arrest, torture	Arrested all family members for suspected contact with TNLA; father tied up and beaten, because he had a mobile phone	IB 95
34.	Nov 1, 2014	Ho Chaung village, Kayah Lam tract, Namsan	Torture	4 villagers hit, kicked	LIB 106 under ID 77
35.	Feb 15, 2015	Kayah Lam village, Namsan	Torture	1 villager tortured (tied with rope, hit; now mentally unstable)	ID 77

36.	Feb 17, 2015	Man Aung village, Namkham	Torture	1 mute villager (age 26) tortured (hit with gun)	IB 317, under ID 88
37.	Feb 25, 2015	Shwe Nyaung Bin village, Mong Mit	Torture	2 villagers arrested in their tea farm and tortured (hit, kicked)	ID 88
38.	Mar 8, 2015	Nam Mawt village, Tarmyonye, Kutkhai	Arbitrary arrest and torture	Chairman of village was arrested, tied up with rope, and beaten after clashes	ID11 (based in Mon Si)
39.	Mar 10, 2015	Mong Mit town	Torture	2 civilians were hit with guns	ID 88
40.	Mar 11, 2015	Mai Sat village, Namkat, Muse	Torture	1 villager tortured after being shot in the leg (hit with gun, causing injury in one eye, petrol poured in his mouth)	A corporal from ID 88
41.	Apr 27, 2015	Nam Kat village, Muse	Torture, extrajudicial killing	2 TNLA soldiers captured, taken to forest near village, tied up, beaten with guns, their bodies skinned, then shot dead; their bodies found by villagers going to make charcoal	ID 77
42.	Jun 26, 2015	Pann Kan village, Haung Kan tract, Mantong	Arbitrary arrest, extrajudicial killing	2 villagers were arrested at their paddy farm and disappeared; their bodies were found buried near their farm	IB 324, IB 130
43.	Sep 10, 2015	105 mile area, Muse	Arbitrary arrest, torture	8 villagers arrested, tortured, beaten with guns, slapped in the face	LIB 45

44.	Oct 15, 2015	105 mile area, Muse	Torture, extrajudicial killing	1 villager disappeared while tending cattle; 5 days later, his body was found beaten to death;	Suspected ID 99 (who had been operating in the area at the time)
45.	Dec 23, 2015	Saykinn village, Namkham	Arbitrary arrest, torture	78 villagers arrested: 11 men tied up with rope, hit with guns, slapped, their heads trodden on with boots	IB 324 and Pan Say militia
46.	Dec 24, 2015	Pan Yoke (1) village, Namkham	Torture	1 villager arrested and tortured	IB 324 and Pan Say militia
47.	Jan 10, 2016	Kaung Naim village, Tarmonye, Kutkhai	Arbitrary arrest and torture	3 villagers were arrested, tied with rope and beaten with knife handles for suspecting contact with TNLA	ID 33, ID 99
48.	Feb 22, 2016	Kaung Law village, Ho Pon tract, Kutkhai	Arbitrary arrest and torture	3 villagers were arrested arbitrarily and beaten, skin sliced off their arms, burned with firewood on their body	ID 33, ID 99
49.	Mar 6, 2016	Ngwat Ngar village, Kutkhai	Arbitrary arrest and detention	4 villagers detained in Kutkhai (military camp)	ID 99
50.	Mar 9, 2016	Kaung Naim village, Kutkhai	Arbitrary arrest and interrogation	20 villagers including one student were arrested and interrogated without any reason; kept in 209 military camp	ID 66
51.	Mar 11, 2016	Pan Lawt village, Mong Ngaw, Kyaukme	Arbitrary arrest and torture	5 villagers were arrested and interrogated, slapped in the face; kept at police station	ID 77 (771,772)

