



Laid Waste:

**Human Rights
along the Kanbawk to
Myaing Kalay gas pipeline**



A report by the Human Rights Foundation of Monland - Burma, May 2009

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ABOUT HURFOM

The Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) is a non-governmental human rights organization based in Thailand. Founded in 1995 by a group of Mon youth, students and community leaders, the main objectives of HURFOM are:

- to monitor the human rights situation in Mon State and other areas of southern Burma
- to protect and promote the human rights of all people in Burma.

HURFOM produces monthly issues of the *Mon Forum*, published in print and online and containing news, lengthy reports and analysis of ongoing human rights violations in southern Burma. HURFOM also frequently publishes incident reports, commentary and features on its website: www.rehmonnya.org

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FOREWORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) has been monitoring human rights abuses in southern Burma since 1995, when the military regime began building the Yadana/Yetagun gas pipeline and the Ye to Tavoy railway. Over the last 14 years, our human rights workers have met hundreds of victims, who describe human rights violations as gross as they are systemic. Along the Thai-Burma border where our organization is based, thousands of people remain displaced, forced to flee their homes and abandon connections to a place populated by Mon people for hundreds of years.

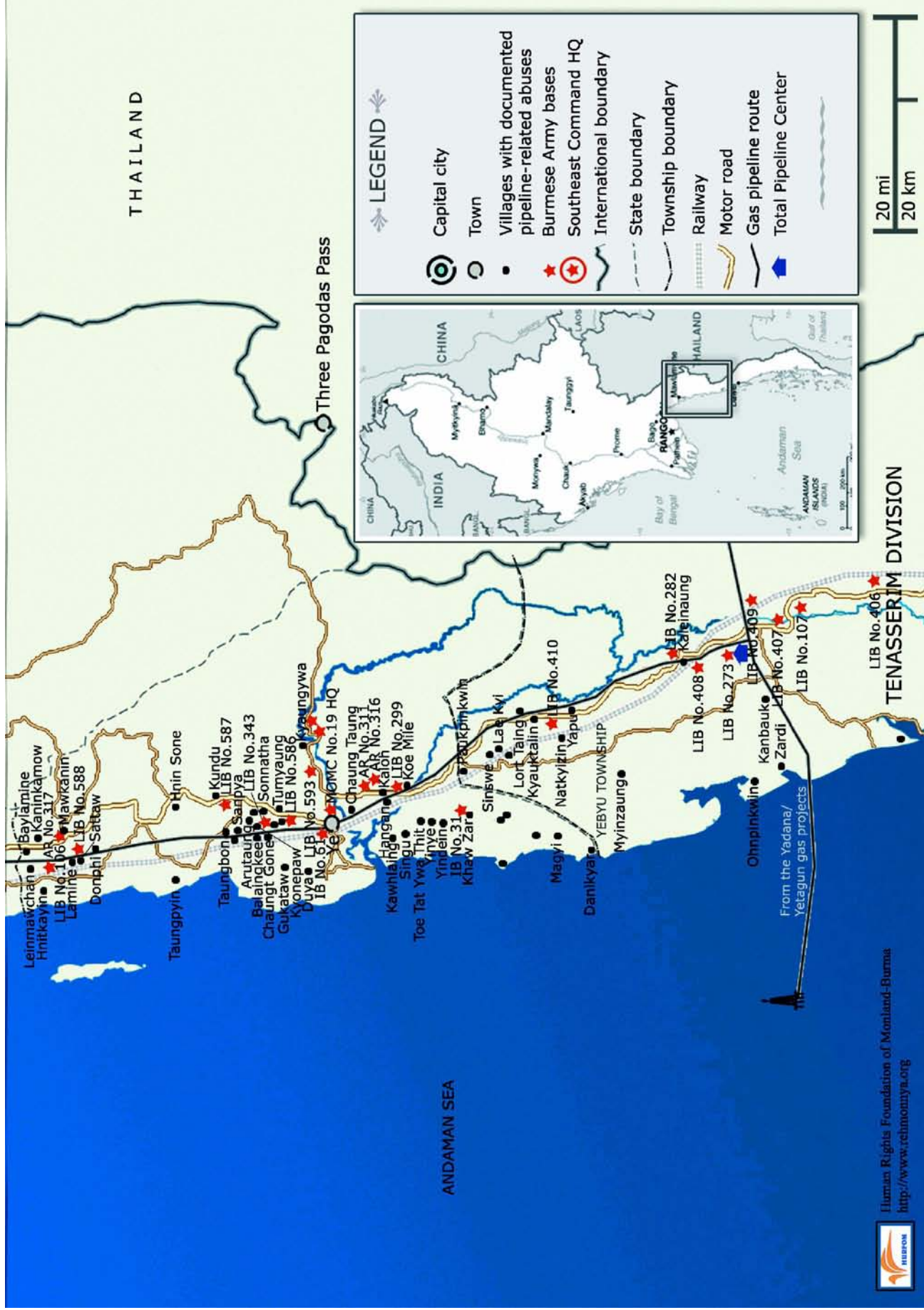
Abuse and displacement documented by HURFOM is directly related to major economic projects like the gas pipeline discussed in this report. Multinational corporations and the regime both reap enormous benefits – gas is harvested, transported, sold and used. The billions of dollars generated by these projects never reach the people of Burma. Instead, it goes directly to funding a military that oppresses them daily.

Laid Waste documents the suffering of villagers along the 180-mile Kanbaw to Myaing Kalay gas pipeline. Ten years after the pipeline's initial construction, villagers along its route continue to see their land seized and income taken as they are conscripted into work as forced laborers and subject to arbitrary detentions, torture and summary execution. This report is released at a time when international debate on appropriate responses to the situation in Burma appears to be renewing. The discussion is healthy and appreciated. But there should be no question: projects like the Kanbaw to Myaing Kalay gas pipeline do not benefit the people of our country.

Director,
The Human Rights Foundation of Monland
May 1, 2009

This map illustrates the Kanbawk to Myaing Kalay gas pipeline in Myanmar, highlighting the villages affected by the conflict. The pipeline is shown as a thick orange line, starting from the north and running south through Karen State and Mon State. Key locations marked include Thaton, Naung Lon, Mottama, Moulmein, Paung, Myaing Kalay, Pa-an, Zartapin, Kawthapone, Mudon, Kyaukmayaw, Kyaukseikyi, and Kyaukseikyi. The map also shows the locations of various military units, including LIB No. 203, LIB No. 204, LIB No. 201, LIB No. 208, LIB No. 210, LIB No. 209, IB No. 315, IB No. 316, IB No. 317, IB No. 318, IB No. 319, IB No. 320, IB No. 321, IB No. 322, IB No. 323, IB No. 324, IB No. 325, IB No. 326, IB No. 327, IB No. 328, IB No. 329, IB No. 330, IB No. 331, IB No. 332, IB No. 333, IB No. 334, IB No. 335, IB No. 336, IB No. 337, IB No. 338, IB No. 339, IB No. 340, IB No. 341, IB No. 342, IB No. 343, IB No. 344, IB No. 345, IB No. 346, IB No. 347, IB No. 348, IB No. 349, IB No. 350, IB No. 351, IB No. 352, IB No. 353, IB No. 354, IB No. 355, IB No. 356, IB No. 357, IB No. 358, IB No. 359, IB No. 360, IB No. 361, IB No. 362, IB No. 363, IB No. 364, IB No. 365, IB No. 366, IB No. 367, IB No. 368, IB No. 369, IB No. 370, IB No. 371, IB No. 372, IB No. 373, IB No. 374, IB No. 375, IB No. 376, IB No. 377, IB No. 378, IB No. 379, IB No. 380, IB No. 381, IB No. 382, IB No. 383, IB No. 384, IB No. 385, 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Acronyms and abbreviations

ABSDF	All Burma Students' Demoractic Fornt
AR	Artillery Regiment
ARV	Anti-Retroviral
CPB	Communist Party of Burma
ERI	Earth Rights International
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
HRP	Hongswatoi Restoration Party
HURFOM	Human Rights Foundation of Monland
IB	Infantry Battalion
ICBL	International Campaign to Ban Landmines
IMNA	Independent Mon News Agency
KNLA	Karen National Liberation Army
KNU	Karen National Union
LIB	Light Infantry Battalion
MCSO	Myanmar Central Statistical Organization
MLRD	Myanmar Land Records Department
MMSCFD	Million Standard Cubic Feet Per Day
MNLA	Mon National Liberation Army
MOGE	Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprises
MOMC	Military Operations Management Command
MRDC	Mon Relief and Development Committee
MRP	Monland Restoration Party
MSEC Ltd	Myanmar State Enterprise Company Limited
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
MTC	Military Training Center
NMSP	New Mon State Party
PDC	Peace and Development Council
PMF	People's Militia Force
PTT-EP	Petroleum Authority of Thailand - Exploration and Production Public Co. Ltd.
SLORC	State Law and Order Restoration Council
SPDC	State Peace and Development Council
TPDC	Township Peace and Development Council
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USD	United States Dollar
VPDC	Village Peace and Development Council
WCRP	Woman and Child Rights Project
WFP	World Food Programme

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I. Introduction

In November 2000, the military government in Burma¹ began construction of a 180-mile pipeline running south to north across the country's southern peninsula. Designed to supply cement factories and electricity generation projects, the pipeline carries the government share of gas produced by the controversial Yadana gas fields. The Yadana gas project – and a sister Yetagun project, which both transport gas to Thailand via a 40-mile overland pipeline – has seen intense international controversy; careful field research, public relations campaigns and legal battles have made clear that the project is responsible for massive human rights abuses.²

Branching off the Yadana/Yetagun pipeline, however, is the much longer Kanbawk to Myaing Kalay pipeline. This pipeline originates near Kanbawk in Tenasserim Division and ends in Karen State's Myaing Kalay, passing close to hundreds of villages and bisecting farms and plantations by the thousands of acre. Though it has received much less international attention, the Kanbawk to Myaing Kalay pipeline has been responsible for another expansive set of human rights violations. The following report documents these abuses.

¹ The military government officially changed the country's name to "Myanmar" in 1989, though neither opposition groups nor the international community have universally accepted the switch. The United States, United Kingdom, Australia and Canada, for instance, continue to use "Burma" rather than "Myanmar."

² Much of this controversy was generated by the campaigns of Earth Rights International and the Burma Campaign – UK. See, Earth Rights International. *Total Denial*, July 1996; Earth Rights International. *Total Denial Continues: Earth rights abuses along the Yadana and Yetagun pipelines in Burma*, December 2003. Burma Campaign – UK. *Totalitarian Oil: Fueling the Oppression in Burma*, February 2005; Earth Rights International. *The Human Cost of Energy*, April 2008.



Clearing the route for the Kanbauk to Myaing Kalay pipeline required the seizure of more than 2,400 acres of land from villagers, losses for which they received little or no compensation. Once the route was under control, villagers were forced to work as unpaid forced laborers on the construction of the pipeline itself, clearing timber and brush, digging and filling trenches and hauling materials. Nearly a decade after construction of the pipeline was completed, villagers continue to be required to work as forced laborers; not only must villagers work to help maintain the pipeline, they must stand sentry and patrol it, under constant threat of violent retribution should an attack or accident occur.

Battalions of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC)³ army have been present at all stages of this process, ostensibly to provide security but also to provide threatening supervision to villagers required to participate in the project. The construction, maintenance and continued protection of the pipeline have fundamentally relied on the SPDC army, whose deployments have tripled since construction began. Housing and supporting these troops has lead to its own set of abuses, and the battalions responsible for the pipeline have seized more than 12,000 acres of land as well as demanded daily support from local villagers. These “pipeline battalions” have also been responsible for a raft of violent abuses, including torture, murder and rape. In many cases, these abuses have been a deliberate part of SPDC pipeline security strategy. In other cases, these abuses have simply been the product of a SPDC army that operates without accountability.

This report is divided into three main sections. After a discussion of the national and regional background to the pipeline, the first section (IV: Smoke and fire) details the increased militarization of the pipeline area as new battalions were deployed to support the project. This section provides details on the land confiscation and forced labor during the initial deployment of pipeline battalions, and the abuses inherent in their continued presence. The next section (V: Dirty work) documents abuses during the construction period, including land seizures to clear the way for the pipeline and forced labor to build it. The closing section (VI: Life on the line) details daily life along the pipeline, including the constant threat of explosions and forced labor related to pipeline maintenance and security.

³ Burma's military government changed its name from the State Law and Order Restoration Council to the SPDC in 1997.



II. Methodology

Information in this report is primarily based on field research conducted along the pipeline during the second half of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009. Nine HURFOM field reporters interviewed 69 subjects in four townships, including:

- 7 subjects from 4 villages in Mudon Township, Mon State
- 7 subjects from 5 villages in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State
- 20 subjects from 8 villages in Ye Township, Mon State
- 35 subjects from 10 villages in Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division

HURFOM also drew extensively on the knowledge of 7 field reporters who reside inside Burma, as well as 4 stringers generously made available by the Independent Mon News Agency (IMNA). These resident reporters provided information on individual incidents, as well as invaluable context, background information, confirmations and assistance finding answers to targeted follow-up questions.

This report also includes information drawn from HURFOM's extensive database, developed during 14 years of human rights documentation in Mon areas. In some cases information in the following report has already been published, either online in short incident reports or in monthly print issues of the *Mon Forum*.

HURFOM makes occasional use of quotations and information from IMNA and Kaowao News, two independent media organizations that cover the pipeline area. No incidents documented by HURFOM rely solely on information from these media reports. Gathering information and obtaining direct quotations from residents inside Burma is, however, intensely difficult and in some cases IMNA and Kaowao simply did good work that HURFOM felt added to the strength of this report.



In all cases except comments from political leaders, names of sources have been changed for their protection. Rather than publish source names as a blank or series of dashes, however, HURFOM feels that it is important to put names to testimony so that it remains clear that the pipeline affects real people, not anonymous subjects or statistics. In cases where villagers requested anonymity, however, they have been listed as “anonymous.”

This report ends with 6 appendices, 5 of which are collections of individual documented abuses. These appendices should not be taken as comprehensive, and reflect neither the total number of abuses along the pipeline nor even the total recorded by HURFOM. Incidents included in the appendices are instead only those for which HURFOM has the absolute highest quality information, including confirmed eyewitness reports, victim testimony or exact details including the names and ages of perpetrators and victims. Appendix 3 should especially be taken as a selection of samples rather than a comprehensive audit, for at any given time many of the abuses on the list are occurring in multiple villages. Instead, Appendix 3 is designed to demonstrate the sheer breadth – and at times perverse creativity – of pipeline battalion “fundraising” efforts. In the case of Appendix 5, much of the information included was gathered independently by HURFOM’s Woman and Child Rights Project (WCRP).



III. Background

A. Burma, pipelines and military rule

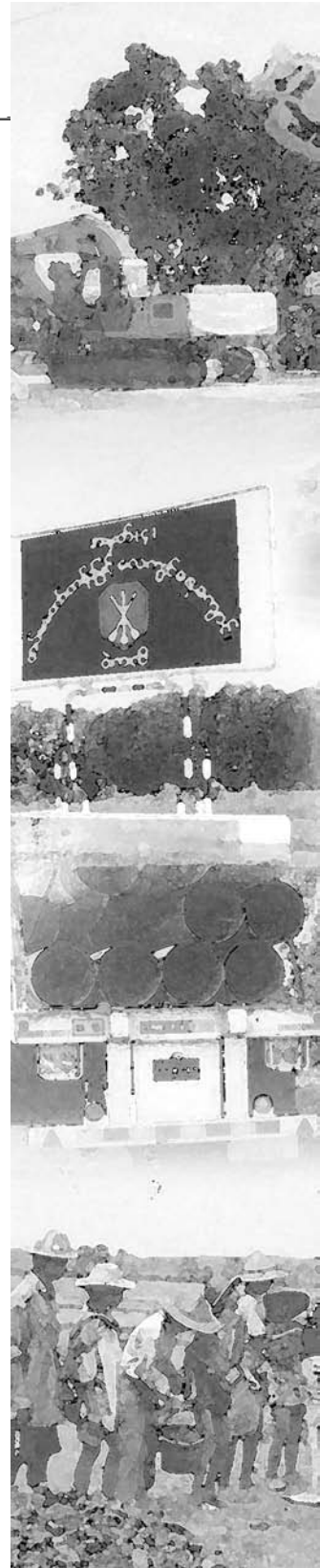
Successive military governments have ruled Burma⁴ since a coup in 1962. Through the 1990s, the juntas waged an intense civil war against armed ethnic and pro-democracy groups and the Communist Party of Burma (CPB). Though civil-war level fighting subsided as major groups agreed to ceasefires or disintegrated in the 1990s, conflict continues in the country's border areas. Across the rest of the country, meanwhile, the military government continues to treat the population as if it is an internal enemy. In perhaps the country's most infamous moment,⁵ in 1988 soldiers opened fire on hundreds of thousands of unarmed protesters, killing at least 3,000 people. Two years later, when the junta annulled the results of an election in which it suffered a crushing defeat, the international community began to enforce political and economic sanctions in earnest. Little has changed however, and 20 years after outcries over the events of 1988 and 1990 the international community continues to be shocked by the junta's actions; in 2006, the United Nations again announced "grave concern" at the human rights situation in Burma:

[T]he Assembly express[es] grave concern at ongoing systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Myanmar; the continuing use of torture; deaths in custody; political arrests and continuing imprisonment and other detentions, denial of freedom of assembly, association, expression and movement, and the prevailing culture of impunity.⁶

⁴ See footnote 1.

⁵ The infamy of 1988 is now likely challenged by the military government's response to Cyclone Nargis in May 2008, which consisted of such intransigence that thousands of lives were lost as international aid agencies struggled to gain access to affected areas. See, *After the Storm: Voices From the Delta*, EAT and Johns Hopkins University, March 2009.

⁶ "Third Committee Approves Draft Resolutions on Human Rights in Myanmar, Belarus; Rejects Texts on Canada, United States," United Nations Sixty-first General Assembly, Third Committee 51st and 52nd Meetings, November 22, 2006.



In spite of international pressure, not to mention armed opposition that at times seemed capable of sacking the country's capital, Burma's military governments have clung to power. Though economic mismanagement means the government lacks sources of traditional revenue, it has largely financed its position through the sale of raw materials and commodities. The bulk of this income comes from the

Andaman Sea, location of the lucrative Yetagun and Yadana gas projects. In May 1990, the British company, Premier Oil signed the first gas contract with Burma's military government, which granted it permission to harvest gas from the Yetagun Gas Fields in the Andaman Sea.⁷ Two years later, in July 1992 the French oil company Total signed an agreement to harvest gas from the Yadana Gas Fields, also in the Andaman Sea.⁸



Construction of the Total Pipeline Center near Kanbauk, Tenasserim Division

Both the Yadana and Yetagun projects are joint-operating agreements with the government-owned Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprises (MOGE), the primary corporation responsible for gas exploration and production in Burma since most sectors of industry were nationalized in 1962. As a result, a significant portion of the income generated by the

projects flows directly to Burma's military government, netting the SPDC 2.486 billion USD in 2008⁹. This is down from the SPDC's 2.7 billion dollar 2007.¹⁰ Notably, these figures are based upon calculations using the official government exchange rate, which registers 6 *kyat* as equivalent to 1 USD.¹¹ This overvalues the *kyat* by almost 200 times its market value, masking the substantially larger income earned for the regime by gas sales.¹²

Even calculated at the official rate, income from the Yadana and Yetagun projects is the SPDC's primary source of foreign exchange, making up more than a third of its exports for 2008.¹³ This revenue is crucial to the SPDC, whose fundraising

⁷ Within a few years, Premier, the operator with a 27% share of the project, was joined the Malaysian company Petronas, the Japanese company Nippon and Thailand's PTT-EP.

⁸ The Yadana consortium is made up of 4 partners: Total, the operator with a 31.2% share, is joined by Chevron (Unocal prior to 2005), PTT-EP and MOGE.

⁹ According to government figures, cited in "Myanmar's foreign trade hits over \$11 bln in 2008," *Xinhua* March 21, 2009. This figure saw an interesting surge upwards in the last quarter of 2008, after the government announced income from gas to be just \$1.69 billion over the first three quarters of the year. See, "Myanmar trade surplus shrinks as gas exports fall," *AP* January 6, 2009.

