Civil Society Organizations in Myanmar Demand Truth And Justice For Three Villagers Who Were Arbitrarily Arrested And Killed

Date: 1, September, 2020

Three villagers living in Muse and Namkham Townships were arrested on May 29, 2020 by the Infantry Division 99 of the Burmese Army. After three months of no information on where about they were, some villagers found their bodies on August 20 and informed the Muse police station. Then, they dug out the bodies and found they are the bodies of missing villagers.

According to eyewitnesses, two of the three villagers, who lived in Mankan and Mong Set villages in Namkat village Tract, Muse Township, were arrested by the Burmese Army’s 99 Infantry Division while burning charcoal. The other villager is a resident of Loi Mon village in Namkham Township and it is unknown where and how he was arrested.

The wife of the deceased, Aik Leik, said, "They are not affiliated with any organization. No matter how much gold and silver you pay me, I shall never be satisfied and shall never forget. Nobody wants this kind of thing to happen again. And I want (the soldiers) know who are soldier and who are civilians."

The arbitrary arrest and killing of civilians of the Infantry Division 99 of the Burmese Army go against the aim of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Article 3 states: “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” The acts also explicitly violate the code of conduct for soldiers of the Geneva Convention article 4 the protection of civilians during the armed conflicts and article 3 for soldiers to follow in the non-international armed conflict (NIAC).

In addition, it violates on the targeting civilians which is recognized by the international community as serious international crimes and accepted as international traditional law; It also violates the distinction of non-targeting of civilians, a fundamental principle of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) that must be respected in all countries. As the Myanmar government became a party to the Geneva Conventions in 1992, it was required to abide by the terms and conditions of the treaty.
On the aforementioned matter, the Ta'ang Literature and Culture Group of Muse Township issued a statement on August 26, 2020, and the Commander of the Infantry Division 99 of the Burmese Army summoned them to Namphetka village, Kutkai Township on August 27. He said he would investigate whether their soldiers from ID 99 perpetrated the crimes. On the morning of August 31, the PSO of the Commander of the ID 99 of the Burmese Army called and said, “According to our records, the 99 Infantry Division was not active on the day they were arrested. It is not our group’s fault as no report came up. I don’t know about other groups,” he said.

Lwe Poe La Bar, a member of Ta'ang Civil Society group said, “Villagers have been detained for months and brutally murderd. It is a serious crime. I want truth and justice to be done as soon as possible for the affected family. There must be responsibility on this case. The perpetrators for this crime must be punished.”

**Demands**

1. Investigate the murder of the villagers as soon as possible and to establish the truth and justice.
2. The Burmese military should impose transparent and effective sanctions on the perpetrators in public.
3. Provide appropriate remedy for the bereaved family
4. Stop to commit any other human rights violations other than like this one in the future
5. Stop using the people as hostages
6. End hostilities and military operations in ethnic areas and to abide by the Geneva Conventions and other international laws
7. Implement genuine and inclusive peace process

**Contact**

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Participating Organizations:

