

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 50/95 (ASA 16/01/95, 28 February 1995) and follow-ups (ASA 16/02/95, 3 March and ASA 16/03/95, 13 March) - Fear for safety

MYANMAR Myanmar refugees in Thailand

San Tun
"Uncle Jolly", aka Khaw Li, aged about 65
Saw Gay Phlo

new names: Pu Pu Aeh Lay Pa, aged 85
Ka Moe Phaw (f), aged 18
Htl La Paw (f), aged about 30
Naw Mura (f)
Kyar Swe, aged 20

Amnesty International is gravely concerned about a new series of even more severe attacks by members of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Organization (DKBO) on Karen refugee camps in Thailand. There have been at least seven attacks on camps along the Thai-Burmese border since 19 April 1995, during some of which the DKBO were apparently accompanied by Burmese troops.

On 19 April, the DKBO attacked a camp at Mae Ta Wa, burning down 30 houses and seizing five Karen refugees. It is not known if they are still being held. Reports indicate that on 23 April the DKBO attacked Klay They Loo camp, killing one person and burning the camp. On the same day the DKBO attacked Mae Wee Khlo refugee camp nearby, again killing at least one person. On 24 April they reportedly returned to Klay They Loo camp, clashed with camp security forces and burned down a nearby village.

There were two separate DKBO attacks on 25 April, one at Mae Ra Ma Luang camp and one at Ka Ma Lay Ko camp. Some 50 to 60 DKBO troops entered Mae Ra Ma Luang camp and burned down at least 170 houses. Pu Pu Aeh Lay Pa, an 85-year-old blind man was burned to death because he could not flee his house and an 84-year-old man was badly burned and is not expected to live. Some eight other refugees were injured in the blaze, four of them seriously. 300 houses were burned down at Ka Ma Lay Ko camp, but no one was killed or injured in the attack, according to the most recent reports.

On 28 April the DKBO attacked the Bono section of Mae Ta Wa camp, burning more than 700 houses down. An entire family was trapped in a bunker, and Ka Moe Phaw, an 18-year old woman, died instantly. Her father died some time later, and other members of the family are being treated for burns.

The leader of the DKBO said in a statement published by the Thai newspaper *The Nation* on 1 May that they have been attacking the Karen refugee camps with the aim of forcing all 70,000 refugees to return to Myanmar. He also said that the DKBO was working with the Myanmar military authorities, who had promised to allow them control over the border region once all the refugees returned. The Royal Thai Government is planning to relocate the refugees in a more central location in order to provide adequate protection for them.

Amnesty International has received new information about earlier attacks, including those reported in previous follow-ups to UA 50/95. In the case of

the abduction of San Tun on 1 March from Mae Ta Wa camp by the DKBO, Amnesty International has learned that his daughter, Htl La Paw, was also seized at gunpoint at the same time. There has been no news about the fate of the two.

"Uncle Jolly", who was seized at Mae Ta Wa camp on 2 March by a group of DKBO soldiers who tied his hands behind his back, kicked and beat him and forced him to go with them at gunpoint, was then taken into Myanmar and reportedly hospitalized at Pa'an, capital of the Karen State. Some unconfirmed reports suggest that he died there.

Saw Gay Phlo, seized on 9 March from Mae Kong Kha camp, was forced with his wife, Naw Mura, who was seven months' pregnant, and his five children, to go with the DKBO into Myanmar. A subsequent report indicates that he had settled at Myaing Gyi Ngu, the DKBO headquarters.

On 15 March, Kyar Swe was shot dead when DKBO opened fire on his uncle's house, also at Mae Ta Wa camp. Five other refugees, including a nine-year-old boy, were also injured by gunfire.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/airmail letters

- renewing calls on the Myanmar military 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;
- expressing dismay at the deaths of Pu Pu Aeh Lay Pa; Ka Moe Phaw; Kyar Swe; and expressing deep concern for the safety of all Burmese refugees, including those who have been seized by the DKBO.

APPEALS TO:

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: Lt Gn Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar
Salutation: Dear General

Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council,
General Than Shwe
c/o Ministry of Defence, Signal Pagoda Road
Yangon, Union of Myanmar
Telegrams: General Than Shwe, Yangon, Myanmar
Telexes: 21316
Salutation: Dear General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

and 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 20 June 1995.