¹⁰ According to figures provided by the government-controlled *Myanmar Times* newspaper, cited in "Myanmar earned 2.7 bln dlrs from 2007 gas exports: report," *AFP* April 8, 2008. A few months later, figures from the country's customs department revised the figure downwards, to \$2.594 billion. See, "Natural gas tops Myanmar exports in 2007-08," *Xinhua* June 15, 2008.

¹¹ For more on the difference between the official and actual market values of the *kyat*, see Inset 4.

¹² In May 2009, the widely used black-market exchange rate converted *kyat* to dollars at a rate of 1,090:1. For analysis of the way the official exchange rate impacts government budgets, see Turnell, Sean. "Burma's Economy 2008: Current Situation and Prospects for Reform," *Burma Economic Watch*, Macquarie University, Australia, May 2008.

¹³ According to government figures, 2008 saw exports totaling 6.413 billion USD. See, "Foreign trade breaks \$11b barrier before end of fiscal year," *Myanmar Times*, March 30-April 5, 2009.

opportunities are otherwise heavily restricted by strict international sanctions, including by the United States, European Union and Canada.¹⁴ The bulk of the income does not, however, make it into services that benefit the people of Burma. The SPDC spends just 1.4 percent of GDP on education and health, a rate that is half that of neighboring countries and amongst the lowest of countries anywhere.¹⁵ Predictably, Burma's social services are amongst the worst in the world; only a quarter of children complete primary school¹⁶ and Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF) ranked the country among the world's top-10 Humanitarian Crisis of 2008. The consequences for the population are dire; the country's infant mortality rate is among the highest in Asia, at 7% for children under 1 and 10% for those under 5. These numbers are closer to 10 and 20% in Burma's rural areas,¹⁷ due largely to preventable diseases like malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia.¹⁸ More difficult to treat conditions, meanwhile, go all-but ignored, and in what MSF calls "one of Asia's most severe HIV/AIDS epidemics" only a small fraction of the estimated 240,000 people tested positive for the disease receive ARV treatment.¹⁹

In spite of the steady income generated by the gas projects, not to mention Burma's abundance of other natural resources, Burma's economy remains stagnant after decades of economic mismanagement by successive military regimes, beginning with the economy-wide nationalizations of General Ne Win's "Burmese Way to Socialism." The UN categorized Burma a "Least Developed Country" in 1987, a label the country has continued to carry for over 20 years²⁰ even as other Southeast Asian countries have experienced economic booms. Its Gross National Income (GNI) per-capita of 220 USD is less than half that of Cambodia (480 USD), the country with the next-lowest GNI in the region and just a fraction of neighboring Thailand (2,990 USD) or similarly developing ex-British colony Indonesia (1,420 USD).²¹ According to the SPDC's own Central Statistical Organization (MCSO), 70% of household income is spent on food,²² the highest proportion in the region and a solid indicator of the thin line separating households from times when they can feed themselves and times when they cannot. According to the

¹⁴ Renewed most recently by the European Union. See, "EU extends sanctions on Burma for another year," *Mizzima News*, April 27, 2009.

¹⁵ Turnell, 2008. See also, *The Gathering Storm: Infectious Diseases and Human Rights in Burma*, the University of California Berkeley and John Hopkins University, July 2007.

¹⁶ Turnell, 2008; "Beyond the International Spotlight, Critical Needs in Myanmar Remain Unmet," *MSF Top Ten Humanitarian Crisis of 2008*, MSF December 2008.

¹⁷ *After the storm*, 2009.

¹⁸ Backpack Health Worker Team, *Chronic Emergency: Health and Human Rights in Burma*, September 2006.

¹⁹ See, *A Preventable Fate: The Failure of ART Scale-Up in Myanmar*, MSF Special Report, November 2008.

²⁰ United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries. "Myanmar Country Profile," June 2008 <http://www.unohrls.org/en/orphan/305/> Accessed 4/1/2009

²¹ UNICEF, Information by country: East Asia and the Pacific, <http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/eastasia.html> Accessed 4/1/2009

²² Daw Malar Aung, Deputy Director (Statistics), Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development. "Country Brief Note – Myanmar" (Sic), Inception Seminar/ Workshop on Upgrading Statistical Capabilities on MDG Indicators, Trivendrum, 13-15, December 2004. www.unsiap.or.jp/mdg_project/Inception/DOCS/CBN_Myanmar_016.doc Accessed 4/1/2009.

World Food Program, a third of children suffer from malnutrition.²³ These numbers worsen markedly in rural areas; in 2006, a joint survey by the UNDP and MCSO found 50% of the population in rural areas to have incomes insufficient to pay for food and other basic needs.²⁴

That income from projects like Yadana and Yetagun has not been effectively used to promote economic development should not be surprising. The SPDC is among the most corrupt regimes in the world²⁵ and, in the words of one respected Burma economic analyst, “has little understanding of the dynamics of a market economy, and mistakes the building of roads, bridges, dams and other physical infrastructure as constituting ‘economic development’ in themselves.”²⁶ In the last few years, this mismanagement has manifested itself in egregiously high levels of spending on projects like a nuclear reactor²⁷ and the construction of Naypyidaw, an opulent, built-from-scratch 4-5 billion dollar city to which the regime recently relocated the capital.²⁸

A substantial portion of SPDC budgetary expenditures, meanwhile, goes to funding the military, or *Tatmadaw*. Though accurate calculations are difficult because official figures are nonexistent or closely guarded, commentators estimate actual spending on the *Tatmadaw* to account for 25 to 40% of the national budget, or more than twice the percentage of GDP spent on health and education.²⁹ Importantly, this spending is further augmented by significant funds from military-owned economic enterprises³⁰ as well as a “self-reliance” policy that encourages front-line battalions to procure supplies through commandeering and purchasing at government prices.³¹ The result has been a steady increase in the ranks of the *Tatmadaw*, which at more than 400,000 troops is now the second largest army in Southeast Asia, second only to Vietnam.

²³ The WFP also labels Burma’s status as “serious” on the Global Hunger Index, which ranks countries based on child malnutrition, rates of child mortality and the proportion of people who are calorie deficient. See the WFP’s Myanmar profile, <http://www.wfp.org/countries/myanmar>. Accessed 4/20/2009.

²⁴ *Impact of the UNDP Human Development Initiative in Myanmar, 1994-2006*. UNDP 2006.

²⁵ According to international corruption monitoring group Transparency International, Burma is the second most corrupt country in the world, ahead of only Somalia. Transparency International. “Corruption Perceptions Index 2008,” Transparency International, 2008.

²⁶ Turnell, 2008. Turnell goes on to describe the SPDC as “almost wholly predatory... not so much parasitic of its host as all-consuming. If in other countries ruling regimes behave occasionally as racketeers in skimming a ‘cut’ from prosperous business, then Burma’s is more like a looter – destroying what it can neither create nor understand.”

²⁷ Bertil Lintner, “Burma’s Nuclear Temptation,” *Yale Global*, December 3, 2008; *The Guardian*, “Russia to build atomic plant for Burmese junta,” May 17, 2007.

²⁸ *The New York Times*, “Built to Order: Myanmar’s New Capital Isolates and Insulates Junta,” June 24, 2008; *The Irrawaddy*, “Dragging Burma Back to the Past,” November 2008 - Volume 16 NO.11; *BBC News*, “Burma’s new capital stages parade,” March 27, 2006.

²⁹ Andrew Selth. *Burma’s Armed Forces: Power Without Glory* (East Bridge: Norwalk, 2002); David Steinberg. *Burma, the state of Myanmar* (Georgetown University Press: Washington, DC, 2002).

³⁰ The *Tatmadaw* controls a variety of business operations, including banks, construction, agricultural and import-export companies. The *Tatmadaw*-owned Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings, for instance, is one of the largest businesses inside Burma. See, “The Enemy Within,” *The Irrawaddy*, March 2000 Vol. 8 No. 30. For a discussion of SPDC army investments and the lucrative logging industry in Burma, see *A Conflict of Interests: The uncertain future of Burma’s forests*, Global Witness, October 2003.

B. The Kanbawk to Myaing Kalay gas pipeline

The Yadana and Yetagun projects have received significant international attention, generated mostly through careful documentation of human rights violations by advocacy groups like Earth Rights International (ERI) and the Burma Campaign UK.³² Beginning in 1996, ERI also began conducting a legal advocacy campaign, filing lawsuits first in the US that were soon replicated in Belgium and France. Receiving less coverage, however, is the government-owned pipeline bringing Total gas to domestic users inside Burma; as part of its contract with Total, MOGE is entitled to as much as 20% of Yadana's production.³³ This gas is routed to two primary locations: first to cement factories in Karen State, and then onwards to Rangoon where it is used for electricity generation.³⁴ According to numbers released by Total in 2008, MOGE initially took less than half its share – 40 to 50 million standard cubic feet per day (mmscfd). In December 2006, MOGE increased this daily take to 100 mmscfd.

MOGE's share of the gas must travel through 183 miles of 20-inch diameter pipeline, construction of which began in November 2000. This pipeline begins at the Total Pipeline Center near Kanbawk, a town in northern Yebyu Township, Tavoy District, Tenasserim Division.³⁵ The gas travels briefly through Yebyu, before passing into Mon State 41 miles further on. For the next 116 miles, it travels through 5 townships in Mon State before entering Karen State, arriving 26 miles later at twin cement factories in Myaing Kalay.³⁶ From Myaing Kalay, some of the gas continues roughly west towards electricity generating projects in Rangoon, including a gas turbine power station funded by the Japanese government.³⁷

³¹ The SPDC is reported to have begun this "self reliance" or "self sufficiency" policy in 1996 or 1997. Front-line battalions are often poorly outfitted in terms of rations and other living requirements. Given the general lack of oversight or culpability for officers or soldiers, this has led to abuse and exploitation as battalions seek to cover shortfalls. For details on the March 2009 policy change that replaced rice rations with a weekly payment of 800 *kyat* for rank and file soldiers, see "Lack of army food could lead to corruption," *Democratic Voice of Burma*, April 29, 2009. For details on the general lack of support for rank and file SPDC army soldiers, see "Myanmar army document spotlights low morale," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, March 26, 2007. For other reports on the SPDC self-reliance policy, see *Running the Gauntlet: the Impact of Internal Displacement in Southern Shan State*, Humanitarian Affairs Research Project, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, 2003; *Myanmar Ethnic Minorities: Targets of Repression*, Amnesty International, June 2001. For examples of the way the SPDC military "self reliance" policy results in villagers forced to support troops, see *Internal Displacement and International Law in Eastern Burma*, Thai-Burma Border Consortium, October 2008.

³² See footnote 2.

³³ Total. *Total in Myanmar: a sustained commitment*, 2008. Downloaded from the Total website, <http://burma.total.com>. Accessed 3/1/2009.

³⁴ Total, 2008; U Kyaw Nyein, "MOGE Country Report for Myanmar." Presented to MOGE, Undated.

³⁵ For more on the organization and administration of States and Divisions in Burma, see Inset 1.

³⁶ For more on the cement factories in Myaing Kalay, see Inset 2.

³⁷ According to a June 2006 evaluation by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the JICA-funded Thaketa gas turbine power station was poised to increase the amount of gas it burned, by drawing an additional 22 million MMSCFD later in 2006. Atsushi Tokura, "Ex-Post Monitoring for Completed ODA Loan Projects," Myanmar Gas Turbine Power Station Project (Yangon), JICA June 2006.

The Kanbauk-Myaing Kalay pipeline is an extensive overland pipeline, and passes through areas that are varied in terms of terrain, ethnic make-up and political situation. The majority of the pipeline takes more or less the same route as the



The Kanbauk to Myaing Kalay gas pipeline during construction in Ye Township

Moulmein to Ye and Ye to Tavoy railway lines, which also run along the main road connecting Moulmein, Mon State's capital, to Tavoy, the capital of Tenasserim Division. For approximately the first third of the pipeline, in Yebyu Township and southern Ye Township's Khaw Zar Sub-township, the countryside is relatively mountainous and home to dense forests. This terrain has made it home for the remaining armed insurgent groups, who have dwindled since major groups like the Communist Party of Burma's (CPB) last southern outpost finally disintegrated in 2000 and the New Mon State Party (NMSP) agreed to a ceasefire with the SPDC in 1995. Since construction of the pipeline began in 2000, armed insurgent activity has been

mostly limited to the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and small MNLA splinter groups.³⁸ Much of this area is classified a "black" area, making it a virtual free-fire zone for SPDC army troops and the site of some of the worst human rights abuses in southern Burma.³⁹

By Ye Town, 30 miles to the north of Khaw Zar Town, the terrain begins to level out and remains relatively flat for the next 80 miles, though mountains to the west are never more than a few miles away. These remaining three quarters of the pipeline pass through the northern end of Ye Township and into Thanbyuzayat and Mudon Townships, before skirting Moulmein and entering Karen State. Though activity by armed insurgents has also been reported in these areas, particularly in Lamine Sub-township north of Ye Town and as far north as Thanbyuzayat Township,⁴⁰ they are classified as "white," and fully under government control. As the pipeline stretches towards Moulmein, then, it passes from a "black" free-fire zone where human rights abuses such as forced relocations and arbitrary killings are common to increasingly more pacified "white" territory, where the human rights situation is pressing though less severe.

The pipeline chiefly traverses agricultural land, primarily paddy fields and rubber plantations, though plantations of betel nut, durian, rambutan, palm and other orchard products are also common, especially in the more mountainous southern areas. Fishing villages dot the coast, while in Thanbyuzayat Township salt is

³⁸ For more on the insurgent activity in the pipeline area as well as the NMSP and KNLA, see Inset 3.

³⁹ For more on "black areas" and the way SPDC counter-insurgency strategy hinges on targeting civilians, see Section IV, B.

⁴⁰ In March 2009, villagers in Thanbyuzayat and Mudon Townships were restricted to a 9 pm curfew after SPDC battalions claimed they had intelligence indicating 200 armed insurgents had entered the area. It is questionable whether a group of 200 could operate secretly in an area home to 5 Burmese army battalions and made up mostly of paddy fields and rubber plantations. Nonetheless, one resident interviewed at the time said he had recently seen 30 KNLA soldiers taxing a bus bound from Moulmein to Tavoy near Waekami village, Thanbyuzayat.

Inset 1: Organization and administration of SPDC states and divisions

Burma is divided into 7 States and 7 Divisions, though the “Divisions” are slated to be re-labeled “Regions” when the country’s new Constitution goes into force following elections in 2010. These states and divisions are generally divided along ethnic lines, with divisions primarily ethnic Burman and states taking on the name of various ethnic groups; Mon State, as the name suggests, is primarily ethnic Mon though it – like other states that bear ethnic monikers such as “Kachin State” – is hardly homogenous.

States and Divisions are divided into districts, which are then divided into townships and, in some cases, sub-townships. In the case of both townships and sub-townships, a larger town bearing the name of the township sits approximately at its center. Below the township and sub-township level are villages, or in the case of clusters of villages, village tracts or wards. One might describe the location of Yindein village, then, by saying that it is in Khaw Zar Sub-township, Ye Township, Moulmein District, Mon State. For the purposes of this report, HURFOM will typically identify only the village and township, with occasional references to sub-townships.

Administratively, a hierarchical system of “peace and development councils” (PDC) carry out government tasks, with state-level PDCs overseeing township councils (TPDC), which oversee sub-township (STPDC) and village councils (VPDC). In Yindein, then, the Yindein VPDC answers to the Khaw Zar STPDC, which is overseen by the Ye TPDC. All three councils are answerable to the Mon State PDC, which is, in turn, finally answerable to the SPDC in the capital city of Naypyidaw.

produced in villages like Panga and Setse.⁴¹ Though Mon State’s paddy fields and plantations are fertile and the area’s economy has been relatively stronger than other parts of Burma, it is by no means affluent. Baseline income for an average laborer in 2009 is just 50,000 *kyat* a month, or less than 50 USD. The area has also been hit hard by the global economic downturn, with the value of key crops like rubber dropping by as much as 75%.⁴²

The pipeline area is primarily home to ethnic Mons, who more or less controlled the region for centuries.⁴³ It is by no means ethnically homogenous, however, and is also home to ethnic Karens, Burmans, Indians and, in the south closer to Kanbaw, Tavoyans. Mon State’s relatively strong economic position vis-à-vis other parts of Burma means that it has also increasingly become a destination for ethnic Burman migrant workers from middle and upper Burma.⁴⁴

Preparation for the construction of the Kanbaw to Myaing Kalay pipeline began in 1998 when SPDC engineers first surveyed the route. Township Peace and Development Council (TPDC) officials, who are responsible for administering all

⁴¹ Salt production in Mon State saw a boon in 2008/2009 following the May 2008 devastation of Burma’s primary salt producing areas on the Irrawaddy Delta by Cyclone Nargis.

⁴² For more on household incomes and the economy in Mon State, see Inset 4.

⁴³ The last Mon Kingdom of Hongsawatoi, which encompassed Burma’s southern peninsula, as well as significant other portions of Burma and Thailand, fell to the Burman King Alaungpaya in 1757. For more on the early history of the Mon people, see Ashley South, *The Golden Sheldrake: Mon Nationalism and Civil War in Burma* (New York: Routledge, 2003).

Inset 2: The road ends in cement

The 182-mile pipeline originating in Kanbauk reaches its end in Myaing Kalay. There, on the western bank of the Than Lwin River, it feeds into two state-owned cement factories, both under the auspices of the Ministry of Industry No. 1 (MOI No. 1). According to a civil servant at one of the factories interviewed by HURFOM in 2007, the smaller of the factories is wholly state-owned and run while the second is owned by the Myanmar State Enterprise Company Limited (MSEC Ltd). A Japanese company has been repeatedly reported to be involved in the larger of the two factories, and HURFOM's source inside reported that the company owns a 35% stake, with the remaining 65% controlled by MSEC Ltd. HURFOM has been unable to confirm details on the Japanese company, though sources said it is named "Mit sui."

Both factories have a high output, the civil servant told HURFOM. "Only for the Number 2 factory – the big factory can produce 4,000 tons of cement per day. When we estimate by the bag, this is about 80,000 bags of cement per day." A laborer at the MSEC Ltd factory, meanwhile, reports that 10-wheel trucks regularly travel from the factory to Rangoon, where the cement is transferred to ships bound for Japan and used for "extending the space of the island [Japan] for construction."

government departments in each township, were required to participate and provide information about how many people lived and worked on land traversed by the pipeline. The route was then cleared and trenches were dug during 1999 and 2000, after which sections of the pipeline were delivered to the area, welded together and placed in the ground. From 2001 to 2003, villagers were required to cover the pipeline with soil.

Pervasive human rights abuses have characterized all stages of this project – from its initial preparation to the ongoing maintenance and security efforts that sustain it. The first section of this report details the militarization that has accompanied the project, including the arrival of more than 20 new battalions to the area and the abuses that go hand in hand with the increased military presence. The second section details abuses during the construction process, which entailed forced labor and the confiscation of over 2,400 acres of land. The last section of the report explains the situation along the pipeline following its construction, and includes details on conscription of villagers who are made to repair the pipeline and stand sentry against attacks by insurgents. This section also

includes details on the pipeline's frequent explosions and ruptures, as well as the considerable abuses including torture related to post-explosion investigations.

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⁴⁴ Increasing numbers of ethnic Burman workers and the families of SPDC soldiers moving to primarily ethnic Mon villages have led to some tensions. HURFOM interview subjects have complained about theft by the "new arrivals," and reported fights between young Burman and Mon men. Villagers also complained that newly arrived ethnic Burmans are favored by authorities when conflicts arise, as well as given positions of authority in the local VPDC, militia or fire brigade. As a result, some villagers have cited Mon-Burman tensions as their reason for supporting continued insurgent activity by armed Mon groups. See, "Living Between Two Fires: villager opinions on armed insurgency," *The Mon Forum*, HURFOM January 2009.

