

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 murdered. 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)
9. Karenni Human Rights Group – KnHRG
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
- 21. Karen Human Rights Group – (KHRG)
- 22. Karen Peace Support Network – KPSN
- 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. လူ့အခွင့်အရေးပညာပေးသူများ ကွန်ရက်-HREN
- 34. အသံ - လွတ်လပ်စွာထုတ်ဖော်ပြောဆိုခွင့်လှုပ်ရှားမှုအဖွဲ့ (Athan)
- 35. ပြိုင်ဆင်ရေးလူငယ် (နမ့်ခမ်းမြို့)
- 36. လွယ်ပန်တအင်းလူငယ် (တန့်ယန်း)
- 37. အိုမ်တမာဂ်လူမှုကူညီရေးအသင်း (ကျောက်မဲ)
- 38. မန္တလေး တအင်းလူငယ်အဖွဲ့
- 39. မိုးသောက်ကြယ် လူမှုကူညီရေးအသင်း (မန်တုံ)
- 40. လားရှိုးတအင်းလူငယ်အဖွဲ့ (LTY)
- 41. တအင်းလူငယ်အဖွဲ့ (နမ့်တူ)
- 42. တအင်းလူငယ်အဖွဲ့ (မူဆယ်)
- 43. ရန်ကုန်တအင်းလူငယ်အဖွဲ့
- 44. တအင်းလူငယ်အဖွဲ့ (ကွတ်ခိုင်)

- 45. ရခိုင်ရှေ့ဆောင်အမျိုးသမီးအဖွဲ့ (RWIO)
- 46. Burma Rivers Network – BRN
- 47. ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်မြောက်ပိုင်းလူသားချင်း စာနာထောက်ထားမှု ပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်ရေး အဖွဲ့ (HST-NSS)
- 48. တအာင်းလူငယ်အဖွဲ့ (မိုးမိတ်)
- 49. Action Committee for Democracy Development (ACDD)
 - ရွှေခြံမြေကွန်ရက်၊ ကွမ်းခြံကုန်းမြို့နယ်
 - ရပ်ရွာငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေး ရှေ့ဆောင်အဖွဲ့၊ ကလေးမြို့နယ် စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်းဒေသကြီး
 - ဒို့လယ်ယာကွန်ရက်၊ ဟင်္သာတမြို့နယ်၊ ဧရာဝတီ
 - လူ့အခွင့်အရေးကာကွယ်မြှင့်တင်ရေးကွန်ရက်၊ ချောက်မြို့နယ် မကွေးတိုင်းဒေသကြီး
 - အလုပ်သမားအဖွဲ့အစည်းပေါ်ပေါက်ရေးနှင့် အမျိုးသမီးအခွင့်အရေး အသိပညာ အသိပညာပေးရေး (ပဲခူးကွန်ရက်) ပဲခူးတိုင်းဒေသကြီး
 - တောင်သူလယ်သမားများနှင့် ရေလုပ်သားများ အကျိုး အကျိုးစီးပွားကာကွယ်စောင့်ရှောက်ရေးကွန်ရက် မြစ်ကျိုးတိုက်နယ်၊ ပဲခူးတိုင်းဒေသကြီး
 - ဥသျှစ်ပင် လူငယ်ကွန်ရက်၊ ဥသျှစ်ပင်မြို့၊ ပန်းတောင်းမြို့နယ်၊ ပဲခူးတိုင်းဒေသကြီး
 - Peasants' Legal Aid Network-Arakan ဖြောက်ဦးမြို့နယ် ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်
 - မွန်လူငယ်ကွန်ရက်-ရေး၊ ရေးလမိုင်း၊ မွန်ပြည်နယ်
 - လူမှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးနှင့် ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးကွန်ရက်၊ ပေါင်မြို့နယ်၊ မွန်ပြည်နယ်
 - Ramkhye - ရမ်းခေး၊ မြစ်ကြီးနားကွန်ရက်၊ ကချင်ပြည်နယ်
 - Justice Drum ကွန်ရက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့နယ် ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်တောင်ပိုင်း
- 50. မိတ်ဆွေစစ်အဖွဲ့
- 51. မိုးကုတ်တအာင်းလူငယ်အဖွဲ့
- 52. HURFOM
- 53. Paungsee Arr Institute
- 54. Humanity Institute
- 55. New Star Law Firm
- 56. Tai Youth Organization- TYO
- 57. Tai Youth Network – TYN
- 58. အရပ်ဖက်လူ့အဖွဲ့အစည်းငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးဖိုရမ် (CSFOP)

59. Youth Circle
60. Action Group For Farmer Affair-AGFA (Bago)
61. သင့်မြတ်သူများ၏ ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးလမ်းစဉ်အဖွဲ့ (PoPP)
62. Halcyon
63. ရန်ပုံငွေပြည်လုံးဆိုင်ရာ ကျောင်းသားနှင့်လူငယ်များအစည်းအရုံး (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 (ပေါင်းကူး)