52.	Mar 11, 2016	Mai Sat village, Nam Kat tract, Muse	Torture	1 villager was interrogated and beaten on feet and face, when returning from carrying firewood	LID 88
53.	Mar 13, 2016	Kaung Naim village, Kutkhai	Arbitrary arrest	4 villagers, incl. one student, were arbitrarily arrested and interrogated	ID 66
54.	Mar 14, 2016	Sae Nay village, Sae Nay tract, Namkham	Extrajudicial killing	1 girl (17 year old) was shot dead when she went back to her village, after fleeing to the jungle to escape clashes in her village	ID 33
55.	Mar 14, 2016	Kaung Nain village, Tarmyonye, Kutkhai	Arbitrary arrest	23 villagers were arrested arbitrarily for suspected contact with TNLA	ID 99 and ID 33
56.	Mar 16, 2016	Par Linn village, Mong Lom village, Kyaukme	Arbitrary arrest and detention	Over 50 villagers were arrested and detained at Mong Ngaw military camp	ID 77
57.	Mar 21, 2106	Par Linn village, Mong Ngaw, Kyaukme	Torture	5 villagers were beaten, tied up with rope without any reason	IB 115
58.	Mar 23, 2016	Khon Tar village, Namsan	Torture	5 villagers were interrogated, beaten, their faces slapped, when they came back from their tea farm	IB 505, IB 115
59.	Mar 24, 2016	Pannma village, Kyaukme	Torture	3 villagers were beaten, tied with rope	ID 77
60.	Mar 25, 2016	Pan Ta Pyae village, Kyaukme	Arbitrary arrest and torture	1 villager arrested and detained for three days in military camp; beaten and kicked in the face, eyes	ID 77

61.	Mar 25, 2016	Kaw Paung village, Kyaukme	Arbitrary arrest, torture causing death	8 villagers (including village administrator, and 1 mute villager) arrested, tied up with rope, tortured; 5 men released on March 31, with severe injury from torture; 1 man died of his wounds	ID 77
62.	Mar 28, 2016	Naung Kautlok village, Namtu	Arbitrary arrest and torture	1 villager was arrested, tied with rope, his body and face beaten	ID 33 + Pansay militia
63.	Mar 28, 2016	Man Aung village, Namkham	Arbitrary arrest and torture	1 villager was arrested, tied with rope and beaten	ID 33

2. Sexual violence

No.	Date	Location of violation	Type of violation	Details of violation	Battalion or Division of perpetrator(s)
1.	Jan 12, 2012	Nr. Thoe Hone village, Mantong	Attempted rape	A Burmese soldier tried to rape a 13 year old IDP girl on her way to sell goods; she managed to run away	IB 130 (camped nearby)
2.	Sept 28, 2012	Taung Ma village, Namsan	Attempted rape	A soldier attempted to rape a nun in a monastery compound, but was stopped by other nuns. The nuns complained to the military commander, who asked the nun to point out the soldier in a line-up; the soldier was beaten in front of villagers	IB 115 (temporarily camped in monastery)
3.	April 19, 2013	Yay Pone village, Mantong	Rape	A soldier entered a woman's house at night, gagged her mouth, and raped her. He threatened to kill her if she reported the rape.	IB 502 (based above village)

4.	April 20, 2013	Nr. Yay Pone village, Mantong	Rape	A woman raped at knifepoint by a soldier in tea plantation; he threatened to kill her if she reported the rape	IB 502 (based above village)
5.	Aug 4, 2014	military base, Hsipaw town	Rape	An 18-yr-old girl was raped by an officer in his military camp; he tried to force her to have an abortion when she became pregnant	IB 130
6.	Nov 25, 2015	Aung Tha Pyae quarter, Namphatkar town, Kutkhai	Rape	A mute girl was raped by a soldier on her way to a ceremony at local monastery; other villagers witnessed the crime, but didn't dare stop the soldier as he was armed	LID 99 (temporarily camped around the town)
7.	March 18, 2016	Naung Khun Kyae village, Pan Kuu tract, Kutkhai	Rape	1 woman was raped by the roadside in her village by a soldier; his unit had ordered her to go and fetch them chickens. She did not dare report the crime.	ID 33 (temporarily camped in village)

3. Shelling, shooting of civilian targets; laying of landmines in civilian areas

No.	Date	Location of violation	Type of violation	Details of violation	Battalion or Division of perpetrator(s)
1.	Mar 24, 2011	Mansat (Jone Ja) village, Nar Aww Gyi, Mantong	Shelling of civilian target	2 villagers killed by shelling of pagoda above village	IB 130
2.	Jul 19, 2011	Man Puu village, Namkham	Shelling of civilian target	2 villagers killed, 10 houses destroyed by shelling; livestock (cows, horses, buffalo) killed	IB 22, IB 23, IB 144 and LID 88