Inset 3: Insurgency and ceasefire along the pipeline

In 2009, the largest and strongest political group active in the pipeline area is the New Mon State Party (NMSP), which agreed to a ceasefire with the Burmese government in 1995. As terms of the ceasefire, the NMSP has been able to maintain its armed wing, the Mon National Liberation Army (MNLA), as well as administer twelve ceasefire zones. These zones are mostly located in southern Mon State, though they also stretch into Tavoy District in Tenasserim Division. The party also operates two small ceasefire zones near Moulmein and in Thaton Districts in northern Mon State.¹

The strongest group that is still actively fighting the SPDC in the pipeline area is the Karen National Union (KNU), whose Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) has been opposing successive central governments in Burma since the country's independence in 1948. Though the KNU/KNLA has seen territory under its control shrink significantly following the fall of its headquarters in Manerplaw in 1995, it continues to operate 7 Brigades in eastern Burma, mostly in the Thai-Burma border area, from northern Karen State to central Tenasserim Division in Mergui/Tavoy. In the area of the pipeline, the most recent KNLA action to be reported was an attack by KNLA 4th Brigade on IB No. 557 near Amae village, more than 20 miles south of Kanbauk in Tavoy's Metta Sub-township.²

Notably, a number of small MNLA splinter groups have also operated in the pipeline area. The strongest of these has been the Hongswatoi Restoration Party (HRP, renamed the Monland Restoration Party [MRP] in 2003). The HRP/MRP was formed in 2001, when NMSP Central Committee member and MNLA 2nd-in-command Nai Pan Nyunt left the party along with an initial 70 or more MNLA troops. According to the NMSP, Nai Pan Nyunt's departure was motivated by a desire to avoid corruption charges, and party sources allege that he was taxing villagers without party permission, running gambling operations and possibly even selling weapons to SPDC village militia in Thanbyuzayat Township. HURFOM takes no stance on the rumors, and Nai Pan Nyunt's group received considerable support from the overseas Mon community not to mention Mon people in Burma who felt the NMSP could not sufficiently protect them. The HRP/MRP consequently saw forces swell to at least 150 at its high point as more troops left the MNLA or came out of retirement; the group continues to be active in Yebyu and southern Ye Township, though NMSP sources estimate that it currently fields a force of no more than 30 or 40 men. A variety of other small Mon groups have also operated in areas along the southern third of the pipeline, sometimes in cooperation with the HRP/MRP, though they have generally been too small to take organizational names and are referred to by their leaders; the most notable in the pipeline area are the small groups lead by Nai Chan Dein and the brothers Nai Bin and Nai Hloin.³

¹ For more on the NMSP ceasefire, see South, *Mon Nationalism*, 2003. For a discussion of the current state of the NMSP ceasefire, see Ashley South, "Mon Nationalist Movements: insurgency, ceasefires and political struggle," published by the Mon Unity League, Bangkok, January 2008.

² See, "KNU initiates guerilla tactics to counter Burmese Army," *Kaowao News*, April 2, 2009.

³ For more on MNLA splinter groups since 2000, see South, "Mon Nationalist Movements," 2008. For analysis of villagers' views on continued Mon insurgency, see "Living between two fires: villager opinions on armed insurgency," *The Mon Forum*, HURFOM 2009.

IV. Smoke and fire: militarization of the pipeline area

A. The pipeline, militarization and “self-reliance”

Construction of the Kanbauk-Myaing Kalay pipeline is inextricably linked to militarization of the pipeline route, which saw an increase of more than 20 new battalions assigned to the area beginning at approximately the time construction began. By 2003, a newly formed Military Operations Management Command (MOMC) No. 19, based in Ye Town, commanded 10 battalions tasked with guarding the pipeline, with an additional 11 new battalions and a total of more than 32 in areas along the pipeline. The influx of new battalions is highlighted in Maps 2 and 3, which contrast the number of battalions in the pipeline area before and after construction.

Military interests in the area partially explain the concentration of army battalions along the pipeline. Following a 1995 ceasefire between the SPDC and the New Mon State Party (NMSP), the largest armed Mon political group, the party retained control of 12 “permanent ceasefire zones,” which it administers and uses as a base for Mon National Liberation Army (MNLA) troops.⁴⁵ Though the ceasefire agreement included stipulations regarding how close to NMSP territory SPDC army battalions could base themselves and operate, SPDC troops have repeatedly moved close to and even inside ceasefire territory.⁴⁶ NMSP sources have subsequently described the increased SPDC army presence in the area as designed

⁴⁵ For more on the NMSP ceasefire, see Inset 3.

⁴⁶ Residents of the Tavoy resettlement sites in NMSP Tavoy District, Tenasserim Division, for instance, report that SPDC troops frequently enter their villages.

Nai Maung, 60, Kyonebai village, NMSP Tavoy District:

In this January [2009], the Burmese troops arrived here two times already. But what they were looking for we cannot say. We are really afraid of them. Some of my neighbors told me there are some rebel supporters in the village. Because of them I think the soldiers want to observe the situation of the rebels. That is why they came to the village. If fighting happens in the village or near the village, we will have a big problem.



to counter any potential MNLA resurgence. “They are trying to tie us up... The NMSP totally relies on the local people. When we go to a village, we have a chance to tax and also to set up communication and networks with the people. The Burmese authorities worry too much about that,” a MNLA major told HURFOM in February 2009. “Also, they would like to show clearly that there are more SPDC troops than in the MNLA. They do this so that the MNLA troops feel weaker in their minds [decreasing morale].”



Troops from LIB No. 588 training on the battalion's base in Ye Township

Neither the continued presence of the MNLA nor the limited activity of other armed insurgent groups fully explain increased SPDC deployments along the pipeline. The strongest insurgent group on Burma's southern peninsula is the KNLA,⁴⁷ whose 4th Brigade operates only in the area near the southern end of the pipeline and is chiefly relegated to north and eastern Yebyu Township, although there are also small operations in eastern Thanbyzayat bordering with Karen State. The area that would become the pipeline route was relatively

bereft of Mon insurgent activity during the construction phases, meanwhile, until the formation of the MNLA splinter group initially known as the Hongswatoi Restoration Party (HRP) in 2001.⁴⁸ But by the time the HRP began launching attacks the pipeline area was already largely occupied by the new SPDC battalions, making it unlikely that the HRP could have motivated the deployments. Today, no Mon insurgent group can field more than 40 men.

The best proof that the increased deployments are related to the pipeline project is, however, the simple fact that the new SPDC army battalions have been intimately involved in preparation of the pipeline's route, its construction and subsequent security and maintenance. Many battalions are headquartered along or near the pipeline, in places far from the operating areas of active insurgents. This report will repeatedly document the involvement of these SPDC battalions in affairs related to the construction, maintenance and security of the pipeline, including specific mention of more than 10 battalions in testimony and incidents described below. Abuses were not limited to these battalions, however, and the others shown in Map 3 have also been responsible for pipeline security – and human rights abuses.

Confidential internal order documents obtained by HURFOM also provide irrefutable proof of the relationship between SPDC army battalions and the Kanbaw-Myaing Kalay pipeline. HURFOM has on file 7 documents specifically

⁴⁷ For more on the KNLA, see Inset 3.

⁴⁸ For more on the HRP and other Mon insurgent groups, see Inset 3.

mentioning 6 battalions and their security duties relating to the pipeline, an example of which has been translated and included as Appendix 1. The document, distributed in March 2001 to at least 4 SPDC battalions⁴⁹ in northern Ye and Thanbyuzayat Townships, lists its explicit goal as the successful construction of the pipeline. The document then goes on to detail each stage of the construction project, as well as outline areas to be secured by each battalion.

Though Mon and Karen insurgent activity on the southern peninsula would certainly have lead to a maintained and even increased deployment of SPDC army battalions over time, it is undeniable that a significant portion of the battalions in Yebyu, Ye, Thanbyuzayat and Mudon Townships would not be deployed in their current locations

Inset 4: Currency, taxation and income in Mon State

This report will repeatedly refer to heavy taxes and fees levied by pipeline battalions. Collected over the last decade, the relative cost of these taxes will necessarily vary as the value of the *kyat* has changed over time. In April 2009, the *kyat* is converted at a rate of approximately 1,090 to 1 USD. This is a decline from the last few years, when the rate was around 1,200:1USD. For 2005 and earlier, the rate was closer to 1,000:1 USD. Notably, currency in Burma is wholly traded on the black market, as the official government exchange rate registers just 6 *kyat* equal to 1 USD.

Baseline income for Mon State residents in 2009 is approximately 50,000 *kyat* per month for a farm worker or day laborer that must find daily employment. Income rates are slightly higher for skilled workers like mechanics or carpenters. Villagers who own their own land, such as paddy fields or rubber plantations, have a higher potential income but also face higher risks and are hence more vulnerable to debt cycles when prices plummet, as they have in 2009. Feeding a typical family of 5 for a month in 2009 costs a minimum average of 150,000 *kyat*, for a daily diet of rice, fish paste and a non-meat curry. A household of 5 with two family members working as laborers, then, can expect to earn just over 100,000 *kyat*. This income falls 1/3 short of paying for food.

In 2009, the value of key crops in Mon State like rubber, paddy and betel nut has seen a steep decline. The global economic crisis has led to slackening demand for rubber, causing a 75% drop in its value and causing serious knock-on effects throughout the rest of the economy.^{iv} Residents across the state have subsequently reported intense struggles as they try to balance declining income with food prices that remain unchanged. This situation would be difficult though not unexpected in any agriculture-dependent economy, but it is made doubly so by a SPDC army that continues to levy high and rising rates of “taxation.” To many residents, this feels more analogous to extortion, for it is often arbitrary and inconsistent, based on no clear law and levied unexpectedly and with no input from residents. For these reasons, the taxation is often referred to as “*akok*” in Mon, which loosely translates as “illegal tax.”^v Importantly, migrant workers in neighboring countries like Thailand have also faced rising unemployment.^{vi} This compounds economic problems for the many residents

^{iv} See, “Rubber prices continue to plummet; workers face dire economic circumstances as others feel the knock-on effects,” *IMNA* December 18, 2008.

^v For more on the impacts of SPDC taxation and the livelihood struggles of villagers in Mon State, see “Economic Predation: taxation, extortion and commandeering in Mon State,” *The Mon Forum*, HURFOM, March 2009.

^{vi} “Economic Slowdown Hits Burmese Migrant Workers in Thailand,” *The Irrawaddy*, November 28, 2008.

⁴⁹ Battalions listed in the confidential document translated in Appendix 1: IB 31, IB 62, LIB 106 and TB No. 4.

without the pipeline. The increased deployment of SPDC army battalions has, in turn, led to massive human rights abuses as the new battalions carry out the SPDC's military self-reliance policy with rapacious fervor. The basing of new battalions from 1999 to 2003 alone resulted in the seizure of 6,000 acres of land, while the subsequent maintenance of barracks and army agricultural and economic projects has led to the seizure of an additional 6,000 acres and countless instances of forced labor. Military self-reliance has also led to capricious taxation of villagers, who are made to pay a variety of fees as well as see their possessions, equipment and agricultural products commandeered or simply stolen. Importantly, the simple fact that large numbers of troops now occupy the pipeline area has also meant that villagers have been subject to arbitrary and violent abuse, killing and rape.

of Mon State who are dependent on relatives outside the country, as they have seen an almost 50% decline in remittances.^{vii}

U Shwe, 50, Ye Town:

This year is the worst conditions I ever faced... Last year, I could spend my income [from the betel nut harvest] over the whole year. This year, I expect the harvest money can last only 5 months. During these last months, I had to pay a special tax to battalions like IB 31 and IB 61 and other military columns who came and made their offensives near my plantations. I have to pay them 10,000 kyat each time for their food supplies. Over all [in past years], I got good prices [for betel nut] but this year it is bad. I cannot even support my kids' educations."

Mi Kyae, 45, day laborer, Arutaung village, Ye Township:

I do not have a regular job. The maximum amount I can work is about 10 days a month. Each day I work I can earn 5,000 kyat per day. Overall my income for one month is around 55,000 kyat – the maximum is 60,000 kyat. This is based on working 10 to 12 days in a month. I wish I could work every day... It is still difficult for me to pay for basic food costs. I have to pay about 25% of my income to the different authorities. As you have learned, in our area the cost of oil, salt, chili and rice remain the same – they have not decreased... it is very difficult to take care of my family and all 5 of my children."

Nai Thein, 40, Ye Town:

In my ward, for the last two years we have had to pay the same amount of taxes from different authorities. Every month we have to spend 5,000... in some months like April the government forces us to build things for special events... I can earn 60,000 to 70,000 kyat per month. But I am still not happy to pay them like that. I think it is not fair. People who have no job also have to pay. My friend earns only 30,000 kyat – he has to pay the same as me. His condition is worse than mine... I want to mention that the expenses and the income are not equal. The market prices are higher and people have to pay the same taxes – it is not balanced."

^{vii} For more on the impact declining remittances have on residents of Mon State, see "Families struggle as soaring kyat halves remittances from migrant workers," *IMNA* March 5, 2009. For economic analysis of the role remittances play in poverty alleviation inside Burma, see Sean Turnell, "Migrant Worker Remittances and Burma: An Economic Analysis of Survey Results," *Burma Economic Watch*, Macquarie University, Australia, 2008.

Battalions deployed prior to 1999



Battalions deployed since 1999



Human Rights Foundation of Monland-Burma
<http://www.rehmonnya.org>

1. Land confiscation

The influx of SPDC army battalions into the pipeline area resulted in the confiscation of hundreds of acres of land as the army built bases and housing for soldiers and their families, and then commandeered agricultural projects to support them. In 2003, HURFOM released *No Land to Farm*, which extensively documented land seizures in Mon State, including those by newly arrived battalions. Over the course of 5 years from 1998-2002, at least 6,000 acres of paddies, plantations and homesteads were confiscated to make way for the bases and agricultural projects of pipeline battalions.⁵⁰ In the years since 2003, pipeline battalions have seized another 6,000 acres. Information on both these sets of seizures are included in Appendix 2.



Planned land confiscations drawn on a whiteboard inside the headquarters of LIB No. 586 near Ye Town

Saw Eht Htoo, Sanpya village, Ye Township:

As I know, the MOMC No. 19 has already deployed 10 military battalions in Ye Township. They have already confiscated many acres of land. Now, they claim that they confiscated land for new artillery regiments again. Most land in this area is owned by our Karen villagers. My land and plantations costs about 4 million kyat. They took it without paying me one kyat. Many other plantations cost more than mine. Nobody received any compensation.

Though Burma's rules regarding land rights lack clarity because law in the country is generally by decree, land confiscation is perversely, arguably legal. Burma's 1974 Constitution, which was the default land law for both the SLORC and SPDC, classified the state as the "ultimate owner of all natural resources above and below the ground, above and beneath the waters and in the atmosphere, and also all lands."⁵¹ This was reiterated by SLORC directives in 1988 and 1990 clarifying its full control over paddy land as well as land for orchards, brick and salt production and other uses.⁵² Chapter I of Burma's new constitution, approved in a widely criticized referendum in May 2008,⁵³ adopts virtually word for word language from the 1974 Constitution and maintains ultimate government control of land.

⁵⁰ HURFOM. *No Land to Farm*, 2003.

⁵¹ Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions. *Displacement and Dispossession: Forced Migration and Land Rights in Burma*, COHRE Country Report November 2007.

⁵² Nancy Hudson-Rodd and Myo Nyunt. "Control of Land and Life in Burma," U Wisconsin-Madison Land Tenure Brief, April 2001.

⁵³ The government announced that the constitution was approved by an approval vote of 92.48% and 98.12% turnout of voters. This is a highly dubious claim, given that wide swathes of the Irrawaddy Delta region were at the time recovering from Cyclone Nargis, which had just killed over 130,000 people.

Nai Kao Talot, the Kundu and Arutaung village area, Ye Township:

From these confiscated plantations, the growers could produce many thousands pounds of latex and many hundreds of thousands of betel-nut and many thousands of durian fruits... Under the military dictatorship, there are no property rights. The civilians have no rights for the ownership of their lands. The government can confiscate land and properties whenever they want. Although [it is] heritage... land from their ancestors, they do not have the rights to own the land.

Land confiscation victims received no compensation or compensation at levels so low as to be akin to nothing at all. In a few other cases, villagers report being forced to sign “sale” agreements and accept “payment” so that the seizures had the veneer of legitimacy.

Replacement of seized land is difficult, and contingent on the unlikely chance that victims have sufficient capital – and can find land to purchase. For many, even purchasing land would do little to replace the loss. In most cases, this was because the army seized homes and properties passed down within families for generations. For many, the lost land also represented years of investment. A typical rubber plantation, for instance, requires 7 to 8 years of continuous investment in labor and inputs like fertilizer before the trees have matured enough to be harvested from and the project sees any return.

Nai Kyaw, 53, Phalein village, Ye Township:

My fruit plantations of about 3 acres of lands were seized by the local Burmese army based near my village. This is the reason I left my native village. I really feel painful, whenever I think about my land... I can still remember the day they... said that they are the soldiers from the battalion nearby and the reason they came to meet me is to let me know the land is no longer owned by me... Since then, I felt disappointed and hopeless at the same time. Finally, I discussed with my wife and decided to leave the village in order to find a new job for us to survive.



An villager in Ye Township points to rubber trees confiscated by LIB No. 587

Farmers with limited education and lifetimes of experience working in only a single sector found themselves struggling to find new work. Victims forced to become laborers had to enter a suddenly swollen labor market; a typical farm or plantation employs regular and seasonal laborers, who also found themselves without work following

confiscation. After LIB No. 586, LIB No. 587 and LIB No. 588 confiscated over a thousand acres of land from 77 families in eastern Ye Township, for instance, an additional 100 permanent laborers and 200 seasonal laborers were left unemployed.

Ultimately, many were forced to go hungry, relocate their families or seek employment in neighboring countries like Thailand.

Karen villager, 60, the Sanpya & Donphi village area, Ye Township:

I own two plots of land in the area. Now, the Burmese Army confiscated both plots. I have nothing to eat. My children cried when they heard that the army confiscate[ed] our land. We had no more food. Only my son, who is a monk, shared some food with our family.

Mehm Kon Chan, son of a land seizure victim, now working in Thailand:

When I was living in my village, I had no other job except working in my father's rubber plantation. After my father's rubber plantation was confiscated... the soldiers threatened us... [and] forced us to abandon our properties. Therefore, I communicated to my brother [the son of his uncle], who was working in Thailand, and as you see I had to flee the village to seek work in Thailand.

2. Forced labor

Villagers in rural eastern Burma are routinely required to work as unpaid forced laborers on development projects like roads and repairs to government buildings. This is true also in the context of the pipeline battalions, which have consistently demanded that villagers work on a variety of projects that range from building and maintaining barracks to working as porters carrying ammunition and supplies on army patrols.



Villagers working as forced laborers on land confiscated by LIB No. 587

During the initial period when new pipeline battalions began arriving, villagers were made to work as unpaid forced laborers providing materials and labor to aid the construction of new army barracks and headquarters. Villagers have described clearing land, cutting and hauling timber, digging bunkers, trenches and irrigation canals and constructing buildings and fences.

Villager, Kaloh village, Ye Township:
When we arrived to the new battalion site... we had to cut many young betel-

nut trees and gathered them to one place. The soldiers also sold the trees in the market to earn extra income for their battalions. Then we were instructed to clear the ground. We had to dig the roots of the betel-nut trees and fill the holes with dirt, and level the ground to construct the barracks. And one sergeant ordered us to dig trenches... I was forced to work there for five days without pay.

In the subsequent decade, villagers have been frequently ordered to help maintain the army living areas. As a result, villagers have had to provide quotas of materials like bamboo and gravel as well as work clearing brush and repairing bunkers and fencing. These types of projects are especially common following the rainy season, when villagers must repair damage done by the heavy monsoon rains.

Nai Soe, 40, Alaesakhan village, Yebyu Township:

I asked a Karen lady from the village why the Burmese Army gathered the men from this village... She said that the Burmese soldiers [from LIB No. 273] collected these villagers to build the battalion's barracks and dikes.



A military officer from LIB No. 587 in civilian dress inspecting an army agricultural project

One of the results of the SPDC's military self-reliance policy is the seizure of thousands of acres of plantations and farmland. In the case of the pipeline battalions, over 12,000 acres of plantations and paddy fields have been seized since pipeline battalions began arriving in 1998.⁵⁴ Adding insult to injury, in many cases victims have been required to work as unpaid laborers tending to the very land taken from them by the army.

Nai Naing Oo, Ye Town, whose land was seized by LIB No. 586 in 2005:

They [LIB No. 586] don't even think how people survive and instead, they seized the land that belonged to our villagers. Those confiscated lands are full of rubber plantations. After they seized it, they are ready to make money from the confiscated lands because [all the work] was done by our villagers' sweat.

Nai Ein, Arutaung village, Ye Township:

Just last year, the rubber plantation... belonged to my family. This year, the rubber trees belong to Burmese soldiers and the battalion base. They took my land to fund the battalion. Then a Sergeant came to me and told me to help them. They forced me to collect [rubber] in the morning and give them all of it.

