

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 16/01/96

3 January 1996

Further information on UA 50/95 (ASA 16/31/95, 28 February 1995) and follow-ups (ASA 16/02/95, 3 March 1995; ASA 16/03/95, 13 March; ASA 16/10/95, 5 May; asa 16/25/95, 26 September; and ASA 16/31/95, 8 December) - Fear for safety

MYANMAR Myanmar refugees and Thai civilians in Thailand

new names: Aye Htun (m) and his 18-month-old daughter
 Ah Liang (m), early 30s
 Ko La (m), aged 44
 Suda Panyasupatho (f), aged 8
 Preecha Panyasupatho
 Suphor Panyasupatho

The Democratic Kayin Buddhist Organization (DKBO) has launched further attacks on both Karen displaced persons' camps and Thai villages in Tak Province, Thailand.

On 26 December 1995 armed DKBO troops entered Sho Clo Camp at about 1am and opened fire on Karen civilians, injuring two. Aye Htun, leader of the camp's Section 7, was wounded in the thigh and his 18 month old daughter was wounded in the abdomen. Both were hospitalized, although it is believed that Aye Htun has subsequently been discharged.

Amnesty International has learned of other attacks on Karen displaced persons in the last two months. A few days after 22 November, two people were shot and killed by DKBO soldiers in the Wanpa area, near Don Pa Kiang camp: Ah Liang was shot in the head and left to die and Ko La was shot dead. On 3 December an unidentified Karen woman was shot and killed during a robbery by DKBO soldiers at Huay Par Yang, near the Moei River.

DKBO troops have also attacked Thai civilians near the Myanmar border. On 27 December Suda Panyasupatho, an 8-year-old girl, was shot in the neck by DKBO troops and died instantly when she ran out of her house in Tha Song Yang district. Her older brother Preecha was kidnapped by the DKBO; he has not been heard from since the incident. Her father Suphor Panyasupatho, 53, was shot in the shoulder and taken to hospital. On 30 December fighting erupted when DKBO troops reportedly attacked Thai Border Patrol Police.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- expressing deep concern about the killing of Suda Panyasupatho, and for the safety of both Thai civilians and Karen displaced people living near the border in Tak Province;
- expressing concern for Preecha Panyasupatho and calling for him to be released immediately;
- renewing calls to the local military authorities in southeastern Myanmar to ensure that the DKBO do not deliberately and arbitrarily attack unarmed civilians, whether in Myanmar or across the border in Thailand.

APPEALS TO:

Lieutenant Colonel Sein Win
Kayin State Law and Order Restoration Council

2

Hpa-an

Kayin (Karen) State

Union of Myanmar

Telegrams: Lt. Colonel Sein Win, Hpa-an, Kayin State, Myanmar

Salutation: Dear Lieutenant Colonel

Major General Ket Sein

Commander, Southeast Military Command

Mon State Law and Order Restoration Council

Mawlamyine (Moulmein), Mon State

Union of Myanmar

Telegrams: Major General Ket Sein, Mawlamyine, Mon State, Myanmar

Salutation: Dear Major 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 18 February 1996.