1. Ta’ang Women’s Organization - TWO
2. Ta’ang Student and Youth Union – TSYU
3. Ta’ang Legal Aid
4. Synergy
5. Association of Human Rights Defenders and Promoters- HRDP
6. Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)- AAPP
7. Generation Wave – GW
8. Equality Myanmar - (EQMM)
10. Myanmar People Alliance - MPA (SS)
11. Loka Ahlinn (LA)
12. Metta Campaign Mandalay
13. Genuine People’s Servants – GPS
14. Future Light Center
15. Open Myanmar Initiative - OMI
16. Progressive Voice (PV)
17. Women’s League of Burma – WLB
   - Burmese Women’s Union (BWU)
   - Karenni Women’s Organization (KNWO)
   - Kachin Women’s Association Thailand (KWAT)
   - Kuki Women’s Human Rights Organization (KWHRO)
   - Karen Women’s Organization (KWO)
   - Kayan Women’s Organization (KyWO)
   - Lahu Women’s Organization (LWO)
   - Pa-O Women’s Union (PWU)
   - Shan Women’s Action Network (SWAN)
- Tavoyan Women’s Union (TWU)
- Women for Justice (WJ)
18. Open Myanmar Initiative
19. The Seagull: Human Rights, Peace & Development
20. Thanlwin Citizens’ Empowerment Program
23. Students and Youth Congress of Burma – SYCB
24. Karen Institute of Strategic Studies
25. Myanmar Cultural Research Society (MCRS)
26. Peace Working Committee
27. Social Program Aid for Civic Education (SPACE)
28. easant Legal Aid Network (PLAN)
29. All Arakan Civil Society Organization Partnership
30. Wan Lark Development Foundation
31. NeT Organization
32. Kachin Peace Network
33. လူ႔အခြင့္အာေေရးပညာေးရပူသူညရ ကြန္ေက္-HREN
34. အပံ-လြတ္လး္္ြညထုတ္ာေဖည္ာေ းညေျပုခြင့္လြငး္ေြညရသရအဖြ ႔ (Athan)
35. ိုင္ေျငပ္ရလူငင္္ နသ့္ခသ္ရ သပငမိဳ႕)
36. လြင္းန္တအညင္ရလူငင္္ တန္႔ငန္ရိဳ႕)
37. အပုသ္တသည၀္္လူသရကူပီာေေရအပင္ရ္ ာေကူညက္သ ိဳ႕)
38. လညရေြပငရတအညင္ရလူငင္္အဖြ ႔္
39. တအညင္ရလူငင္္အဖြ ႔္ နသမတူိဳ႕)္
40. တအညင္ရလူငင္္အဖြ ႔ (ကြတ္ခပုင္)
41. တအညင္ရလူငင္္အဖြ (ကြတ္)
42. တအညင္ရလူငင္္အဖြ (ကြတ္)
43. တအညင္ရလူငင္္အဖြ (ကြတ္)
44. တအညင္ရလူငင္္အဖြ (ကြတ္)
45. ဗိုလ်ချင်း တိုင်းရင်းသားအဖွဲ့ (RWIO)
46. Burma Rivers Network – BRN
47. နိုင်ငံတော်စိုစိုးမော်ရွက်သော သူလူ့လျော် စိတ်စိုးမော်ရွက်သော အဖွဲ့ (HST-NSS)
48. ဝါးောင်းခါးကွဲအဖွဲ့ (CSFOP)
49. Action Committee for Democracy Development (ACDD)
   - ဗိုလ်ချင်း တိုင်းရင်းသား အဖွဲ့
   - မိုးမိုင်းခါးကွဲေရာ တည်ဆောက် မှုတူရာ အတွက် စီမံခန်းဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း
   - မိုးမိုင်းခါးကွဲေရာ မှုတူရာ အတွက် စီမံခန်း
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   - Peasants’ Legal Aid Network-Arakan ဗိုလ်ချင်း တိုင်းရင်းသား အဖွဲ့
   - ဗိုလ်ချင်း တိုင်းရင်းသား အဖွဲ့ မှုတူရာ အတွက် စီမံခန်း
   - Ramkhye - ဗိုလ်ချင်း တိုင်းရင်းသား အဖွဲ့
   - Justice Drum ဗိုလ်ချင်း တိုင်းရင်းသား အဖွဲ့

50. ဗိုလ်ချင်း တိုင်းရင်းသား အဖွဲ့ (CSFOP)
51. HURFOM
52. Paungsee Arr Institute
53. Humanity Institute
54. New Star Law Firm
55. Tai Youth Organization- TYO
56. Tai Youth Network – TYN
57. ဗိုလ်ချင်း တိုင်းရင်းသား အဖွဲ့ (CSFOP)
59. Youth Circle
60. Action Group For Farmer Affair-AGFA (Bago)
61. ပင် သတ္ပူသူညရား၏ ငပသ္ရခူသ္ရာေေရလသ္ရ္ဥ္အဖြ ႔ (PoPP)
62. Halcyon
63. ေခပုင္ းပ္လုံရေျပုင္ေညာေကူညင္ရပညရႏြင့္လူငင္သူညရအ္ပ္ရအေုံရ (AASYC)
64. Myo Thant, Land Activist
65. Myat Noe, Peace Lover
66. Htet Htet Aung, Civic educator
67. Nay Win, Green Images Myanmar
68. Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF)
69. Pa-O Youth Organization (PYO)
70. Paung Ku (ပေါ်ဗီးး)