In other cases, villagers were granted permission to work on their former land under the condition that they shared a percentage of the raw products or paid local battalions high fees. Every year since confiscating over 300 acres of rubber plantations in northern Ye Township in the early 2000s, for instance, LIB No. 586 has permitted former plantations owners to work their land if they made high payments or shared a portion of their products. In some cases, local battalions claimed that they were only carrying out orders issued by the Southeast Command

⁵⁴ See Section IV, A1 and Appendix 2.

in Moulmein. In these cases, however, villagers noted that the fees they were paying exceeded those ordered by the higher authorities.

Nai Shwe Hlay, 45, Ye Township:

We signed the contract... we were told we have to pay 950 kyat for [permission to harvest rubber]. When we read the contract, we [saw] what was said differed with the contract. In the contract it was 700 kyat. The army officers told us that the contract was prepared by Military Operation Management Command No. 19 in Ye.

Pipeline battalions IB No. 31, LIB No. 343 and LIB No. 586 also earn income by operating at least 4 brick factories in Ye Township. Built on confiscated land, villagers in areas around the factories are made to provide wood for firing the brick kilns. In February 2009, for instance, IB No. 31 ordered four villages in Khaw Zar Sub-township⁵⁵ to provide 130 kyin of firewood.⁵⁶ Every household in the villages had to provide one laborer, who had to work for a week cutting and hauling the timber to the factories, as well as pay for the rental of trucks to transport it.



A brick factory operated by IB No. 31 in Khaw Zar Sub-township

Nai Ong, 40, Yinsein village, Khaw Zar Sub-township, Ye Township:

We have been experiencing these kinds of abuses since almost ten years ago. The abuses are not only one at a time. They come on top of one another, for instance like with this firewood quota. We have to collect firewood to fill the amount needed [by IB No. 31]. Then, we have to pay for transportation fees.

Underscoring the way that military self-reliance is really reliance on local villagers, residents are subsequently required to buy quotas of bricks from the army factory, bricks that are priced above the market though they are of below market quality.

Though not part of military self-reliance, civilians are frequently conscripted as porters in areas where SPDC army battalions conduct patrols or offensives against armed insurgents. In spite of the high level of expenditures spent on the SPDC army, it is relatively low-tech and, particularly in the relatively rugged areas like Yebyu and southern Ye Township, relies heavily on foot patrols. This is a labor-intensive practice, and the SPDC army makes it possible by using civilian porters to carry ammunition and supplies. Civilian porters are also often made to walk in front of army columns, where they are the first to encounter landmines or ambushes, a practice dubbed "atrocious demining" by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL).⁵⁷

⁵⁵ Villages confirmed to have been ordered to provide firewood for IB No. 31:

Singu, Yinsein, Yinyae and Toe Tat Ywa Thit villages, Ye Township.

⁵⁶ A "kyin" is a Burmese measurement, referring to a 10-foot square of wood stacked 1 foot high.

⁵⁷ ICBL. "Burma/Myanmar," *Landmine Monitor Report*, 2008.

Nai Chain, Yebyu Township:

LIB No. 282 always used the porters as human-shields. The soldiers made the porters walk in front of the military column to trigger the mines. When fighting happened between the rebels and the Army, porters were used as human shields for the Burmese troops... The soldiers threatened us that if we refused to [willingly help] we would be killed... Sometimes, when the porters were not able to walk or caused a delay, they were severely beaten.

Nai Lot, 65, Mihtawhlagyi village, Ye Township:

In one month, I was forced three to four times to be a porter... It was difficult, and we were beaten all the time. According to my age, I was getting old and I could only walk slowly. But the soldiers kicked me and I fell down on hard stones and was injured around my eyes [a scar on his face is still visible]. I also witnessed a villager from Kyauktalin, a 40-year-old man, who was unable to carry their big basket and who was shot dead in the middle of the road. Out of fear, I had to flee from them.

Pipeline battalions made frequent use of civilian porters on security patrols during the construction process, the practice of which is described below [Section V, B2]. Conscription of porters did not end with the conclusion of construction, and battalions along the southern third of the pipeline continue to conscript civilian porters as they attempt to eliminate Mon and Karen insurgents. This portering typically takes two forms, with villagers sometimes conscripted for short periods during patrols in specific areas and sometimes conscripted for a month or more during sustained offensives. In many village, battalions also demand monthly "porter fees" of 1,500 to 2000 kyat, which villagers ostensibly pay in lieu of being conscripted, though residents of villages that pay the fees have reported continued conscription as well.⁵⁸



Civilian porters carrying supplies for LIB No. 282 in Yebyu Township

Nai Manoit, Asin village, Ye Township:

Since January 2008, when armed clashes happened between some Mon guerrilla soldiers and the Burma Army battalions, [the Burmese Army] have started forcing all of us to pay them this kind of monthly [porter] fee... But I don't understand why they increased the amount of payment even though there are no more clashes between those groups in this area.

Nai Kyi Aye, 59, Kabyar village, Ye Township

Before the pipeline started there were no troops in the village. Sometime the troops came but the troops could not catch villagers because

⁵⁸ In February 2009, HURFOM confirmed monthly porter fees being levied by IB No. 61, IB No. 62 and LIB No. 299 in Tamoh Kraing, Hangan, Duya, Abaw, Asin, Kaloh, Chaung Taung, Koe Mile, Kyaun Ywa, Demin Seik and Zebyutaung villages in Ye Township. A reliable HURFOM source that travels throughout western Ye Township also reported that every village in the western half of Ye is required to make similar payments.

villagers ran away before the military column arrived. If the military column could catch male villagers, they would take them as porters. The portering was for a long time. Villagers did not allow the military column to catch them easily.



An army base built with forced labor conscripted by LIB No.401 in Yebyu Township

In all cases, villagers are not compensated for their labor, though they are sometimes given the option of paying money to avoid working as unpaid laborers. For villagers who primarily survive as farmers and agricultural laborers, unpaid work for battalions is an exhausting addition to an already hard scrabble life. Making things worse, the army does not appear to have any sympathy for the scheduling demands of farming; workers are demanded at times when farmers have tasks that must be completed quickly, like harvesting orchard products before they become over ripe.

Nai Soe, 40, Alaesakhan village, Yebyu Township:

At this time, most farmers in the village are busy with their own jobs. Farmers have been harvesting their paddy and some are preparing their lands to grow [beans] and other crops. Now, most of them have to stop their farm work and instead build dikes for the battalion.

Nai Nyein, 32, Khaw Zar Sub-township, Ye Township:

I have a lot of my own work to do during these days. I am a betel nut farmer, and this month is very important for me to produce betel nuts. Most nuts are ripe and it is the time to pick them, but I am forced to work here [repairing the road for IB No. 31] and I don't think my wife can finish all the work on the plantation alone

Villagers working for local battalions find themselves subject to beatings and abuse from soldiers, and describe being treated like chattel rather than human beings. In a not-so-unusual example that illustrates the degree to which villagers are exploited, villagers in Tow Tet Ywa Thit, Ye Township, were forced to pay for the cost of bullets used by a soldier from LIB No. 343 who fired over their heads following their late arrival to a forced labor project. Villagers injured in the beatings or accidents that occur while they are working are not compensated, and subsequently find themselves permanently struggling to survive. This is particularly true of porters, who face high degrees of danger as they brave landmines and ambushes.

Nai Seik, Khaw Zar Sub-township, Ye Township:

Everyday, the Burmese Army that is based in the village forced 10 villagers to work... The villagers were always beaten by soldiers. They beat at least one every day. There were about 3-5 soldiers guarding when the villagers were working. They beat the villagers if they did not like them. A week ago,

when our group was forced to work, three men... were inhumanely beaten until nearly dead because they took a while to rest. While you worked on the construction, even if you felt tired you should not look up to the soldiers. If they saw you, they would come and beat you with sticks or kicks with their jungle-boots.

Anonymous, Khaw Zar Sub-township, Ye Township

Because... [the military] often used forced labor, we can't do our own job. We don't want to live here. But we don't dare to oppose them. We were wounded sometimes in the forced labor field. But we don't get the payment.

3. Taxation, extortion and commandeering

Pipeline battalions augment income from projects like brick factories and seized rubber plantations by forcing villagers to make a variety of payments. The combination of general corruption, lack of oversight and the demands of military self-reliance means that villagers continue to be forced to make a variety of payments to support the army, as well as see their property and agricultural products routinely commandeered, seized or stolen. Because villagers rarely have the option of directly refusing demands made by soldiers, virtually every interaction with the army carries with it the specter of making a payment of some kind. Details of over 70 instances of taxation and commandeering by pipeline battalions are included in Appendix 3.



Firewood quotas supplied by villagers under orders from IB No. 31 in Khaw Zar Sub-township

In many cases, these payments are explicitly for the support of pipeline battalions. Villagers in a confirmed four townships along the pipeline are made to pay monthly security fees, which go to local battalions.⁵⁹

⁵⁹ 45 villages are confirmed to have been required to provide fees for the support of pipeline battalions:

Mudon Township:

Kalawthut, Kamawet, Seintaung, Doma, Kwankabwi, Settwe, Yaung Daung, Hneepadaw, Abit, and Kwanhla villages.

Thanbyuzayat Township:

Paungsein, Kyarkan, Wagaru, Waethunkyaung, Waeyet, Waekali, Waekami, Sakhangyi, Kaleinpadaw and Waewinkara villages.

Ye Township:

Baylamine, Lamine, Kaninkamaw, Mawkanin, Leinmawchan, Kundu, Sonnatha, Pophtaw, Chaung Taung, Tumyaung, Balaingkee, Arutaung, Taungbon, Chaung Taung, Kaloh, Koe Mile and Hangan villages.

Yebyu Township:

Lort Taing, Lae Kyi, Kayuktalin, Natkyizin, Yapu and Kaleinaung villages.

For villagers not immediately proximate to battalions, payments and “donations” of food and agricultural products have to be made when patrols enter the area. This is particularly true of villagers in the southern third of the pipeline where the SPDC army continues to actively pursue Mon and Karen insurgents.

Nai Gyi, Khaw Zar Sub-township, Ye Township:

We normally pay about 2,000 kyat every month...

*But when the soldiers come, we have to give more money to our headman to pay for feeding them while they stay awhile in the village.*⁶⁰

Villagers all along the pipeline have also been required to provide quotas of agricultural products and building materials. Though the SPDC officially ended a policy of forced paddy procurement in 2003, villagers continue to report being required to sell paddy at below market prices, provide paddy “donations” or pay for the right not to. After the 2008 harvest season, for instance, 4 townships, including sections of Mudon and Ye Townships through which the pipeline passes, were required to provide some form of paddy support.⁶¹ “Every family who has a paddy field has to pay. The soldiers said if people do not want to provide paddy, they have to pay 3,000 kyat of money,” said a farmer from Taung Pyin village, Ye Township.

Soldiers also routinely commandeer or steal villagers’ property. In Ye Township, pipeline battalions require villagers to provide them with trucks and motorcycles to use for personal and army business. Villagers are not paid for the use of the vehicles, which often represents a loss of business for people whose investments in the machines are often predicated on income generated by their daily use. Villagers are also sometimes made to pay for petrol, and are often left with damaged machines and no compensation. Consequently, villagers are understandably reluctant to loan out their vehicles, and say that soldiers treat them carelessly and provide no compensation for damage. “I bought my bike not so long ago,” IMNA quoted a young man in Yebyu Township during January. “But now my bike is nearly broken, because of soldiers and the headman.” Another source quoted by IMNA described similar damage, for which he was never compensated – even after lodging a complaint. “If you are going to come and ask about your motorbike again,” the source quoted the officer’s response to one complaint, “I will introduce you to my gun.”⁶²

Agricultural products and livestock are also frequently taken, especially in rural areas along the southern third of the pipeline. “Because of [LIB No.] 583 and [LIB No.] 591, my ox was stolen,” said a woman in Kyaun Ywa, in southern Ye Township. “When I went and met with the commander, he denied it and said it was not his



HURFOM
A captain from LIB No. 587 with a motorbike commandeered in Ye Township

⁶⁰ See, “New round of capricious taxation in southern Mon State,” *IMNA* October 29, 2008.

⁶¹ Paung and Chaung Zone Townships, both north of the pipeline, were also required to provide paddy.

⁶² “Authorities commandeering motorcycles in Yebyu Township,” *IMNA* January 22, 2009.

troops. 'You misplaced your ox,' he said to me." Another man in the same village recounted a similar experience: "I know for certain that a soldier from [LIB No.] 583 came and stole my hens. I saw with my eyes, but they deny it. Within two weeks, all 30 hens were gone."

Nai Chain, 37, Yebyu Township:

They [soldiers from LIB No. 273 and LIB No. 282] looted belongings owned by villagers. I saw the soldiers go into villages like Byaw, Chabon and Maesantaung... The soldiers looted food, livestock like chickens, ducks, goats and even valuable belongings owned by local villagers. They were like robbers.

Villagers are also often made to pay for projects spearheaded by local battalions, whether they want them or not. Villagers report having to work as forced laborers and make payments to construct and repair roads, though these projects are sometimes necessitated more by the military's desire for quick access to strategic areas than anything else. Villagers also report being made to pay for projects that never materialize, or were supposed to have received government funding. Villagers have also been required to pay for festivals and celebrations spearheaded by the army. In the second week of December 2008, for instance, 19 villages in Khaw Zar were required to purchase lottery tickets and help pay for a week of celebrations commemorating the IB No. 31's 52nd anniversary.⁶³

Nai Kyin Naing, 28, Doebaung village, Khaw Zar Sub-township, Ye Township:

They collected at least 500 to 1,000 kyat [for the IB No. 31 anniversary celebrations]. Everything is by force. The other thing was they sold lottery tickets [mandatorily]. But I did not hear of anyone winning a prize in the lottery. For my family, I had to buy two tickets – one is for my parents and the other for my sister's family



Army checkpoint on the Thanbyuzayat to Ye road

Pipeline battalions extract income from local villagers in a variety of other ways that are less overtly explained as fundraising. Soldiers operate frequent road checkpoints, whose ostensible security functions are often belied by the fact that they sometimes appear to follow each other by just a few hundred yards. Entering Ye Town from the north along a road running parallel to the pipeline, for instance, requires passing through a total of 8 checkpoints, 2 of which are less than 600 yards apart. Exiting from the south of Ye Town requires passing through another 2 army checkpoints, separated by just 200 yards. Underscoring the economic rather than security motivation for the

⁶³ Villages confirmed to have been required to pay for the IB No. 31 52nd anniversary celebration:

Ko Mile, Man Aung, Kwan Hlaing, Singu, Toe Thet Ywa Thit, Theh Khon, Yin Ye, Yin Dein, Win Tamout, Ma Gyi, Than Ee Kyaw, Mi Tar Ka Gyi, Mi Tar Ka Ley, Kyone Kanya, Do Baung, Pok Htaw, Yin Dein Lamwat, Kabyar Gyi, Kabyar Ley villages in Khaw Zar Sub-township, Ye Township.

checkpoints, villagers returning from Thailand – villagers who are ostensibly flush with newly earned income – are targeted and made to pay extra at road checkpoints.

Maung Myint, Mudon Town, Mudon Township:

*They [the military check point] know which vehicles are carrying travelers coming back from Thailand. And they always extort [extra money]... They don't allow passengers to leave the gate if they are dissatisfied.*⁶⁴

A Kyaw, 30, Hneepadaw village, Mudon Township.

They told me to register my bike for 10,000 kyat. Then, they took down information about the brand of my bike and license number and gave me a card granting me permission to use the road. Each time I pass this gate, I have to show this card... 150 to 200 farmers from just Hneepadaw village use this road, and most of them ride motorcycles. The soldiers will make a lot of money.

Residents of villages that have been placed under travel restriction are often made to purchase permission to leave their villages and travel to work their farms, conduct business or visit family. These restrictions – and subsequent payments – are a frequent occurrence in the southern third of the pipeline as well as a not-unusual fact of life as far north as Mudon Township.⁶⁵ The restrictions create intense difficulties for farmers. Travel restrictions keep farmers from their farms,

while curfews shorten workdays for owners of faraway farms and plantations, forcing them to hire extra laborers and leading to debt cycles. Rubber plantation workers face special difficulties, as they must tap trees at night before the heat of the day thins sap and it dissipates throughout each tree. "It is very difficult for us to work in that amount of time," a rubber plantation worker told HURFOM after a nighttime curfew was enforced in Mudon and Thanbyuzayat Townships. "We just cannot finish our job."



Troops from LIB No. 586 on the parade ground in Ye Township

B. The "Four Cuts" strategy and arbitrary violence

The *Tatmadaw* has been carrying out a scorched earth campaign in the country's ethnic areas since shortly after independence. In the mid 1960s, this campaign took a more organized form and an official new name: *Pya Ley Pya*, or the "Four Cuts" strategy. The "four cuts" refer to food, funds, intelligence and

⁶⁴ See, "Troops extort money from passengers at check points," *IMNA* Sep 4, 2008.

⁶⁵ In March 2009, residents of every village in Mudon and Thanbyuzayat Townships were banned from leaving their homes after 9 pm following rumors of armed insurgent activity in the area. See footnote 40.

recruits. In application, the strategy is an attempt to sever the connection between insurgents and their civilian supporters by systematically clearing rebel controlled, “black” areas by killing, threatening and forcibly relocating villagers. Such areas became free fire zones, with all remaining residents assumed to be rebels or rebel supporters. The strategy has proven effective, and over the last five decades has been a determining factor in weakening large and powerful armed-groups like the CPB and KNU/KNLA.⁶⁶

Though the Four Cuts strategy has since been officially discontinued, its shadow can clearly be seen lurking behind present-day SPDC conduct. This is particularly true in Yebyu and southern Ye Townships, where the SPDC army seeks to eradicate armed insurgents. There, villagers face routine surveillance and travel restrictions; villages are placed on nighttime or 24-hour curfews any time there are reports of insurgent activity. Households and entire villages also continue to be forcibly relocated. In November 2008, for instance, IB No. 107 forced over 60 households in Amae village, Yebyu Township to leave their homes after accusing the residents of supporting the Mon insurgent group lead by Nai Chan Dein.

Nai Chit Noy, Amae village, Yebyu Township.

One young man from the village asked the captain, ‘if you do this, where will we go to live?’... The captain replied, ‘you can go and live anywhere, but not in this area.’ After that, he grabbed the young man and hit him in the head with the butt of his rifle. Once the young man had fallen down, the captain hit the young man’s leg and it broke.

Villagers suspected of involvement with armed insurgents are also detained and interrogated. Soldiers use frequent violence as part of the interrogation process, and over the last 6 years, HURFOM has documented villagers being made to dig their own graves, bound and left in the sun, beaten, burned and subjected to “shin rolling” and electric shocks. Details on 39 instances of torture are recorded in Appendix 4. Soldiers also use violence to intimidate villagers into general compliance even if it provides no information, particularly following clashes with armed insurgents. Villagers have been arbitrarily beaten and had their homes and plantations burned down, while whole villages have been made to pay fines or be forcibly relocated. After a soldier was killed in a landmine blast in February 2008, for instance, troops from LIB No. 408 burned down all the betel and rubber plantations around Yindein village, Ye Township.



Four boys who fled to the Thai-Burma border after being beaten by seven soldiers from IB No. 31 when they could not answer questions about Mon insurgents

⁶⁶ For more on the way the Four Cuts strategy affected the course of civil war in Burma, see Martin Smith, *Burma: Insurgency and the Politics of Ethnicity* (Zed Books Ltd: London, 1993). For analysis of the Four Cuts strategy in Mon State prior to the 1995 NMSP ceasefire, see Ashley South. *The Golden Sheldrake: Mon Nationalism and Civil War in Burma* (New York: Routledge, 2003).

Anonymous woman, Toe Thet Ywa Thit village, Ye Township:

[A man from my village] was beaten on his back and legs with a bamboo pole. His face is covered with black welts from the torture he received. They [LIB No. 586] accused him of being a reporter for a Mon rebel group. They interrogated him and when they were dissatisfied with his answers, they beat him. We can hear him crying in pain, even from far away.

Civilians are also executed summarily, sometimes for being suspected rebel supporters or sometimes simply for working or traveling in a “black” area, dubbed to be under rebel control and, consequently, a free fire zone. Details on 29 killings are listed in Appendix 4. A few months after the forced relocation of Amae village, for instance, 3 people, including the former headmen, were executed by soldiers when they returned to their former village to retrieve abandoned property.⁶⁷

Anonymous, Baraung village, Ye Township:

We found his body [the body of Nai Maw, 35] at Dikekrok... Since he was arrested, we heard that he was seriously beaten by the soldiers [from LIB No. 583 and LIB No. 591] as a consequence of selling some pork to the Nai Bin rebel group. Finally he was accused of being a supporter of the rebel group and beaten to death.