3.	Aug 8, 2012	Mai Maw village, Mantong	Shooting of civilians during clashes	2 women shot by Burmese soldiers in Mai Maw market as clashes broke between KIA and Burmese troops.	LIB 324
4.	Oct 4, 2012	Ho Nam village, Pan Kya Rouk, Namsan	Indiscriminate shelling	2 villagers working in their farm were seriously injured by Burma Army shelling and hospitalized at Namsan hospital	IB 130, LIB 115
5.	Mar 6, 2013	Par Linn village, Mong Ngaw, Kyaukme	Shelling of civilian target	Shelling into village, killed 1 villager and injured 3; 10 houses burnt and damaged	IB 502
6.	Mar 30, 2013	Kaung Kaw, Kaung Sai, Namanut, Par Phan, Man Toke, Hwe Puu, Man Kyaung, Mat Waw villages, Lwae Say group, Tangyan	Shelling of civilian targets (causing forced relocation)	8 villages (432 villagers) forced to flee from their homes to other areas due to shelling	LIB 41
7.	Sept 2, 2013	Par Linn village, Kyaukme	Shelling of civilian target	1 villager died from shelling of village; 3 houses, temple, pagoda, also damaged	LIB 17
8.	Feb 27, 2014	Pan Pyat village, Kyaukme	Shelling of civilian target	Village chairman killed and 3 villagers injured by shelling into village; houses also damaged	ID 77
9.	Apr 20, 2014	Man Aung village, Namkham	Shelling of civilian target	2 houses and pagoda damaged by shelling	IB 423 and Myo Ma Militia in Namkham

10.	Apr 23, 2014	Thein Kan village, Mong Wee, Namkham	Throwing grenade at civilians	1 villager killed, 1 wounded when a grenade was thrown at them by Burmese troops as they were carrying charcoal	IB 123
11.	May 13, 2014	Pha Dan village, Namkham	Shelling of civilian target	1 villager killed by shelling; houses burnt and damaged	IB 423
12.	Jul 19-20, 2014	Man Puu village, Namkham	Shelling, firing into civilian areas, causing injury and death	10 villagers shot and wounded during the clashes, 1 killed; property of villagers destroyed	IB 22, IB 23, IB 144; IB 88 and Pansay militia
13.	Jul 20, 2014	Sai Laine village, Moegoke	Shooting at civilians	3 villagers were shot and wounded as they tried to run away from fighting in their village	IB 71
14.	Aug 18, 2014	Man Kao village, Awe Law tract, Namkham	Shelling of civilian target	1 villager killed and 2 villagers wounded from shelling	LID-88
15.	Nov 25, 2014	Naw Yae village, Mantong	Laying landmine next to civilian property	1 villager killed by landmine laid by Burmese troops (laid beside his motorbike which he had left by the road when he met Burmese troops the day before)	ID 88
16.	Feb 2, 2015	Panthilar near Annt Bwe Taung, border of Moegoke and Mongmit	Shelling of civilian target	1 pregnant women and 1 child killed, 7 villagers seriously wounded during the shelling	IB 223
17.	Feb 3, 2015	Lwae Sar village, Mongmit	Aerial bombing of civilian target	3 villagers (in 1 family) seriously wounded by bombing from 4 military helicopters	ID 77, ID 88

18.	Feb 2-3, 2015	Shwe Nyaung Bin, Lwae Wain, Lwae Sar, Shwe Taryar, Pan Thilar, Par Khar villages, Mongmit	Aerial bombing of civilian target	6 villages (approx 1,000 people) fled their homes and 19 houses in Shwe Nyaung Bin damaged and burnt by bombing from military helicopters	IB 223
19.	Feb 28, 2015	Man Aung village, Namkham	Landmine laid near field	1 villager stepped on landmine, seriously wounded, in his charcoal-making field after Burmese troops had passed through	n.a.
20.	May 2, 2105	Between Mogoke and Lashio (nr. Kyaukme)	Shooting at civilian target	1 girl died, when troops shot at van on Mogoke-Lashio road	IB 107
21.	Jun 26-30, 2015	Pann Kan village, Haung Kan tract, Mantong	Shelling of civilian target; restriction of villagers' movement	1 male villager died in shelling (1 baby got sick and died due to lack of medical care)	IB 324, IB 130
22.	Oct 17, 2015	Maw Taung village, 105 mile area, Muse	Laying of landmine near village	1 villager injured by landmine after troops of LIB 45 stayed a night in his village	LIB 45
23.	Nov 22, 2015	105 mile area, Muse	Shooting at civilians	3 villagers shot at, injured on motorbike	Burmese speaking troops at Asia World gate
24.	Dec 23, 2015	Say Kinn village, Namkham	Shelling of civilian target	School and monastery damaged by shelling	IB 324 and Pansay militia

