

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 50/95 (ASA 16/01/95, 28 February 1995) and follow-up (ASA 16/02/95, 3 March) - Fear for safety

MYANMAR Myanmar refugees in Thailand

San Tun
"Uncle Jolly"

new names: Saw Gay Phlo
Maung Le
and 7 others

Nine more Karen refugees have been abducted by members of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Organization (DKBO), an armed group supported by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC, Myanmar's ruling military authorities).

On 9 March 1995, some 30 armed DKBO members entered a new refugee camp near Mae Ka Khi village. The camp had been relocated for safety reasons from Kha Thi Tha on the Salween River where it marks the border between Myanmar and Thailand. The armed group seized nine Karen refugees, including a camp leader named Saw Gay Phlo, members of his family, and Maung Le, also a camp official.

Also on 9 March, DKBO members shot and killed two Karen refugees in a robbery attempt near Mae Salit camp. The two males were tobacco farmers working at their plot at night when they were killed. Amnesty International has not been able to obtain their names.

Amnesty International has no further news on San Tun and "Uncle Jolly", two Karen leaders who were abducted by members of the DKBO on 1 and 2 March from Maw La Camp.

These abductions and killings are yet another example of the ongoing pattern of attacks against Myanmar refugees in Thailand in the last month. Amnesty International remains gravely concerned for the security of all Myanmar refugees in Thailand near the Myanmar border, who are at risk of further attacks. It calls on the Royal Thai Government to increase its efforts to protect all refugees.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- urging the Myanmar military authorities to immediately release Saw Gay Phlo and the eight other Karen refugees seized in Thailand on 9 March 1995, and reiterating calls for the release of San Tun and "Uncle Jolly";
- renewing calls on the authorities to ensure that the DKBO and the Myanmar armed forces do not target civilians for attack, whether in Myanmar or across the border in Thailand.

APPEALS TO:

1) General Than Shwe, Chairman
State Law and Order Restoration Council
c/o Ministry of Defence, Signal Pagoda Road
Yangon (Rangoon), Union of Myanmar (Burma)

Telegrams: General Than Shwe, Yangon, Myanmar

Telexes: 21316

Salutation: Dear General

2) Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, Secretary 1

State Law and Order Restoration Council

c/o Ministry of Defence, Signal Pagoda Road

Yangon (Rangoon), Union of Myanmar (Burma)

Telegrams: Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar

Faxes: +95 1 229 50

Salutation: Dear General

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of MYANMAR accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 April 1995.