Colonel Nai Pan Nyunt, leader of the HRP/MRP:

Killing and arresting villagers with inhumane torture is a common habit of the Burmese army. It is cruel and inhumane to our people. They [the SPDC army] brought the headmen from Magyi and Mihtawhla villages [in Ye Township] and killed them. And they lied to the villagers that headmen were killed in the fighting with our HRP.

Village leaders are often particularly subject to abuse as they must deal with the SPDC army on behalf of their villages, a thankless task in which they are often punished for events over which they have no control. Compounding fears related to dealing with the SPDC army is the likelihood that villagers whose first language is Mon will be punished for misunderstandings or simply not speaking fluent Burmese.⁶⁸ As a result, in Yebyu and southern Ye Townships villagers are reluctant to serve in village leadership roles. This is a marked change from traditional village life, in which it is a great honor to occupy a village leadership position. “The village headman becomes the ‘porter’ for the army,” Nai Pae, from Magyi village, Ye Township, told HURFOM, drawing an analogy between the treatment of the headmen and the way the army frequently forces civilians to carry supplies. In April 2009, for instance, LIB No. 107 executed 2 village leaders in Paukpinkwin, Yebyu Township, for supporting Mon insurgents. Illustrating the way that villagers often find themselves caught



A group of villagers who fled to the Thai-Burma border to escape abuses in Yebyu Township

⁶⁷ See, “Three villagers killed after they defy a forced relocation order in Tenasserim Division,” HURFOM January 16, 2009.

⁶⁸ For more on abuses suffered by Mon speakers who cannot understand Burmese, see Inset 5.

Inset 5: Punished for their mother tongue

Many villagers along the pipeline are ethnic Mon and speak Mon as their primary language. For these villagers, communicating with soldiers that speak only Burmese is a frightening endeavor. Miscommunications leading to faulty implementation of an army order or incorrectly answering a question carry the very real prospect of punishment by beating. In some cases, language-based miscommunications – or even mistakes as simple as a slow or stuttered answer – have been enough for soldiers to summarily execute villagers along the pipeline's southern third.

Nai Chain, from Yebyu Township:

I was along [as a porter] with [LIB No.] 273, led by Colonel Myint Oo... The troops met a suspected man, Nai Ha-Pwe-Dut, 50, a native of Amae village, and asked for information about rebel activities. He was so frightened he refused to answer the questions with his limited Burmese. Then, a soldier beat him with the butt of his gun and shot him dead in front of us. He died on the spot.

Mon speaking villagers have also reported being punished simply for speaking less-than-fluent Burmese. In southern Ye Township, for instance, residents of at least 5 villages^{viii} report being forced to carry identification cards listing their Burmese language proficiency. In other places, villagers who do not speak Burmese have been forced to sit for prolonged periods in the sun without water or suffer other public punishments and humiliations.

Nai Kyaw Min, 34, Paukpinkwin village, Yebyu Township:

Most of villagers in the village couldn't speak the Burmese language. So, the soldiers tortured the villagers and made the ones who could speak Burmese ride on a cart. The villagers who couldn't speak Burmese had to drag the cart to the farm.

between the twin fires of the SPDC army and insurgents, the executions came less than 12 hours after Mon insurgents had executed two other village leaders for cooperating with the SPDC army.⁶⁹

Nai Dit, Paukpinkwin village, Yebyu Township:
I saw the army tie [two headmen from Paukpinkwin] to a coconut tree near a small hut on the farm. They questioned them for a while but I was too far away to hear what they said. Then they shot them dead. Afterwards Major Khin Mg Chin proclaimed loudly that they would weed out anyone from this area who supported any of the rebel groups... After the soldiers left the villagers gathered by the bodies, which were still tied to the tree. Everyone was distressed because four members of the VPDC had been killed in only twelve hours.

For villagers in Yebyu and southern Ye Townships, abuses like those described above are an inevitable, deliberate part of the SPDC army's strategy for countering Mon and Karen insurgents; some abuses would in all likelihood occur without the pipeline. But the pipeline fundamentally raises the stakes, increasing the strategic importance of securing the area.

Unrelated to the *Tatmadaw's* continuation of the Four Cuts strategy in Yebyu and Southern Ye Townships, however, is the reality that the basic presence of the SPDC army carries with it violence and abuse. In areas all along the pipeline route, villagers have reported beatings, arbitrary killing and sexual violence by the SPDC army. No amount of even the most perverse rationalization can connect these abuses to counter-insurgency strategy. Instead, they are simply the product of the army's virtual impunity and the lack of accountability with which soldiers

^{viii} Villages where residents were required to carry identification cards registering their proficiency in Burmese: Yin Ye, Yin Dein, Magyi, Danikyar, Ko Mile, Ye Township.

⁶⁹ For more on the April 2009 events in Paukpinkwin, village,

see "Mon rebels and SPDC army execute four village leaders in span of 12 hours," HURFOM, April 9, 2009. For more on the way villagers must carefully negotiate the competing demands of the SPDC army and insurgents, see "Living Between Two Fires," HURFOM 2009.

interact with local residents. In this sense, it is a simple matter of degrees: the more soldiers posted in an area, the more villagers are likely to suffer from arbitrary, violent abuse.

As a result, villagers have reported beatings and even killings for seemingly minor offences or because soldiers have been drinking alcohol. In a typical example from April 2009, for instance,



A rape victim and two relatives interviewed after they fled to the Thai-Burma border

an officer from LIB No. 299 in Koe Mile village, Ye Township, severely beat the driver of a motorbike for driving through a puddle and splashing his wife. A second man on the motorbike fled the scene, after which the officer went to his home carrying a bottle of gasoline and threatened to burn the house to the ground unless the man came out of hiding and apologized. When the man came to make an apology, the officer beat him as well.⁷⁰

Nai Win, 37, Paukpinkwin village, Yebyu Township:

In 2002, three villagers were killed by soldiers from LIB No. 273 without reason... Nai Ha

Rai was killed when he came home from the plantation, but a little bit late [after a curfew]. The soldier... shot him because the soldier was drunk. As for Nai Jews, he was in the VCD [Video Compact Disc] store. When he opened the door of the VCD store, the door hit the soldier. He prayed to the soldier to forgive him because he did not see him. But the soldier did not listen to him and shot him in front of the VCD store.

Women in areas around army battalions face increased risk of sexual harassment and rape. In 2005, HURFOM's Woman and Child Rights Project (WCRP) released a report documenting 37 cases of rape by SPDC army battalions in Mon State, including 20 incidents by pipeline battalions.⁷¹ Since 2004, HURFOM and WCRP have documented another 21 cases of rape by pipeline battalions not included in the 2005 report. These are detailed in Appendix 5. More than half of the incidents involved girls of ages 17 and younger, including one victim who was just 10 years old. Villagers reported women being taken as servants and made to cook, clean and massage officers before being raped. In other cases, women were raped while they worked on rubber plantations or their homes. In at least one case, an officer ordered the victim's husband arrested on specious charges so that his wife would be home alone. In the majority of the cases, perpetrators were not punished, though some families were threatened after complaining. In cases where villagers made a complaint, higher authorities occasionally promised trials, although in only one case has HURFOM confirmed substantial punishment for a perpetrator.

Mi Aye Yi, Amae village, Yebyu Township, quoting the mother of a girl raped by soldiers from IB No. 107:

My daughter is only seventeen-years-old. She was raped by seven soldiers... Those soldiers are not human. They are like animals. They are the same evil, both the captain and his soldiers. My daughter nearly died, and now she has tried to kill herself many times.

⁷⁰ See, "Officer beats villagers for accidental splashing," *IMNA* April 21, 2009.

⁷¹ See, *Catwalk to the Barracks: Conscription of women for sexual slavery and other practices of sexual violence by troops of the Burmese military regime in Mon areas*, WCRP and HURFOM, July 2005.

V. Dirty work: building the pipeline

After the pipeline route was decided upon in 1998 and 1999, it had to be cleared of homes, trees, farmland and other obstacles. First, this entailed the surveying and then seizing land through which the pipeline would pass. These land seizures, amounting to more than 2,400 acres, are documented in Section A and Appendix 6. Construction then began during 1999, when private companies including SMART and PEC⁷² cleared the route and dug trenches, using machine as well as human labor. With the pipeline route prepared, sections of pipeline were brought from Rangoon and welded together, then left for local residents to cover with soil. In the southern third of the pipeline, this included forced labor for construction as well as portering as villagers were made to carry supplies for soldiers tasked with providing security for the project. This is documented in Section B.

SPDC army battalions were involved in every stage of the construction process, conscripting laborers, patrolling the area and providing security for MOGE, SMART and PEC employees. Villagers report being forced to provide materials for soldiers, as well as work as forced laborers building army barracks and carrying materials as porters during army patrols. Further details on abuses of this nature, already discussed in Section IV A, are in the following Section B.

⁷² Further details on the SMART and PEC companies could not be obtained by HURFOM, but they are mentioned in the confidential SPDC order document translated in Appendix 1.



A. Preparing the pipeline route

1. Land confiscation, on the record

Before the pipe could be laid, SPDC army battalions, worried about security, required 50 feet on either side of the route to be cleared of everything that could aid or provide cover to potential saboteurs. Plantation owners were ordered to cut down their trees; farmers were made to abandon their paddies and gardens; villagers were made to abandon, move or, in a few cases, modify their homes. In 2002, a HURFOM researcher in Nainghlone village, Mudon Township, described seeing a house that resembled two long, narrow huts stacked on top of each other. The home belonged to family that lived halfway inside the 50-foot buffer zone, and they had simply cut what had once been a relatively large home in half.

Nainghlone village is the only village through the center of which the pipeline crosses, and its residents were made to clear just 10 feet on either side of the route. Along the rest of the route the larger 50-foot buffer remains in place. Affected villagers were given varying degrees of warning, with some receiving as much as 6 weeks to move and others receiving just 3 days. In either case, not only were villagers required to abandon homes and farms, but they were required to remove all traces of their one-time existence; villagers had to leave, and then they had to ensure that what they left behind was bereft of all trees, brush and homes.

According to confidential data obtained from the Myanmar Land Records Department [MLRD] in Mon State, over 2,440 acres of land were seized to make way for the pipeline in Ye, Thanbyuzayat, Mudon and Moulmein Townships. According to the MLRD, land seized for the pipeline can be roughly organized into four categories:

- A. Households and developed properties
- B. Farm land, made up most of rice paddy fields
- C. Plantations, made up mostly of rubber trees and orchards of betel nut, durian and other orchard products.
- D. Wild lands.

Organized into these categories, the pipeline caused villagers in Mon State to lose a minimum of 130 household units, 1,190 acres of farmland, 1,065 acres of plantations and 185 acres of wild lands. For more details, see Appendix 6. Importantly, these are losses along only 2/3 of the pipeline; HURFOM could not obtain MLRD data for 60 miles of the pipeline route, including the section connecting Kanbauk to the edge of Ye Township in Mon State and from the edge of Moulmein Township to the end of the line at the factories in Myaing Kalay.



Surveyors' markings on seized paddy fields prior to pipeline construction in Mudon Township

Nai Pai, 60, Kwanhla village, Mudon Township:

Three acres of paddy land out of 10 acres that I owned were destroyed for the pipeline project. In reality, only 50 feet on both sides should be destroyed. I could use the rest apart from the 50 feet. But my land was split into two parts, so it became useless. And at that time, in Thanbyuzayat the commander of IB No. 32⁷³... told me to not use this three acres of land because it is a gas pipeline restricted area... At that time, the market price of the land was 200,000 kyat per acre. The total sum of my loss was about 600,000 kyat. I felt it was unfair, but I have to be quiet and I did not dare to say anything.



Trench dug for the pipeline during construction on the route through northern Ye Township

Nai Win, 37, Paukpinkwin village, Yebyu Township:
During the pipeline building time, villagers had to work every day... and on farms and plantations near by the pipeline, soldiers did not allow people to work. In Paukpinkwin village there were six hundred households at that time. Around one hundred families lost their farmland and plantations.

2. The impacts of land confiscation and limited compensation

At the beginning of 2002, the MLRD records were used to provide limited compensation to some villagers in Thanbyuzayat, Kyaikmayaw, Mudon and Moulmein Townships⁷⁴ who lost their land, though HURFOM could not confirm how many households received payment. It would hardly matter if every single person that lost property to the pipeline received compensation, however, for in every instance of compensation documented by HURFOM the amount provided was insufficient. Villagers reported being given pittances, amounts that reflected neither the market price of their land nor the fact that they lost not just land, but homes and agricultural investments sometimes generations in the making. In other cases, villages reported being ordered to sign forms saying they received compensation, and then left empty handed.

Villagers who received compensation described massive shortfalls between the compensation offered by the SPDC and their actual losses. On January 9th, 2002, for instance, Thanbyuzayat TPDC and VPDC authorities as well as officials from the Ministry of Energy held a ceremony to compensate 7 households who lost land to the pipeline route. The villagers were provided with 18,000 kyat per acre, though local sources said market prices valued the land at closer to 100,000 kyat, plus additional losses for houses and investment in crops and plantations. In a similar ceremony in Mudon Town during the same period, villagers were compensated

⁷³ Though IB No. 32 is normally based in Kyainnseiky, Karen State, it came to Mon State temporarily to help with security for preparation and construction of the pipeline.

⁷⁴ Some residents in Ye Township were also provided compensation, but HURFOM could not confirm which villages or how much they received.

even less. Farmers were provided with 2,000 kyat per acre of land. According to local sources, in 2002 paddy land in the area was worth between 150,000 and 200,000 kyat per acre, in some cases representing a 99% percent gap between the compensation and actual land value. In spite of this, farmers were still required to attend the ceremony. One reported that his “compensation” did not even cover the cost of travel between his home village and Mudon Town.⁷⁵



An army officer in civilian clothes inspecting a rubber plantation seized by LIB No. 587 in Ye Township

Anonymous, Thanbyuzayat Township:

Nai Aung Shein's family lost one acre of land and the whole of their house when the pipeline passed through into their garden. He had to destroy his house and moved into his relatives' house in the same village, Waewinkara, and had to build a new house... He lost about 400,000

kyat for both land and house. He also lost another 100,000 kyat to build a new house by buying building materials.... But in the ceremony, he received only 18,000 kyat from the authorities for his one acre of lost lands... After receiving the money, the headmen of Waewinkara... took 5,000 kyat from Nai Aung Shein, at the end he received only 13,000 kyat. The village headmen also took a cut from the other families of 1,000 kyat to 3,000 kyat per family depending on the amount of money they received.

The result of the land confiscation for some was the loss of years of investment, as described in Section IV, A1; rubber trees take years of care before they are mature enough to sap, while orchard products like durian and cashews take even longer. For others, the losses represented homes and lands kept in the family for generations. In both cases, the shamefully small payments were insufficient to match the loss at market prices, let alone enable villagers to adequately replace their loss with new property and extended agricultural investment. In all the cases, even compensation at market prices would not change the fact that the land seizures and displacement were forced and against the will of local residents.

B. Laying pipe: forced labor during pipeline construction

1. Clearing the route and digging trenches

Villagers along the entire length of the pipeline were required to work clearing brush and hauling soil excavated by the private companies building the pipeline. The worst instances of forced labor occurred in the pipeline's southern third section and southern Thanbyuzayat Township. Villagers were required to work as laborers, clearing brush and large trees, digging the pipeline trench and hauling soil. Orders issued by SPDC army battalions were relayed through village headmen, who organized rotating work parties. Each household in villages near the pipeline was required to provide one person to join village labor parties, which traveled to the

⁷⁵ For more on compensation paid to villagers who lost land to the pipeline, see “Kanbauk-Myaing Kalay Gas Pipeline and Negative Impacts to the Civilians,” *The Mon Forum*, HURFOM July 2002.

pipeline site to work for spans of 3 days to as much as a month. In all cases, villagers received no compensation.

Nai Sain, 35, Sattaw village, Ye Township.

The villagers had to clean the place to put the gas pipeline and dig the ditch for burying the gas pipeline. The head of the village had to make groups of 7 or 8 villagers... [each group] was forced to work on the gas pipeline in turn. One group had to work one week. When the villagers went to work on the gas pipeline, they had to bring [tools] and food themselves... When the villagers worked on the gas pipeline, the soldiers from [LIB No.] 282 and [LIB No.] 273 guarded with guns.

Many villages in Mon State appear to be populated by children and their grandparents because large numbers of working age people are abroad earning in countries like Thailand. Households in such situations were not exempted from demands for forced labor, however, and had the option of either paying fees to hire a replacement or sending children or an elder.

Ma Shew Lion, 35, Mintha village, Yebyu Township:

When the pipeline project started we had to work as unpaid workers one week per month... for nearly 3 months. We had to bring food by ourselves. If someone could not go to work, they have to find a replacement. We have to hire someone. The price was so expensive – it cost 3,000 kyat [for one day]. That is why many women and children were involved as workers on the pipeline.

For many families, “replacement” fees of 3,000 to 8,000 kyat were simply too high a percentage of household income to be afforded.⁷⁶ With SPDC army battalions making virtually no delineations based upon age or gender, large numbers of men and women as young as 12 and as old as 70 were made to work.

Mi Nue Yin, 62, Paukpinkwin village, Yebyu Township:

Each household had to provide one person to work on the gas pipeline. The head of the village made a group for the forced labor.

The groups worked 5 days per turn. Men and women, anyone who was over 12 years old, all worked clearing the place for the pipeline and digging the ditch.



HURFOM

Men, women and children working as forced laborers on a pipeline ditch in northern Yebyu Township

Though the companies contracted to build the pipeline used earth moving equipment to dig the pipeline trench in Mon State's northern townships, villagers in the southern third of the pipeline were required to do much of the labor by hand, clearing brush, timber and root systems, digging trenches and hauling excavated soil. Backbreaking

⁷⁶ For more on incomes in Mon State, see Inset 4.

work at the best of times, villagers were made to undertake the tasks with only what tools they could provide, sometimes miles from their home villages and without provisions for shelter, food or health care.

Ah Hein, 27, Sinswe village, Yebyu Township:

While working on the pipeline... the whole village, people of ages between 17 and 70, both male and female, had to go there and had to bring food and materials from their homes. Villagers had to clear forest and dig the ditch for the pipeline. When villagers worked for the pipeline, the soldiers guarded them and did not allow them to take a rest. When villagers rested, soldiers shot over their head and sometimes kicked them too.

Villagers working on sections of the pipeline far from their villages faced added difficulties as they struggled both to complete the labor projects and provide themselves with food and shelter. Given little time to prepare living quarters, workers report having to sleep exposed and vulnerable to mosquitoes carrying malaria and dengue fever. Given that Burma is home to high levels of the world's most virulent type of malaria, some of the exposed laborers consequently became infected.⁷⁷ Sick workers were given no medical treatment or respite, accused of malingering and threatened or beaten.



Forced labor victims interviewed by HURFOM

Ah Hein, 27, Sinswe village, Yebyu Township:

Villagers had to live in the forest and cook there and sleep there without mosquito nets. Some villagers got malaria. When the villagers got sick soldiers did not allow them to take a rest.

Nai Kyi Aye, 59, Kabyar village, Ye Township.

During working time... there was no medical care and if villagers got sick, the soldiers also beat them. They accused them of being lazy and beat them. If there was no one to replace [the sick] person, soldiers did not allow [the sick person] to stop working. The villager had to work until a replacement person came.

Nai Thoung, 36, Paukpinkwin village, Yebyu Township:

When the pipeline project started, villagers had to work to clear the forest and dig the ditch... They had no health care treatment and when they got

⁷⁷ Burma is home to the highest number of malaria deaths in the Southeast Asia region. The area along Burma's nearby eastern border, just 86 miles from the pipeline at its farthest point, is also home to some of Southeast Asia's highest rates of *plasmodium falciparum* malaria infection. *P. falciparum* is the most serious of the four types of malaria and one of the world's leading causes of death from a single infectious agent. For discussion of *P. falciparum* in general and in Burma specifically, see *World Malaria Report 2008*, Maru Aregawi et al, World Health Organization, 2009. For discussion of *P. falciparum* in eastern Burma, see "Prevalence of *plasmodium falciparum* in active conflict areas of eastern Burma: a summary of cross-sectional data," Adam K. Richards et al., *Conflict and Health* 2007, 1:9.

sick the soldiers did not allow them to rest and ordered them to continue work. At that time, one man died because he was seriously sick with malaria.