25.	Jan 14, 2016	Kaung Wak village, Muse	Shelling of civilian target	1 pregnant woman and 1 child seriously injured in ordnance explosion after Burmese troops had fired into the village; one shell hadn't exploded, and the woman accidentally detonated it	ID 99
26.	Mar 6, 2016	Man Nham Aun village, Kutkhai	Shelling of civilian target	A 60 year old woman seriously injured by shelling into the village	ID 99
27.	Mar 8, 2016	Ngwat Ngar village, Kutkhai	Shelling of civilian target	Over 500 villagers fled when 4 houses were destroyed and other houses damaged by shelling using 105 mm mortars.	ID 99
28.	Mar 9, 2016	Man Puu village, Kutkhai	Shooting at civilian	9 year old girl shot, seriously injured, while running away from fighting in her village	ID 33
29.	Mar 19, 2016	Pan Yay Kan village, Kwan Hae group, Namsan	Shelling of civilian target	A 50-yr-old women and 15-yr-old student seriously injured by shelling	IB 505, IB 115
30.	Mar 20, 2016	Man Kaung village, Tarmyonye, Kutkhai	Indiscriminate shooting in village	1 villager was shot and seriously wounded when Burmese troops shot inside village	ID 99 and ID 33
31.	Mar 30, 2016	Ho Tat village, Nar Aww Gyi, Mantong	Shelling of civilian target	27 year old man (Aik Hluu) killed and 3 villagers including 2 women seriously wounded and hospitalized in Lashio due to shelling in village	ID 33

4. *Forced portering, other forced labour, use of villagers as human shields*

No.	Date	Location of violation	Type of violation	Details of violation	Battalion or Division of perpetrator(s)
1.	Jun 7-8, 2011	Par Linn, Kyauk Phyu villages, Kyaukme	Forced portering	7 villagers from Par Linn, 3 villagers from Kyauk Phyu were forced to be porters	IB 522, IB 402 under MOC 16
2.	Mar 2, 2012	Mantong township	Forced labour (driving military supplies)	1 driver forced to transport military supplies from Mantong to Mongmit; he was seriously injured when fighting broke out along the way	IB 130
3.	Jun 24-26, 2012	Kwan Salan, Mong Ngaw sub-township, Kyaukme	Forced portering, use of villagers as human shields	10 villagers were forced to guide troops and carry military supplies; 2 villagers forced to walk ahead of the troops as human shields	LIB 205
4.	Sep 4, 2012	Ohm Khme, Ohmatat villages, Namsan	Forced portering, torture	3 villagers from Ohm Khme and 1 villager from Ohmatat were forced to show the way, carry military supplies; they were beaten in the face	IB 115 (based in Naung Cho)
5.	Sep 16, 2012	Man Lwae, Namsan	Forced portering	1 villager forced to guide troops and carry military supplies	LIB 502
6.	Nov 9, 2012	Htat Kyat, Nar Aww Gyi group, Mantong	Forced portering	20 villagers forced to be porters, carrying military supplies	IB 144, LIB 501