2. Portering, commandeering and theft

Villagers did not only have to provide tools, materials, food and shelter for themselves as they worked as unpaid laborers: they had to provide for the soldiers securing the construction process as well. The soldiers, there to ensure the laborers worked as much as to secure the pipeline, demanded villagers provide supplies or simply took what they needed without permission or payment.

Nai Kyi Aye, 59, Kabyar village, Ye Township:

When the pipeline started more soldiers came to the village... Villagers not only had to work on the pipeline but they also had to... give food such as rice, vegetables, oil, onion, fish paste, salt and other things. Sometimes soldiers took alcohol from shops without paying. The headman had to collect money from villagers and give back to the shopkeepers. Sometimes commanders demanded money [and the] headman had to collect from villagers. Three women were also raped by soldiers.

Nai Sain, 35, Sattaw village, Ye Township:

They came with about 20 soldiers and changed the troops every 20 days. When they arrived at the village, villagers had to give chickens and sometime had to cook the food for [the soldiers]. Chickens and other animals raised near houses were grabbed forcefully by the soldiers. Additionally, when the IB came to the village, the villagers had to give money... for the cost of food. The headman of the village collected the money from the villagers, one household had to pay... each month 4 or 5 times.

Throughout the entire construction process – from surveying to completion – columns of SPDC army battalions conducted patrols in the area in attempts to locate and eliminate Mon and Karen insurgents in the southern third of the pipeline as well as around ethnic Karen villages in Thanbyuzayat.⁷⁸ Consistent with SPDC army practice, villagers were required to carry ammunition and supplies. In many cases, portering for army battalions formed a part of pipeline labor rotations organized by village headmen. As a result, many villagers returned from work on the pipeline only to be immediately taken as porters for the army.

Nai Tun Thein, 33, Lae Kyi village, Yebyu Township:

When the pipeline started there were more soldier columns that came to village... The headman divided villagers into groups and he sent them to work in a rotation system... While waiting for their rotation, villagers had to work as porters because military columns had to guard the pipeline and they needed people to carry things. Villager had to work on both the pipeline and portering.

⁷⁸ In Thanbyuzayat Township, the primarily ethnic Karen villages of Waekami and Sakhangyi received extra scrutiny because the SPDC assumed them to be supporters of the KNLA.

Nai Thoung, 36, Paukpinkwin, Yebyu Township:

During the time after the pipeline started some villagers had to work as porters. Villagers had to carry food and bullets [for the soldiers]... Soldiers also used villagers to go in front of the line when the place was dangerous or if they thought it was a landmine area. During the time the villagers worked on the pipeline project, one young woman was raped by soldiers. The victim is Mi Min, 14 years old.

The presence of SPDC soldiers during the construction created special difficulties for women, who faced sexual harassment and increased risk of rape.

Ah Hein, 27, Sinswe village, Yebyu Township:

Rape cases also happened while villagers were working on the pipeline. While villagers stayed in the temporary camp, the soldiers came to a woman while she was sleeping. She screamed and the men [workers] came and stopped the soldiers. Then some of these men were tortured by the soldiers. The soldiers tied them to a tree and beat them.

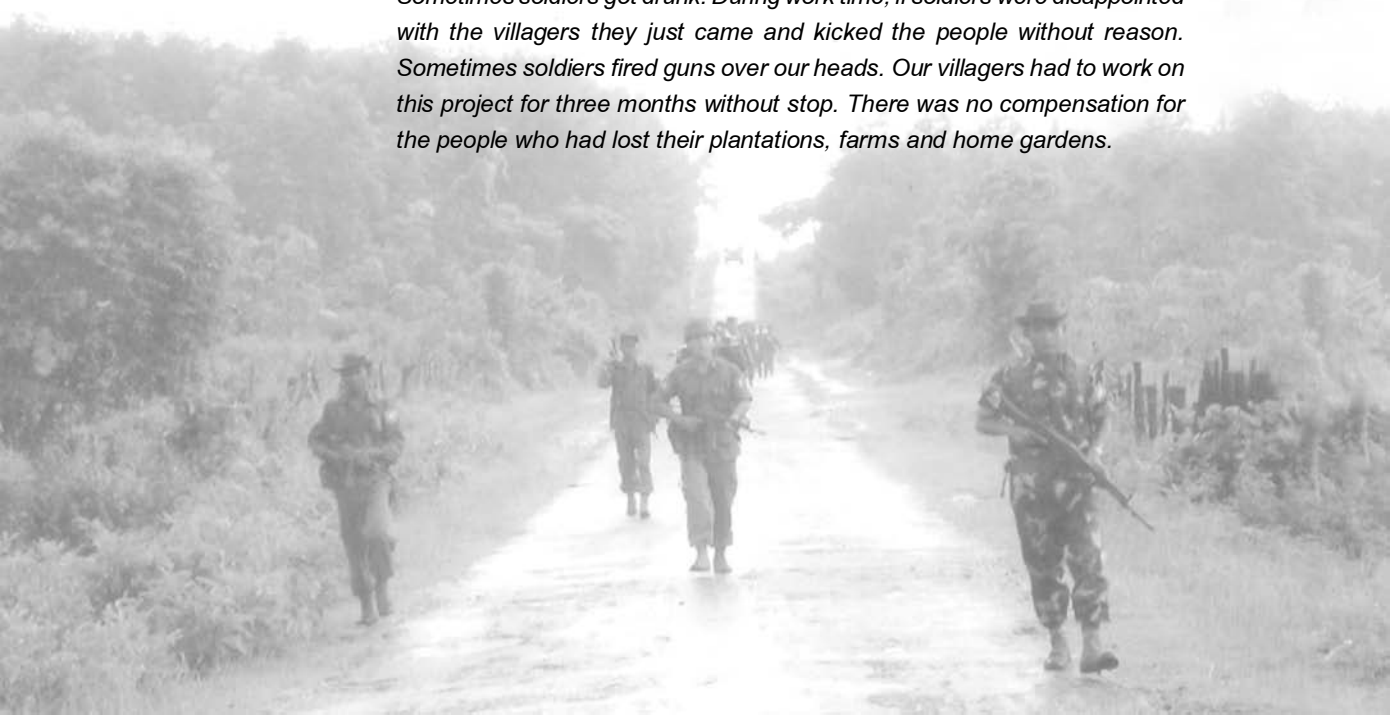
Nai Soe Naing, 35, Paukpinkwin village, Yebyu Township:

The soldiers at that time were from [LIB No.] 273 and [LIB No.] 282 under different commanders. They were very rude... During working time the soldiers were bad. If the old men could not work, they kicked them and where the young women were, they came to talk and sexually harass them. Also, three women were raped.

Male villagers also faced abuse by soldiers, who acted with virtual impunity. HURFOM interview subjects described being beaten or threatened for little or no reason.

Nai Thoung, 36, Paukpinkwin, Yebyu Township:

Sometimes soldiers got drunk. During work time, if soldiers were disappointed with the villagers they just came and kicked the people without reason. Sometimes soldiers fired guns over our heads. Our villagers had to work on this project for three months without stop. There was no compensation for the people who had lost their plantations, farms and home gardens.



VI. Life on the line: maintaining and protecting the pipeline

A. Frequent explosions and accidents

Residents who live along the Kanbaw to Myaing Kalay pipeline generally describe it as poorly constructed. Built by welding sections of approximately 30 foot pipeline, leaks, ruptures and explosions at the joints linking sections of the pipeline are common. “No one has the confidence to believe in the strength of the gas pipeline,” a villager told IMNA after a February 2009 rupture near Kamawet village, Mudon Township. “The joints in the pipeline have cracks in some places. It is very dangerous – it could explode near the village. Most of the explosions are not because of the rebels. They are just from the weak joints.”⁷⁹

Pipeline leaks are often ignored, and villagers report watching gas escape from the pipeline in submerged sections for months, without repair. “The gas that exploded this time was the gas that was leaking since the rainy season,” a Kawdut resident told IMNA after a large rupture north of Lamine in March 2009. “Nobody repaired the pipe even though the rainy season finished. That’s why the pipe could not stay [intact] any longer. That’s why it exploded.”⁸⁰

These slow leaks have resulted in at least 11 large ruptures, depicted on Map 4 and Inset 6.⁸¹ Typically, these ruptures lead to thunderous rushes of escaping gas that villagers can hear for sometimes miles around. “We heard the sound of an

⁷⁹ “Pipeline leak prompts massive gas release in Mon State,” *IMNA* February 6th, 2009.

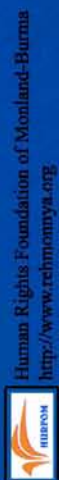
⁸⁰ “Gas pipeline bursts after leak neglected for months,” *IMNA* March 2nd, 2009.

⁸¹ Based upon independent documentation by HURFOM. Additional leaks and explosions have also received coverage by *IMNA* and *Kaowao News*. In the most extreme example of the frequency with which the pipeline fails, large failures occurred 3 times in a span of less than three and a half months along the same section of pipeline near Lamine Sub-Township, Ye Township. For *IMNA* coverage neatly tracing the ruptures, see “Gas pipeline fails near Lamine,” *IMNA* December 3, 2008; “Gas pipeline bursts after leak neglected for months,” *IMNA* March 2, 2009; “Gas pipeline bursts, less than month from earlier blast,” *IMNA*, March 17, 2009.



Explosions and major ruptures along the Kanbauk to Myaing Kalay gas pipeline





explosion at 9 in the night,” said a woman from Lamine Town after a rupture in February 2009. “I thought it was a bomb explosion. After that, we heard a sound like thunder for about 1 hour.”⁸² Villagers reported being afraid of the sound and unsure of its origin. After a 2002 explosion between Kwanhla and Yaung Daung villages in Mudon Township, residents fled to high ground thinking that a canal from the nearby Winphanon dam had burst. “The sound made fear for the villagers. It exploded... [and] made a big hole 3 feet in diameter and 5 feet deep in the ground below the pipeline,” described Nai Nyan Ong, 60, a villager from the area. “It made a big sound at that time. As it was the very first of the explosions, most of the villagers had never experienced anything like that. Most of the villagers who lived in that area ran away.”

In a development that perhaps best demonstrates the frequency with which the pipeline fails, seven years later villagers along some sections of the pipeline report that they are no longer surprised by the sound of pipeline explosions. “I heard a sound like thunder for about two hours... The explosion came again after it had already happened not even a full month ago,” said another woman from Lamine after the rupture in March 2009. “But we are not so afraid of it [anymore] because we hear leaks like that regularly.”⁸³

That some villagers have grown accustomed to the sound of pipeline ruptures does not, however, mean that others do not live in fear of such failures. Villagers have good reason to fear the ruptures. Pipeline explosions in which the escaping gas ignited, sometimes burning surrounding homes and plantations, have occurred at least 14 times, depicted on Map 4 and Inset 6. Villagers along the pipeline have been incredibly lucky that only a few explosions have spread into wider fires, the worst of which burned no more than an acre of rubber plantation.⁸⁴ The experience of villagers in Thaton Township, where the pipeline runs west from Myaing Kalay towards Rangoon, illustrates how the explosions can be much more damaging: on September 17, 2004, an explosion in Thamasaing village led to fire that consumed 5 homes and a vehicle. “Houses belong[ing] to five families in the village were seriously burnt,” said an area villager. “The explosion threw [up a] huge fire which is higher than a tree and burnt five houses and a truck nearby.” No one was killed. Villagers received no compensation for their lost property.⁸⁵



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Ruptured pipeline surrounded by a crater left by escaping gas near Lamine Town, northern Ye Township

⁸² “Gas pipeline bursts after leak neglected for months,” *IMNA* March 2, 2009.

⁸³ “Gas pipeline bursts, less than month from earlier blast,” *IMNA*, March 17, 2009.

⁸⁴ In March 2007, a blast 7 miles north of Ye Town set a fire that burned approximately 150 trees on an acre of nearby rubber plantation. See, “Gas pipeline blast burns rubber plantation,” *HURFOM*, March 27, 2007.

⁸⁵ “No compensation for the houses burnt by gas explosion,” *The Mon Forum*, *HURFOM* September 2004.

B. Abuse following explosions and accidents

Even more dangerous than the actual escaping and igniting gas are the reactions of SPDC army battalions, who sometimes blame large explosions on sabotage by insurgent “terrorists.”⁸⁶ In these situations, local residents suspected as insurgent sympathizers have been arrested, detained for long periods and tortured. Entire villages are also put under travel restrictions, and made to pay extra taxes and fees. “The villagers worry too much about the gas exploding again because they have had very bad experiences,” said Nai Nyan Ong, 60, from Kwanhla village in Mudon Township. “They worry very much about the next explosion. Including me, I also am very worried about that. Because wherever there is an explosion, the abuses occur.”

1. Arrests, detention, torture

Following one of the explosions, which SPDC officials blamed on an attack by armed insurgents, villagers suspected of aiding the attacks were detained, interrogated and, in some cases, tortured. In February 2006, an unknown group attacked the pipeline near Kwanhla village, Mudon Township.⁸⁷ The attack caused a large explosion and fire, which villagers reported to be taller than a large palm tree and visible from over 10 miles away. Immediately following the explosion, at least 100 people were arrested, questioned and released, including farmers with land adjacent to the area and bystanders who had simply come to watch the gas burn.

Over the next few weeks, a total of 10 people including officials in the Kwanhla VPDC were arrested and taken away for extended interrogation.⁸⁸ Though none were ever charged, all were held until May.⁸⁹ HURFOM could not independently confirm details of their interrogation, but overwhelming evidence indicates detainees in such situations are generally tortured [See, Section IV, B or Appendix 4]. Kaowao news, however, reported in February that a source within the family of one of the arrested VPDC officials said that the official was tortured until he suffered brain damage. “The secretary of Kwanhla village, arrested for suspicion, was tortured by electric shocks,” said Kaowao’s family source. “Now he has lost his memory.”⁹⁰

⁸⁶ See, for instance, “Three KNU terrorists blow up gas pipeline,” *New Light of Myanmar*, May 2nd, 2002.

⁸⁷ The SPDC has alternately accused the KNLA, the All Burma Students’ Democratic Front (ABSDF), the National Council of the Union of Burma and an individual NMSP member of launching the attack. Interestingly, prior to the explosion, the SPDC stepped up security and announced that a group of four Burmese men, two Karens and two Indian-Burmese men from Thailand were planning on attacking the pipeline in the area.

⁸⁸ Villagers arrested following the Kwanhla explosion included:

Kwanhla VPDC chairman Nai Kon Seik and his wife Mi Pan; former VPDC chairman Nai Than Town; former NMSP medic Nai Tala Aie and his wife Mi Sajin; accountants in the Kwanhla VPDC office Nai Pai and Ma Win; villagers Nai Shwe, Nai Dort and Nai Win.

⁸⁹ All of the arrested villagers from Kwanhla were released after paying 1 million *kyat* and signing statements placing the blame for the explosion on NMSP member Nai Ong Janie, who had already fled the area after being accused of taking part in the attack.

⁹⁰ See, “Human rights abuses as result of gas pipeline explosion in Mon State,” *Kaowao*, February 8th, 2006.

Even in the case of accidental ruptures rather than attacks, villagers have been threatened and abused. Following a leak in the same area near Kwanhla in September 2005, local VPDC leaders were threatened by the commander of AR No. 315, Major Thit Naing, who also had 6 soldiers publicly beaten for failing to maintain the pipeline. “The ugly military officer threatened to Yaung Daung village headman as, ‘your face is equal to my fist,’ that means he would like to [punch] the village headman because... the gas leaked out near his village,” another VPDC member present at a meeting called by Major Thit Naing told IMNA soon after.⁹¹

2. Travel restrictions and increased security

Residents are also placed under strict travel restrictions following ruptures and explosions. Villagers are sometimes prevented from traveling to areas near sites of explosions or leaks, ostensibly for safety because the gas is flammable. Belying the safety rationale, however, is the fact that villagers are also put on extra nighttime restrictions, and are unable to travel to farms or plantations at night.

After the blast in Kwanhla, Commander Soe Myint of LIB No. 209 informed VPDC headmen in 6 area villages along the pipeline that residents were not permitted to cross the pipeline and would be under a 6 pm to 6 am curfew.⁹² “The Commander and village authorities declared that we must be punished [by a] beating... if they go close to the gas pipeline route [during the day time] and if anyone [goes close to the pipeline] at night time, they must be killed by shooting,” a HURFOM field reporter said in July 2006.



Gas burning after an explosion on February 1, 2006 near Kwanhla village, Mudon Township

The restrictions caused intense difficulties for villagers, who needed to travel to farms and plantations. The nighttime restrictions caused problems for workers on rubber plantations and villagers with far-away farmland. The restriction on crossing the pipeline at any hour, meanwhile, created problems for all villagers who needed to travel to areas on the other side of the pipeline, including the substantial amount of farmland to the pipeline's west.⁹³

Nai Ong Ngwe, 47, Kwanhla, Mudon Township:
I have seven acres of paddy field near Kwankabwi village. To get my farm, I have to cross the pipeline. So, early morning I have to ask permission to cross the pipeline via militiamen. It is not easy and sometimes I have to pay money to get the pass from them. As you know, the beginning of the rainy season is very important for our farmers to plant the paddy.

⁹¹ See, “Threats to Village Headmen for the Leak of Gas in Pipeline,” IMNA Sep 2, 2005.

⁹² Villages confirmed to have been placed under travel restrictions following the 2006 Kwanhla explosion: Kwanhla Yaung Daung, Hneepadaw, Abit, Kalawthut and Phedaw villages, Mudon Township.

⁹³ For more on the consequences for farmers facing travel restrictions, see Section IV, A3.

Importantly, while the increased restrictions in Kwanhla relaxed after two months, they are the norm for villages in the southern third of the pipeline. In these places, even livestock are in danger when they approach the pipeline.

Kyin Kyi, 57, Natkyizin village, Yebyu Township.

Sometimes the soldiers shot oxen, buffalos, goat and pigs that went around the pipeline. After the soldiers shot them, the animals were eaten by the soldiers.

Villagers have also reported living in climates of fear and confusion following explosions. Such fear is understandable given the way, for instance, SPDC authorities cast about desperately for suspects following the 2006 Kwanhla blast; at least one villager who had simply traveled to the site to view the fire was arrested and interrogated. "The villagers are frightened. Nobody dares to trade and travel like they used to," said one villager a full month after the 2006 Kwanhla explosion. "Everywhere there is silence."⁹⁴

Villages in the Kwanhla area were also made to provide increased numbers of residents to guard the pipeline, on top of the normal complement. Villagers had to build huts every 500 meters along the pipeline and provide an estimated 100 men from Kwanhla, Yaung Daung and Hneepadaw villages to stand 24-hour sentry duty. Three months after the fact, the increased requirements for sentry duty remained in place.

Nai Tone, affected village, Thanbyuzayat:

On February 7, 2006, IB No. 32 commanders ordered the village headmen from Kwanhla, Yaung Daung and Hneepadaw in the southern part of Mudon Township, to build one hut every 500 meters... along the pipeline route and instructed that 3 villagers needed to stay in one hut for 24 hours.

The SPDC has also mined sections of the southern third of the pipeline, where signs have been installed warning people "caution: landmines!" HURFOM could not independently verify whether mines are actually in place, and there is no evidence of any mine-related explosions to date. It would not be surprising, however, if mines have actually been laid. According to a 2008 report by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), anti-personnel mines continue to be used by the SPDC; according to a 2004 report by the same group, Burma has one of the highest landmine casualty rates in the world.⁹⁵ Mining of the pipeline is also characteristic of a focus on security that, as the English proverb goes, "loses the forest for the trees;" mining the



Sign warning of landmines on a section of fenced pipeline in southern Ye Township

⁹⁴ See, "Military targets villagers over gas pipeline explosion," *IMNA*, March 10, 2006.

⁹⁵ ICBL. "Burma/Myanmar," *Landmine Monitor Report*, 2008; ICBL. "Burma/Myanmar," *Landmine Monitor Report*, 2004. Importantly, the ICBL also recognizes that armed insurgents including the KNU/KNLA, the "Karrenni Army," the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, the Shan State Army-South and the MRP continue to use anti-personal mines in addition to government forces.

pipeline may deter sabotage, but it also drastically increases the chance of an explosion born of accident rather than attack.