7.	Mar 12, 2013	Khun Khar village, Kyaukme	Forced labour and destruction of property	Whole village (over 100 houses – 1 person per house; men, women and children) forced to build military camp above the village; and forced to cut down community forest to build camp	IB 501
8.	Mar 21, 2013	Namsayee village, Namkham	Forced portering	2 villagers forced to be porters (carrying ammunition)	LIB 567
9.	Mar 25, 2013	Nammanoot village, Loise tract, Tangyan, Lashio	Forced to be guides and porters for soldiers	3 girls (under 17) forced to be guides for 30 soldiers; slept 1 night; forced to fetch water	LIB 41
10.	Mar 26, 2013	Kaung Sai village, Tangyan, Lashio	Forced portering	2 villagers were forced to be porters and killed by land mine when forced to fetch water for soldiers on the way	LIB 41
11.	Apr 19, 2013	Panswe village, Mantong	Forced portering/guides	2 villagers forced to be porters/guides;	IB 501
12.	April, 2013	Lwae Mauk village, Mantong	Forced to be guides	Three villagers were forced to guide soldiers	IB 130
13.	Jun 24, 2013	Kwan Salan village, Mong Ngaw, Kyaukme	Forced portering/guides	2 villagers were forced to be porters to carry military supplies and guide soldiers	IB 502
14.	Jul 22, 2014	Man Aung village, Namkham	Forced labour	Villager forced to carry goods on motorbike for military; afterwards they seized his motorbike	ID 88, ID99, IB 45
15.	Dec 13, 2014	Pan Phat village, Kyaukme	Forced portering	6 villagers used as porters carrying military supplies	ID 77

16.	Feb 1, 2015	Pantilar village, Mongmit	Forced portering	5 villagers used as porters for carrying military supplies including weapons	Approx. 1,000 troops from ID 88
17.	Feb 3, 2015	Pantilar village, Mongmit	Forced portering	3 villagers forced to be porters to carry military supplies	IB 233
18.	Feb 10, 2015	Shwe Nyaung Bin village, Mongmit	Forced to be human shields	Over 700 villagers were forbidden by Burmese troops from fleeing their village during clashes with TNLA, and used as human shields to prevent TNLA attacks; they were threatened their village would be burned down if they left	IB 276 under ID 88
19.	Mar 7, 2015	Shwe Nyaung Bin village, Mongmit	Forced portering	7 villagers used as porters (some used their motorbikes to carry goods)	Over 100 troops from IB 276, under ID 88
20.	May 11, 2015	Pan Ma Ywa Haung, Pan Ma Ywa Thit, Pyein Sin villages, Pyein Sin tract, Kyaukme	Forced portering	23 villagers forced to be porters, carry military supplies for one day	IB 223
21.	Jun 18, 2015	Jone Ja (Man Sat) village, Nar Aww Gyi group, Mantong	Forced portering	19 villagers were forced to be porters and carried their supplies from Man Sat to Lwae Mawe village at midnight	ID77
22.	June 18, 2015	Jone Ja (Man Sat) village, Nar Aww Gyi group, Mantong	Forced to be human shields	6 women and 1 man forced to go with soldiers to the monastery at edge of village as human shields, while soldiers were shooting behind them	ID 77

23.	Oct 12, 2015	Moe Lom village, Moe Lom group, Mantong	Forced portering	24 villagers were forced to be porters and 4 people got injured during the clashes on the way	ID 77 led by Colonel Than Htike Kyaw
24.	Feb 20, 2016	Ngwat Ngar village, Kutkhai	Forced portering	2 villagers were arrested at gunpoint and forced to be porters and show the way	LIB 107 under ID99
25.	Mar 6, 2016	Ngwat Ngar village, Kutkhai	Forced portering	14 villagers were forced to be porters	ID 99
26.	Mar 11, 2016	Pan Lawt village, Mong Ngaw, Kyaukme	Forced portering	16 villagers were forced to be porters (for one day and one night)	ID 77 (771, 772)
27.	Mar 12, 2016	Kwansalan village, Mong Ngaw, Kyaukme	Forced portering	17 villagers were forced to be porters and all the houses in the village were checked	ID 77 and ID 33
28.	March 30, 2016	Ho Tat village, Nar Aww Gyi tract, Mantong	Forced portering	18 villagers forced be porters from Ho Tat to Naw Rae village	ID 33

5. Looting and deliberate destruction of property

No.	Date	Location of violation	Type of violation	Details of violation	Battalion or Division of perpetrator(s)
1.	Jul 24, 2012	Nam Linn village, Namsan	Looting of property	3 houses were broken into by soldiers, who looted food and household property	IB 115