3. Taxes and repairs

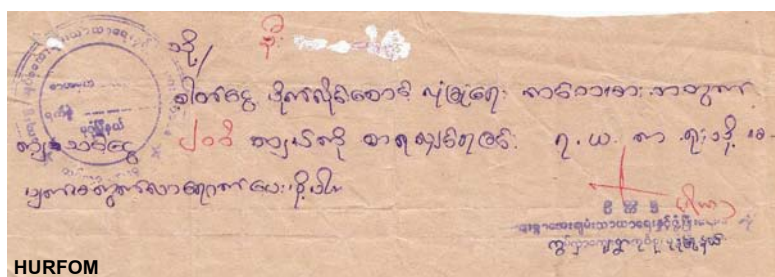
Following leaks and explosions, villagers have also been required to pay for and participate in repairs. Within a few weeks of the February 2006 blast in Kwanhla, at least four villages were forced to pay taxes by AR No. 315 and IB No. 62, who said that they were collecting funds to pay for damage caused by the blast.⁹⁶ Each household, regardless of income, was ordered to pay 10,000 *kyat*.

Nai Ngwe, Yaung Daungvillage, Mudon Township:

The soldiers said they were going to reinstall underground the parts of the gas pipeline which have been exposed by the explosion and they were collecting the money to meet the costs. They collected the same amount from each family... They collected 10,000 kyat from each household and as our village has nearly 500 houses, the Burmese troops received a lot of money from our villagers. I don't think they will spend all these funds to repair the pipeline.

Then, in the third week of March, villagers in Kwanhla were again made to make payments related to the explosion. Officials from the Southeast Command in Moulmein traveled to the village and demanded money to reimburse MOGE for the value of gas lost in the fire.

Households were made to pay between 50,000 and 100,000 *kyat*, depending on income. "The poorer villagers cannot afford to pay, they are borrowing the money to give to the authorities," IMNA quoted a man from Kwanhla in a story on the issue in March.⁹⁷ Villagers have also been made to participate as forced laborers on repairs to sections of the pipeline where accidents or attacks have occurred.



HURFOM

Order document issued by a village headman tasked with collecting money for pipeline security in Mudon Township

C. Maintaining the pipeline

Daily life along the pipeline is punctuated by SPDC security efforts ostensibly related to preventing future attacks. Travel restrictions are common, with villagers prevented from crossing the pipeline – and hence accessing their farms and plantations – during certain times. Residents of nearly every single village along the pipeline are required to aid the security effort. Villagers are required to guard

⁹⁶ Villages confirmed to have been required to pay pipeline repair taxes following the 2006 Kwanhla blast: Hneepadaw, Kwanhla, Wagaru and Yaung Daung villages, Mudon Township.

⁹⁷ "Military demands money from villagers for gas lost in pipeline explosion," *IMNA* March 19, 2006.

the pipeline or pay “pipeline security taxes” and fees for the maintenance of militia forces that guard the pipeline. Villagers are also required to work as regular forced laborers, clearing brush and building fences along the pipeline so that attacks are more difficult.

1. Pipeline security duty

In the years since construction of the pipeline was completed, HURFOM has documented villagers being required to guard sections of the pipeline in villages near the pipeline in 4 townships through which the pipeline passes.⁹⁸ Interestingly, villagers have not been required to guard the pipeline every day since 2000, but rather are ordered to guard the pipeline for various stretches of time as, for instance, 8 villages in Thanbyuzayat were required to do for 5 months beginning in December 2008, mirroring a similar 4 month stretch in 2007.⁹⁹ It is not clear why the pipeline security orders come and go, but local VPDC headmen are nonetheless consistently directed by SPDC battalions to provide daily complements of guards sufficient to monitor nearby sections of the pipeline. VPDC headmen subsequently organize guard duty rotations, and groups of villagers are sent to monitor the pipeline in 12 or 24-hour shifts. Every household in the affected village is required to provide someone to guard the pipeline, or pay a “tax” or “substitution fee” to avoid the guard duty.

Saw Nay, 45, Waekami village, Thanbyuzayat Township:

The Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Than Swe, 50, of Burmese Army IB No. 62 from Thanbyuzayat, demanded we guard the pipeline. They set up a timeline [for patrolling periods] of at least the next five months, starting from this month. He [Lt. Col Than Swe] instructed our village headmen to send two villagers every day. Those who are absent have to pay 4,000 kyat.

⁹⁸ 44 villages were confirmed to have been required to provide pipeline sentries:

Mudon Township:

Kwanhla, Hneepadaw, Yaung Daung, Kalawthut, Kawnkabwi, Doma, Settwe, Taungpa, Seintaung, Htaungkay and Abit villages.

Thanbyuzayat Township:

Waekami, Anin, Kyaungywa, Waewinkara, Sakhangyi, Taungout, Peinnedaw, Kaleinpadaw, Waeyet, Hnapyaw Daw and Waekada villages.

Ye Township:

Sattaw, Donphi, Hnin Sone, Arutaung, Kyaungywa, Kyonepaw, Balaingkee, Sonnatha, Kundu, Hnin Sone, Chaung Taung, Kaloh, Koe Mile, Hangan and Kaninkamaw villages.

Yebyu Township:

Sinswe, Lae Kyi, Lort Taing, Kyaut Kadin, Natkyizin, Yapu and Kaleinaung villages.

⁹⁹ Villages confirmed to have been required to provide pipeline sentries in December 2008:

Waekami, Anin, Kyaungywa, Waewinkara, Sakhangyi, Taungout, Peinnedaw and Kaleinpadaw villages, Thanbyuzayat Township. Notably, 2008 marked the first time Anin villagers were required to provide pipeline sentries. Anin is farther from the pipeline than the other villages.

Depending on the demands of the particular SPDC battalion, villagers are sometimes required to walk along the pipeline, sometimes required to stay stationary at designated locations. In many cases, villagers are also required to build and maintain small huts along the pipeline. In the area around Kwanhla, for instance, these huts are visible every 500 meters.



A villager forced to build a security hut near the pipeline in Mudon Township

Nai Shein, 46, Sinswe, Yebyu Township:
*After the gas pipeline finished, the villagers became guards for the gas pipeline. The villagers had to build two sentry huts themselves. Then, 4 villagers had to guard the gas pipeline security each day in turn... [If] the villager who had to guard the gas pipeline was found sleeping or not in the guard hut, they had to pay soldiers 2 to 3 viss of chickens.*¹⁰⁰

Villagers have reported varying fees required for the right not to guard the pipeline. Differing by only a few thousand *kyat*, however, the fees are consistently too high for many villagers to afford. For these villagers, even a few hundred *kyat* is the difference between eating or not, let alone making provisions for medical care and education.

Nai Akyu, 35, Waekali village, Thanbyuzayat Township:

My duty will come soon. I don't want to pay 4,000 kyat. That amount of money is enough to feed my family for two days. So, I have to go and guard the pipeline... Normally every year we are forced to look after this gas pipeline for no pay. Last year in February, we [the entire village] were required by [AR] No. 318 to take responsibility for the security of the pipeline for four months.

Nai Min, Kaleinpadaw, Thanbyuzayat Township:

The households that could not go and guard [the pipeline]... need to hire a substitute to perform the duty. If you could not... the village headmen ordered you... [to] leave the village immediately... We are in a difficult situation... day-to-day seeking money and food even when there is no instruction for guarding to the pipeline. We, the poor families, faced a difficult situation, if we go and guard we could face food-shortage problems. We could not pay the fine, 2000 kyat per day because we could earn only 1000 kyat per day.

Families subsequently find themselves in a desperate situation: they must either pay money they cannot afford, or send a family member to work. For many, the latter option is hardly better, for it means losing time that needs to be spent tending to farms and plantations. As a result, villagers report women, children and elders guarding the pipeline in the stead of working age male family members. For their part, the SPDC army battalions do not appear to make any differentiation based upon age or gender.

¹⁰⁰ A viss is a unit of measurement used in Burma, equivalent to 1.633 kilograms or 3.6 pounds.

Nai Zaw Tun, Hneepadaw village, Mudon Township:

They [the SPDC soldiers] did not specify men, women or children. They said they want everybody to take responsibility in guarding the gas pipeline.

Maung Min Aung, 13, Yaung Daung village, Mudon Township:

I have to patrol the gas pipeline and the railway route the whole night [from 6 pm to 6 am], because my parents are too busy with their paddy farm.

Nai San, 35, Sattaw village, Ye Township:

In the village, for one day two villagers had been to guard the gas pipeline for security... Not only women, but also children who are over 7 or 8 years of age have to guard the gas pipeline.

Villagers guarding the pipeline find their duty fraught with dangers. By design, they are often posted in remote locations far from their villages, and must stay there through the night armed with only what weapons they can provide themselves. Women pipeline sentries posted in such situations face special dangers, and HURFOM has confirmed that a female pipeline guard was raped in 2003.¹⁰¹ For all sentries, regardless of gender, the specter of an attack by armed insurgents is fearsome; if they oppose armed insurgents, they are likely to be killed or injured. If they succumb to fear and leave insurgents unmolested, they will be punished with equal ferocity by SPDC army battalions. Villagers also face the constant prospect of punishments by SPDC soldiers dissatisfied with their performance, even if no insurgent activity occurred.

Kyin Kyi, 57, Natkyizin village, Yebyu Township:

Villagers were sentries for the pipeline. In Natkyizin, there were some who had to guard the pipeline in the nighttime, some in the daytime... The villagers who had to guard the pipeline did not have guns; they just had a bow and arrows or slingshots to protect themselves... During the sentry time, they had to walk the whole night. If the sentry fell asleep, they had to be punished. For punishment villagers had to pay in chickens. Some had to give money and some were kicked and punched in their faces. In 2006, two sentry men were killed by a rebel army group. Those two sentry men had no [protection] from soldiers.



Nai Thoung, 36, Paukpinkwin village, Yebyu Township:

While villagers took sentry duty if someone fell asleep and soldiers saw them, their punishment would be a punch in the face and kicks with army boots... If

Young boys on pipeline sentry duty in Mudon Township

¹⁰¹ See, Appendix 5 and *Catwalk to the Barracks*, 2005. *Catwalk to the Barracks* documents the rape of a 17-year-old girl from Kyauktan Kyauk Tan village, Ye Township, who was raped by a sergeant from LIB No. 587 in February 2003 as she returned from nighttime sentry duty along the pipeline.

someone could not come for their sentry duty they had to be replaced with someone else, that is why some children and women were involved.

2. Pipeline security fees

Villagers are also required to make monthly “village security” and “pipeline security” payments. Alternately described as for the maintenance of local militia forces, SPDC battalions or general “security,” the taxes are levied by VPDC officials at the behest of local SPDC battalions. “We are not happy to collect your money, but we have to do this because of the order from the brigade,” a villager from Thanbyuzayat quoted his headman to HURFOM in December 2008. Households are typically required to make payments of 2,000 to 4,000 *kyat*.

Nai Win, 37, Paukpinkwin village, Yebyu Township:

Since the pipeline finished villagers have to pay for militia fees, soldiers food fees and security fees. For the militia it is 2,000 kyat per month and for the soldiers it is 1,500 kyat per month. For security fees it depends on what the military column demanded. If someone could not go and do sentry duty they had to... send their child.

In villages in Mon State, People’s Militia Forces (PMF) have been formed under the orders of local SPDC battalions.¹⁰² Volunteers are given basic training – and increased power and authority – by the SPDC army. In cases where volunteers are wanting, villagers are forced to join against their will. “The villagers had to draw lots for the people’s militia each a year,” Mi Nue Yin, 62, from Paukpinkwin in Yebyu Township told HURFOM. “Once a villager been chosen by drawing his lot, he had to be in the people’s militia for one year. If he did not want to join, he had to give 50,000 *kyat* for hiring a replacement.” In areas near the pipeline, PMF forces are sometimes responsible for organizing village sentries or guarding the pipeline themselves. Villagers, meanwhile, are required to provide for PMF forces in the same way they must provide for regular army soldiers as a part of the SPDC’s self reliance program.



Women and children guarding the pipeline in Mudon Township

Ma Shew Lion, 35, now a resident of an NMSP controlled area after fleeing Mintha, Yebyu Township:

After the pipeline finished another duty came... We had to the pay militia fee. In our village there are fifteen militiamen and we [each household] had

¹⁰² At least 10 PMF troops are confirmed to be required in the following villages:

Mudon: Hneepadaw, Yaung Daung, Kwanhla

Thanbyuzayat: Paungsein, Kyagun , Waekali, Waewinkara , Waeyet, Waekami and Sakhangyi villages.

Ye: Taungbon, Arutaung, Balaingkee, Sonnatha, Chaung Taung, Hangan, Kaloh and Koe Mile villages.

Yebyu: Lort Taing, Kyauktalin, Kyauk Kadin , Yapu, Kaleinaung, Paukpinkwin and Mintha villages.

to pay thirty baskets of paddy... If someone can't give thirty baskets of rice a headman will detain them. Sometimes the headman put them in a prison cell. After we gave money or thirty baskets they allowed us go home.

Nai Sain, 35, Sattaw village, Ye Township

When the situation is bad [because there has been insurgent activity], the people's militia comes to the village often. For each one time they came, the cost for their food was... about 5,000 kyat from each household. And the villagers had to give about 160 baskets of paddy for one year to the people's militia.

As with the fees villagers are required to pay in other circumstances, the security taxes and PMF fees are sometimes too much for households to bear. "Now the value of many products from our farms is very low and we can earn only a low income. But the cost of the security fees is very high. Where can we get the money to pay the brigade?" Nai Kon Blai, a villager in Thanbyuzayat, asked a HURFOM reporter after villagers were made to guard the pipeline or pay pipeline security fees in December 2008. Another villager in the area, Nai Chan Blai, concurred: "If the costs continue like this, we will have to sell our farms and leave the village."

Ma Shew Lion, 35, in NMSP controlled area after fleeing Mintha, Yebyu Township:

When our family was in the Mintha village we did not have enough food to eat. We worked so hard. We had to pay for soldier's food and the militia's fees. My husband was detained three times. We had no food to eat but we had to find food for soldiers. That is why we had to escape from Mintha village and live [in an area] under New Mon State Party control. This village is not very nice like our old village, but there is no torture and no taxes. All the food we get, we can eat.

3. Pipeline maintenance

The SPDC army also attempts to protect the pipeline by making attacks on the pipeline difficult. With this in mind, the majority of the pipeline is buried in ditches underground, covered with heaped earth aboveground or, in places like river crossings, surrounded by protective fencing. Ground on either side of the pipeline is also kept clear of brush, limiting cover for potential attacks, clearing lines of site for sentries and aiding the movement of patrols. Each year from June to October the monsoon season brings heavy rains to Mon State. The rains often carry away dirt and fencing, exposing sections of the pipeline. Following the rainy season – and often right before it, as a preemptive measure – villagers along the pipeline route are made to work as unpaid forced laborers reburying the pipeline and repairing fences.

Acting under orders from local SPDC battalions, VPDC headmen organize forced labor parties made up of workers from each household in villages in four townships.¹⁰³ Villagers are made to collect stones and dirt, transport it to the pipeline and bury exposed sections.

Nai Sain, 35, Sattaw village, Ye Township:

In the village, for one day two villagers had to guard the gas pipeline for security. The villagers had to build the guard hut themselves... After the raining season, as the land is wet, if the gas pipeline comes into view, the villagers have to re-cover it.

Natural topography makes burying the pipeline everywhere impossible. SPDC battalions appear to view sections of the pipeline that cross rivers and streams as particularly vulnerable, and villagers are forced to maintain fences around the pipeline made of bamboo, wood and sometimes concrete and brick. HURFOM field researchers in Thanbyuzayat Township, for instance, estimate that the pipeline is exposed in a total of 28 places, including 8 stream crossings. Villagers in at least 12 villages in Thanbyuzayat¹⁰⁴ have subsequently been required to work repairing fences by Military Training Center (MTC) No. 4, AR No. 315 and IB No. 62. On April 11th 2009, for instance, 200 villagers from 4 villages were required by AR No. 315 to bring tools and materials to rebuild fences in the area.¹⁰⁵ Earlier in March 2009, LIB No. 299 and LIB No. 343 required an unknown number of residents to make similar repairs near 2 more villages to the south.¹⁰⁶ Though the projects typically only take a few days, materials like stones, timber and bamboo are not always available near repair sites and villagers must make extensive preparations collecting and transporting materials. As is common army practice, villagers were also given the option of paying fees to avoid working as unpaid forced laborers.

Anonymous, Thanbyuzayat Township:

[Villagers] were forced to cut many hundreds of bamboo... After the villagers carried their bamboo to the set places, again the army forced the villagers to fence the pipeline. When they made fences in each part of the pipeline, they used many hundreds of bamboo to complete the fence. In some place where

¹⁰³ Villages confirmed to have been required to provide forced laborers for pipeline maintenance:

Mudon Township:

Kwanhla, Hneepadaw, Yaung Daung, Kalawthut, Kawnkabwi, Doma, Kamawet, Taungpa, Htaungkay and Abit villages.

Thanbyuzayat Township:

Waewinkara, Waekali, Kaleinpadaw, Sakhangyi, Peinnedaw, Sot Palaung, Gon Myint Taya, Waeyet, Waekami, Waethunkyaung, Thayagone, Hnapyaw Daw and Waekada villages.

Ye Township:

Koe Mile, Kaloh, Seingyi, Balaingkee, Sanpya, Paiwan, Thingankyun, Taungbon, Kyonepaw, Balaingkee, Sinpyan, Thayagone, Sattaw, Lamine, Hnitkayin, Leinmawchan and Baylamine villages.

Yebyu Township:

Sinswe, Kyauktalin, Lort Taing, Lae Kyi and Chaught Gone villages.

¹⁰⁴ Villages in Thanbyuzayat Township confirmed to have been required to repair fences for MTC No. 4: Waewinkara, Waekali, Kaleinpadaw, Sakhangyi, Peinnedaw, Sot Palaung, Gon Myint Taya, Waeyet, Waekami, Leinmawchan, Waethunkyaung and Baylamine.

¹⁰⁵ Villages confirmed to have been required to repair fences for AR No. 315:

Waewinkara, Sakhangyi, Peinnedaw and Waekami villages, Thanbyuzayat Township.

¹⁰⁶ Villages confirmed to have been required to repair fences for LIB No. 299 and LIB No. 343:

Lemongyan and Baylamine villages, Thanbyuzayat Township.

the pipeline passes through on the stream, the villagers are forced to make fences even in the water.

In addition to being built with forced labor, the pipeline fences and earth heaped on raised sections of the pipeline also create problems for farmers by obstructing agricultural activities and causing flooding. Heaped earth, which covers the raised pipeline in almost all of Thanbyuzayat Township, acts like a dike and restricts the flow of water during the rainy season. Built along sections of the pipeline that cross streams or pass over topographic low spots, fences also obstruct the flow of water, encouraging streams to overflow their banks. In Kaleinpadaw village, Thanbyuzayat Township, the flooding was so severe that in 2006 a group of farmers organized the construction of a canal to drain the floodwater.

Nai Mangae, Kaleinpadaw village, Thanbyuzayat Township:

Soil in farms and paddy plants were destroyed by flood and wastes, which flow together with water. Many other farmers' paddy plants were also destroyed and so they came together... to dig a water canal to bring the [extra] water away from their farms. The group of farmers [dug a] canal and they also hired some more laborers to dig together with them. One farmer said that each farmer had to spend about 40,000 kyat to hire laborers, to rent trucks to carry earth and for food. He also added, if they did not build that canal, they could not produce the paddy crops and their families could not survive.

Farmers with land divided by the pipeline are also prohibited from planting paddy or other agricultural products within 50 feet of the pipeline. For farmers among those who more than 2,400 acres of land to the pipeline route, this sometimes means working a small section of land before undertaking the difficult task of moving equipment over the pipeline to work another small section. In situations where there are travel restrictions, this sometimes means traveling miles to cross at a designated crossing spot, and then returning on the other side of the pipeline to complete work just 100 feet from their starting point.

Anonymous, Kwanhla, Mudon Township:

Because of the gas pipeline route, my farm was divided in two parts. I have about 6 acres of land and about 4 acres are in the west of pipeline and the remaining are in the eastern part. [The pipeline creates] difficulties in ploughing the land before we can plant paddy plants... we often have to carry our equipment when we move from one space to another. These equipments are heavy.