2.	Aug 31, 2012	Htat Kyat village, Nar Aww Gyi tract, Mantong	Looting of property	5 houses' locks were destroyed by gunfire, and soldiers looted rice, salt, money (about 250,000 kyats)	IB 501
3.	Feb 18, 2013	Htat Kyat village, Mantong	Destruction of property, looting	Soldiers broke into house, stole clothing, household utensils	Soldiers based in Hsipaw
4.	Mar 12, 2013	Khun Khar village, Kyaukme	Destruction of property	Villagers forced to cut down trees in community forest to build military camp	IB 501
5.	Jun 18, 2013	Ngawt Ngar village, Kutkhai	Looting	Soldiers broke into shops and looted goods worth 2,000,000 kyat	IB 145 (based in Kunlong) led by Maj. Saw Yu Hlaing
6.	Jul 22, 2014	Man Aung village, Namkham	Confiscation of property	Villager forced to carry goods for military, then his motorbike was seized	ID 88, ID 99, IB 45
7.	Nov 11, 2014	Myo Tit tract, East Quarter, Namsan	Arbitrary taxation	Each house forced to provide one unit of rice, (over 100 households)	LIB 107 under ID 77
8.	Jun 18, 2015	Jone Ja (Man Sat) village, Nar Aww Gyi group, Mantong	Looting of property	The troops entered three houses without permission and looted property, including food, money, phone	ID 77
9.	Dec 20, 2015	Sae Nay village, Manpu tract, Namkham	Looting of property	Looted about 3,500,000 kyats from whole village, seized 2 motorbikes	Pansay militia
10.	Dec 23, 2015	Say Kinn village, Namkham	Looting of property	Looted property and food worth over 200 million kyat (about USD 150,000)	IB 324 and Pansay militia

11.	Mar 11, 2016	Pang Law village, Mong Ngaw, Kyaukme	Deliberate destruction of buildings, looting of property	Burned down monastery, broke into all houses, looted valuables, money, livestock worth millions of kyat	ID 3312
12.	Mar 10-11, 2016	Lwae Kann, Man Swe, Pain Punn, Kutkhai	Deliberate destruction of homes and property	11 houses from Lwae Kann, 6 houses from Man Swe, 3 houses from Pain Pann were burnt down, all paddy stores were also burned	ID 33
13.	Mar 28, 2016	Pan Law village, Kyaukme	Destruction of property	2 teachers' houses were destroyed by troops	ID 77, LIB 59

Summary of displacement in Ta'ang areas of northern Shan State 2011-2016

No	Camp locations	Total no. of IDPs/ refugees	Original Location (villages)	Year displaced	No. returning home
1.	Thon Home village, Mantong	Over 500	Pan Khar, Mai Kha, Pan Hlone, Mantong township	2011	Over 300 IDPs have returned home, some to other villages where their relatives are
2.	Christian Church Camp, Mantong	Over 260	Lwae Mauk, Man Kyi, Mantong township	2011	Over 50 IDPs have returning back to original villages
3.	Nay Win Nee Camp, Namkham	About 430	Man Lwae (1), Man Lwae (2), Kyu Sai, Auu Lan Par, Mantong township	2011	No one able to return home

4.	Kar Lai Camp, Kutkhai	Over 800	Mantong, Naung Hawe, Hein Monn, Kutkhai township	2012	No one able to return home
5.	Mai Yu Lay, Kutkhai	Over 2000	Man Sein, Pain Bwnn, Lwae Khae, Lwae Sayan, Naw Nang, Kutkhai township	2012	No one able to return home
6.	Namtu Camp, Namtu	Over 200	Man San, Awe Law, Lwae Monn, Namtu township	2012	All have returned home
7.	Tangyan Camp, Tangyan	Over 700	Kaung Kwat, Kaung Sai, Nam Mar Wee, Phar Pan, Man Toke, HwaePuu, Man Kyaung, Man Yaung, Tangyan township	2012	All have returned home
8.	Namkham camp, Namkham	Over 800	Man Puu village, Namkham township	2014	All have returned home
9.	Lu Chan Ko, China	Over 700	Main Pain, Shar Man Law, Pan Kyone, Ho Pone, Han Hao, Htan San, Sin Kyae (old village), Sin Kyae (new village), Nham Mar, Pan Kyu, Kyu Lunn, Man Kyu, Naung Hao, Sai Aww, Naung Kyo and Man Sar villages from Tar Shwe Htang, Konkyan and Laogai townships	2015	The Burmese military troops have not allowed them back
10.	Popper Yone Monastery, Namtu	Over 60	Pan Kan village, Namtu township	2015	All staying in camp outside Namtu town
11.	Hike Par, Mong Hsu (Southern Shan State)	Over 2,000	Nam Pa Moong, Koong Nim, Ta Sarm Boo, Nam Soke, Ho Nam, Mong Hsu township	2015	No one able to return
12.	Mong Wee Camp, Namkham	826	Lwat Naw, Han Pann, Namkham township	2016	All have returned home

13.	Mai Yu Lay (new camp), Kutkhai	Over 1000	NgwatNgar, Man Puu, Man Sein, Pain Bann, Manton, Kutkhai township	2016	No one able to return home yet
14.	Namphatkar, Kutkhai	667	Ngwat Ngar village, Kutkhai township	2016	No one able to return home yet
15.	Thi Ho Monastery, Kyaukme	353	Pan Lawt, Kyauk Phyu (villages under Tawt San tract, Kyaukme township)	2016	No one able to return home yet
16.	Old people's home, Kyaukme	328	Tawt San, Mikone, Nyaing Maung, Kyaukme township	2016	No one able to return home yet
17.	Yay Oo Monastery, Kyaukme	217	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return home yet
18.	Aung Hsu Pann Monastery, Kyaukme	207	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return home yet
19.	Warso Monastery, Kyaukme	86	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return home yet
20.	Shwe Nyaung Pin, Kyaukme	191	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return home yet
21.	Kan Main, Kyaukme	96	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return home yet

22.	Namsalin, Kyaukme	242	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return home yet
23.	Mong Long	Over 300	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return yet
24.	Taung Nauk Monastery, Kyaukme	210	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return home yet
25.	Shwe Kyin Monastery, Kyaukme	99	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return home yet
26.	Wai Hlu Win Monastery, Kyaukme	85	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return home yet
27.	Aung Mingalar Monastery, Kyaukme	53	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return home yet
28.	Mai Tinn Village, Kyaukme	221	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return home yet
29.	Kanbawza Monastery, Kyaukme	121	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return home yet

30.	Tharthana Win Monastery, Kyaukme	85	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return home yet
31.	Ti Linn Monastery, Kyaukme	258	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return home yet
32.	Oke Pho, Moegoke	97	Nyaung Maung, Par Lai, Pain Kadaw, Kaung Tain, Kyauk Phyu, Tawt San, Kwansalann, Lwae Pann Tan, Kyaukme	2016	No one able to return yet

Total number displaced = over 14,200
Of these, over 12,000 remain displaced
Only about 2,000 have been able to return to their original homes, but without guarantees of safety

List of pro-government militia in Ta'ang areas of northern Shan State

Name of militia	Area of operation, township	No. of troops
Pansay militia, led by U Kyaw Myint (former USDP MP)	Pansay area, Namkham	Over 200
Namkham Myo Ma militia	Namkham township	Over 100
Kaung Khar militia, led by U T Hkun Myat, currently USDP MP for Kutkhai and Deputy Lower House Speaker	Kaung Khar, Kutkhai	Over 200
Mai Yu militia, also led by U T Hkun Myat	Mai Yu Lay, Kutkhai	Over 30
Kyu Koke militia	Kyu Koke, Muse	Over 50
Mong Koe militia	Mong Koe, Muse	Over 50
Phaung Sai militia	Phaung Sai, Muse	Over 50
Shauk Haw militia	Shauk Haw, Kutkhai	Over 80
Lone Kan militia	Lone Kan, Kutkhai	Over 50
Lone Htan militia	Lone Htan, Kutkhai	Over 70
Kutkhai militia	Kutkhai township	Over 200
Tarmonye militia, Led by U Myin Lwin aka Wang Guoda, currently USDP MP for Kutkhai	Tarmonye, Kutkhai	Over 100
Ngawn Sai militia, led by Tun Myat Lay	Ngawn Sai, Namsan	Over 20
Namtu militia	Namtu township	Over 30
Mantong militia	Mantong township	Over 30
TOTAL		Over 1,260



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