Forced laborers fencing a section of pipeline in Thanbyuzayat Township

Residents of villages along the entire length of the pipeline are also made to keep the route clear of brush, trees and undergrowth. The forced labor occurs at least



Fencing around a section of exposed pipeline in northern Ye Township

twice a year, often at the start and finish of the rainy season. As is typical practice, villagers are required to bring their own tools, materials and food, are not compensated and must pay fines if they cannot or will not participate in the project.

Anonymous, Thangankyun, Ye Township:
The commander of LIB No. 586, Lt. Col. Ngwe Soe also forced all the villagers from Thangankyun village in the northern part of Ye Township for the whole day to complete clearing the bushes and small trees, which are in their village area... [The next day] LIB No. 586 forced the villagers from Kyonepaw

village to clear the gas-pipeline route from 6 in the morning until 10 at nighttime... They found they could not complete [the project] and then [LIB No. 586] forced about 40 villagers from another three villages... to come and contribute labor in clearing the gas pipeline route from 8 pm in the evening of June 11 until 3 am on June 12. The conscription of forced labor was at nighttime. Why did the army force the villagers at nighttime? Because the next morning, a senior commander... [came to] check for the security of the pipeline.

Nai Htwee, Kwanhla, Mudon Township:

The militia force from Kwanhla village of Mudon Township forced 24 villagers from that village to clear the bushes, grasses and small forest from the area of their village to Paungsein village, which is about one mile... The villagers were forced for the whole day to clear these bushes and small trees. During this process, two militiamen from the village also guarded the villagers... Other villages in Mudon Township... were also forced to clear bushes and grasses along the pipeline route.



VII. Conclusion

The Kanbauk to Myaing Kalay gas pipeline is responsible for human rights abuses that are systemic, shocking and ongoing. A minimum two-thirds of the 180-mile pipeline route runs through land seized from local villagers, who lost more than 2,440 acres of homes, farms and plantations. Few of these villagers were compensated, and none were compensated fairly. Construction of the pipeline hinged on the labor of villagers, who pipeline battalions forced to work clearing dense jungle, digging trenches and hauling equipment. This work was without pay, sometimes for weeks at a time. Already toiling in exceedingly difficult conditions, conscripted pipeline laborers were subject to mistreatment by the soldiers overseeing their work, which included violent beatings and rape, all while being exposed to the world's most virulent form of malaria and denied medical treatment. Throughout the whole construction process, battalions providing security conscripted civilian porters, who were made to carry ammunition and supplies as well as walk in front of army columns so that they would be the first to suffer the pains of landmines and enemy ambushes.

The entire construction process of the pipeline was made possible by the SPDC army. This involvement, as well as confidential SPDC documents obtained by HURFOM and the consistent basing of battalions near the pipeline, leads to a clear conclusion: the threefold increase in battalions deployed to the area over the last decade is fundamentally due to the Kanbauk to Myaing Kalay gas pipeline. A raft of human rights abuses has accompanied this militarization. In the initial years of the deployments, pipeline battalions seized over 6,000 acres of land to construct barracks, house soldiers' families and contribute to military "self-reliance". In the subsequent years, the army has seized another 6,000 acres [See, Appendix 2]. As with the land seizures to make way for the actual pipeline, villagers have not received fair compensation. Pipeline battalions have also forced local villagers to provide support, including levying taxes that border on extortion, demanding quotas of agricultural materials



and commandeering or stealing livestock, agricultural products and personal possessions. Appendix 3 details 72 examples of this type. Separate from the data in Appendix 3, HURFOM has confirmed mandatory monthly payments for the support of pipeline battalions in 44 villages across 4 townships [See, Section IV, A3].

As a constant background to the exploitation born of the military's self-reliance policy is the general impunity with which officers and soldiers abuse villagers. Testimony in this report describes beatings, murders and rape, particularly in the southern third of the pipeline and often for minor offences – or no offence at all. In the majority of cases, there were no repercussions for the perpetrators. Of the 62 instances of rape and sexual harassment detailed in Appendix 5, for instance, only 1 incident was followed by a confirmed, just punishment. Abuses of this sort, then, appear to be a matter of degree; the greater the concentration of soldiers and officers, the greater the number of abuses. In the pipeline area, both counts are high.

The abuses described above are the predictable result of deploying large numbers of soldiers and encouraging them to extract what they can from the countryside, without oversight. But abuses along the pipeline are also a deliberate, calculated part of the pipeline security effort. HURFOM has documented forced labor for maintenance of the pipeline itself in 45 villages in 4 Townships [See, Section VI, B3]. HURFOM has also documented forced labor for providing pipeline security guards in 44 villages in 4 Townships [See, Section VI, B1]. In all cases, not only do villagers receive no compensation for their efforts, they are made to pay if they wish to avoid conscription as unpaid forced laborers.

Along the southern third of the pipeline, these security efforts are augmented by an aggressive counter-insurgency. As with the antecedent Four Cuts strategy, battalions seeking to protect the pipeline from insurgents do so largely by targeting civilians. Villages are thus subject to frequent travel restrictions and curfews, and are constantly monitored for contact with insurgents. Villagers suspected of supporting insurgents are detained and interrogated, often tortured and sometimes killed. Appendix 4 details 68 examples of torture and killings by pipeline battalions, involving 632 victims.

Burma currently has two major overland gas pipeline projects. Abuses along the Yadana/Yetagun pipeline have been widely reported. This report conclusively proves that abuses warranting similar attention occur every day along the Kanbaw to Myaing Kalay pipeline. There has perhaps never been a more important time for recognition that, in SPDC-controlled Burma, gas pipelines go hand in hand with human rights violations: in December, China signed a 30-year contract agreeing to purchase gas from Burma.¹⁰⁷ At the end of March, the two countries agreed to transport that gas 1,200 miles across Burma, from the Bay of Bengal to southwestern China.¹⁰⁸ Construction has not began but, given the scale of the project, the process risks violations on a scale that will dwarf everything experienced on Burma's southern peninsula.

¹⁰⁷ *The Irrawaddy*. "China Signs Burmese Gas Deal for 30-year Supply," December 26, 2008.

¹⁰⁸ *The Irrawaddy*. "China, Burma Sign Oil Pipeline Agreement," March 27, 2009.

Appendices

Appendix 1: A translated SPDC army pipeline security order

Thanbyuzayat-Lamine security management: Issue is the Kanbaw to Myaing Kalay 20 inch gas pipeline setup process between Thanbyuzayat and Lamine. Focused on Security Management.

1. Summary: This gas pipeline is about 183 miles long and the diameter is 20 inches. This is instructed from MOGE in the location of Kanbaw, Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division to Myaing Kalay, Karen State. This gas pipeline route is located 41 miles in Tenasserim Division and 116 miles in Mon State and 26 miles in Karen State. This is a special state project so that in order to smoothly set up this state run special project we all need implement security measures between Thanbyuzayat and Lamine sub-townships. Moreover, we need to implement the human resources and materials that we have and the skills that we have.

2. Information: Enemies

- A. Karen National Union Brigade No. 6 and their followers
- B. Remaining ABSDF student force.
- C. Mon splinter groups and other related rebel armed groups
- D. Local armed force.

3. Methods that enemies might use:

- A. Interrupt the process of laying pipeline. Interrupt the materials/vehicles involved in laying pipeline
- B. Kidnapping human resources like engineers and skillful workers.
- C. Trying to destroy the temporary army base or materials used in the process of laying the gas pipeline.
- D. Destroying the gas pipeline route with mines or other weapons.
- E. Encouraging dissension among laborers

4. Our battalion

A. Under the control of the Thanbyuzayat Township

- 1. Military column No. 2 from IB No. 31, commanded by one Major with 25 troops.
- 2. Battalion from Thanbyuzayat with another 25 troops
- 3. Reserve force from IB No. 31
- 4. Reserve force from IB No. 62
- 5. Police force from the Thanbyuzayat police station and all police stations under the management of the Thanbyuzayat police station
- 6. The militia force from all of Thanbyuzayat Township
- 7. The militia force from all of Lamine Township and Hnitkayin village, Ye Township

B. Surrounding troops

- 1. Front line column No. 2 from IB No. 31, front line column No. 1 from IB No. 31 for security of the Thanbyuzayat to Ye motorway.
- 2. Another special security force No. 1 who take the security of the railway between Thanbyuzayat and Anin village.
- 3. LIB No. 106 and their reserve force from Mawkanin village of Ye Township.

5. Goals: Our aim is to fully and smoothly implement this process of laying gas pipeline between Thanbyuzayat and Lamine Sub-townships with our human resources, materials and security mechanisms. We want to finish within the set-up time.

6. Methodologies: the methods that we are going to use below

- A. We provide the security for laying the main route of the pipeline
- B. We provide the security for welding the sections of the pipeline
- C. We provide the security for transporting the sections of the pipeline
- D. We provide the security for painting the pipeline
- E. We provide the security for digging and covering the pipeline

7. Details on these programs

A. Related to providing security for laying the main route of the pipeline. We IB No. 31 have to provide a military column led by one major and another 5 militia privates from villages in the area. This is a 24-hour duty for this process.

B. Related to providing security for welding the pipeline. We need to provide security for two companies working on the process.

1. SMART [name written in English] Company. For that company, 25 persons from the Thanbyuzayat police station and another 5 militia soldiers from different villages.

2. P.E.C. [name written in English] Company. No. 1 military column from Thanbyuzayat based army and 25 troops lead by a sergeant from the Thanbyuzayat police station.

C. Related to providing security for transporting sections of the pipeline. From Mudon to Thanbyuzayat and Thanbyuzayat to Lamine, we have two sections for providing security for transportation.

1. From Mudon to Thanbyuzayat. A police officer with 25 policemen from Mudon has to provide security for the vehicles.

2. From Thanbyuzayat to Lamine. IB No. 62 and their reserve troops lead by a captain have to provide security.

D. Related to providing security for painting the pipeline. We have to provide security for at least about 30 persons and another 5 persons from the special force LIB No. 209 and another 21 persons from Thanbyuzayat.

E. Related to providing security for digging and covering the pipeline. As this process will be done in nighttime, 25 militia soldiers and another related organization have to implement this duty.

F. Setting up the temporary bases for security. We have to set up temporary bases between Waekali village MTC No. 4 in Thanbyuzayat Township to provide security for materials and people working on this project.

G. Providing general security. We also have to provide security for the general transport of workers at the construction sites. And we have to provide security for the transport of fuel and other valuable materials related to this project.

8. Management: the overall process related to laying the pipeline between Thanbyuzayat and Lamine. All these duties have to be directly managed by Thanbyuzayat military center.

9. General rules about management:

A. In order to make a secure zone, the military and Myanmar police force and militia force have to join together and provide security systematically.

B. In order to prevent landmines and other exploding devices from the enemy groups, we must provide 24-hour security. Within one mile there should be 4 security troops.

C. All instructions and control should be from the Thanbyuzayat military battalions. We must obey all orders and commands from the Thanbyuzayat military battalions.

D. All police stations and policemen have to implement their duty under their management of the military battalions in Thanbyuzayat Township.

10. All troops and all forces have to report regularly to the Thanbyuzayat battalions.

11. Communications: Each organization and each troop has to communicate in the following way

A. Telephones

B. Radios

C. Communication machines like telegrams.

D. Messengers.

E. Secret words or passwords if needed. These should be changed.

Commander [from IB No. 31, but not signed]

2001 March

Issue No. 1002/1/1

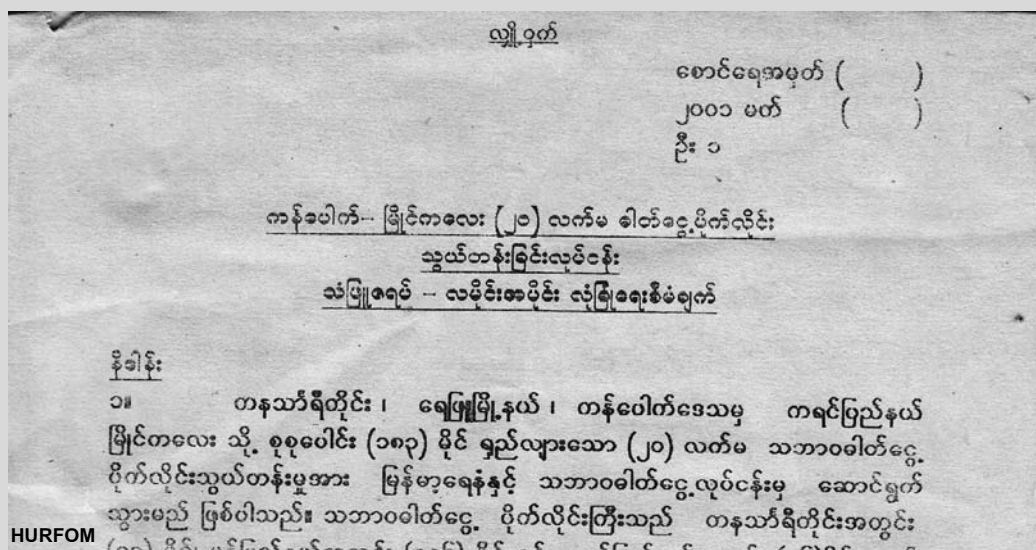
Distributed to:

The Southeast Command

The No. 2 and No. 3 Tactical Commands

IB No. 31, IB No. 62 and MTC No. 4 near Thanbyuzayat

The Thanbyuzayat TPDC, Thanbyuzayat Township Police Stations and the project manager from MOGE in Thanbyuzayat.



HURFOM

Heading of the official pipeline security order translated in this appendix, labelled "secret"

Appendix 2: Land seizures by pipeline battalions

No.	Battalion #	Location	Date	# of acres	Type of land	Reason	Compensation
1	LIB 106, LIB 343, IB 61	MawKanin and Taungbon, Ye Township	Jun-98	150	Farm land		No
2	LIB 299	Hangan and Koe Mile, Ye Township	Mar-99	300	Orchards and plantations		Yes, below market price
3	LIB 343	Kundu and Arutaung, Ye Township	Apr-99	800	Rubber & betel nut plantations		No
4	LIB 587, LIB 588	Donphi, Ye Township	Jun-99	200		To give to Burman workers brought by military to work on battalion rubber plantation	
5	LIB 343	Northern Ye Township	Feb-00	100	Rubber & betel nut plantations		No
6	LIB 588	MawKanin, Ye Township	Mar-01	334	Rubber plantations & orchards		No
7	LIB 591, LIB 583	Kyaungywa, Ye/Thanbyuzayat Township	Apr-01	270	Rubber plantations & orchards		No
8	MOMC 19	Kawpalaing near Ye Town	Apr-01	300	Orchards and plantations		No
9	LIB 586	Kyonepaw, Ye Township	Jun-01	500	Plantations and uncultivated forest		No
10	LIB 587	Kundu, Ye Township	Jun-01	500	Plantations		No
11	MOMC 19	Sanpya and Donphi, Ye Township	Apr-02	200	Rubber plantation		No
12	AR 311	Kalawthut, Mudon Township	Jun-02	204	Rubber plantation		No
13	AR 315	Panga, Thanbyuzayat Township	Jun-02	203	Rubber plantation		No

14	AR 317	MawKanin, Ywathit, Yebyu Township	Jun-02				No	
15	LIB 585, LIB 587, LIB 588	Eastern Ye Township	Jun-02	1134	Plantations		No	
16	LIB 587, LIB 588	Between Sanpya and Donphi, Ye Township	Jun-02	400	Plantations and uncultivated forest		No	
17	AR 413	Kyauk Kanya, Yebyu Township	Aug-02	200	Paddy, rubber plantations and orchards	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No	
18	LIB 210	Young Daung and Kwanhla, Mudon Township	Dec-02	64	Farm land		No	
19	MTC 4	Waeyet, Wagaru, Kyonekaroke, Waethunkyaung, Thanbyuzayat Township	Dec-03	712		Dam project to provide electricity and water for battalion		
20	LIB 31, LIB 62, MTC 4, AR 315	Hneepadaw and Kwanhla, Mudon Township	4-Jun-04	800		Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No	
21	MTC 4, AR 318	Waekali, Thanbyuzayat Township	28-Aug-04	490	Rubber plantation	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No	
22	LIB 586 MOMC 19	Duya Village Tract, N. Ye Township	Mar-05	649	Plantations and orchards	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No	
23	LIB 343, LIB 587	Arutaung, N. Ye Township	May-05		Plantations and orchards	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	Yes, below market price	
24	LIB 583	Kyaungywa, Ye/Thanbyuzayat Township	Jun-05	100	Plantations and orchards	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	Yes, below market price- less than the cost of traveling to pick up the payment	

25	LIB 209	Hneepadaw, Abit, Kwankabwi, Settwe, Mudon Township	Sep-05		Rubber Plantations	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No, rented back for 60,000 Kyat a year
26	AR 318	Abit, Mudon Township	9-Jan-06	200	Rubber plantation	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No
27	LIB 209	Kamawet, Mudon Township	9-Jan-06	310	Rubber plantation	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No
28	LIB 587	Taungpyin, Lamine, Ye Township	6-Jun-06	4	Paddy field	Construction of brick factory	Promised, unconfirmed
29	LIB 31	Khaw Zar, Ye Township	18-Jun-06	80		Enlarging the Magyi-Khaw Zar road	
30	LIB No.583	Khaw Zar, Magyi, Ye Township	18-Jun-06	10	Farm land	Construction of new army barracks including parade ground	No
31	AR 318	Abit, Mudon Township	Aug-06	250	Rubber plantation	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No, rented back for 40,000 per year per acre
32	AR 318	Kyaik-ka-moik Forest reserve, near Abit village, Mudon Township	1-Aug-06	250	Rubber plantation	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	40,000 Kyat per acre
33	LIB 209	Hneepadaw, Mudon Township	1-Aug-06	300	Rubber plantation	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No
34	LIB 591	Ye Township	13-Aug-06	23	Rubber & betel nut plantations	Construction of new army barracks including parade ground	No

35	MTC 4	Waekali, Thanbyuzayat Township	Sep-06	200	Paddy and rubber plantations		No, can buy back for 500,000 kyat
36	LIB 61	Abaw village, Ye Township	20-Nov-06	45	Plantations and orchards		No, rented back
37	LIB 586 MOMC 19	Tumyaung and Sonnatha, Ye Township	Dec-06	300		Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No
38	AR 315	Thanbyuzayat Township	1-Apr-07	350	Rubber plantation	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No
39	AR 315	Waekali, Thanbyuzayat Township	May-07	160	Rubber plantations	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No, can harvest rubber for 750 kyat per tree or pay 1000 kyat per tree if not harvesting
40	AR 315	Waekali, Thanbyuzayat Township	28-May-07	160	rubber plantation	Tax for permission to work seized land	No
41	LIB 586	Kaloh, Ye Township	Jul-07		Rubber plantations		Previous contract btw farmers & military - farmers paid 950 Kyat per tree. Contract now given to military- friendly businessmen
42	AR 315	Waeyet, Thanbyuzayat Township	3-Jan-08	70	Market garden	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No
43	AR 318	Mudon Township	07-Aug-08	200	Rubber plantation	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No

44	AR 315	Waewinkara and Panga, Thanbyuzayat Township	7-Oct-08	200	Rubber plantation	Self-reliance - extending agricultural land	No	69
45	AR 318	Settwe, Doma, Kalawthut, Abit, Southern Mudon Township	11-Feb-09	244	Rubber plantation		No	
		Farmland			298			
		Wild land			900			
		Plantations and orchards			8676			
		Unknown			2092			
		Totals			11966			

No.	Battalion No.	Location	Date	No. of villages	Amount (if money - kyat)	Type and amount (if agricultural products/other)	Project (for what reason)
1	LIB 586	Sonnatha, Ye Township	30-Jun-99		650 per tree		Tax for permission to harvest rubber from seized land
2	IB 62	Andin, Ye Township	1-Jan-00		300,000		Suspicion of rebel support
3	LIB 587	Kundu, Ye Township	May-02		4,000 per household		Government development project
4	LIB 282	Kadoekyun & Kawton, Yebyu Township	Nov-02		4,000 per household		Government development project
5	LIB 31	Kwanhla, Mudon Township	Mar-03		800,000		Money seized during selective enforcement of laws
6	LIB 31	Kwanhla, Doma, Mudon Township	16-Mar-03		20,000 -80,000		Pipeline security fee
7	LIB 343	Kyauktalin, Yebyu Township	25-Jun-03		700,000		Money seized during looting
8	LIB 104	Thayetaw, Yebyu Township	Jul-03		10,000-20,000 per head		Fine for failure to attend militia training

9	LIB 271	Yapu, Kyauktalin, Kyauk Kadin, Alaesaken and Lort Taing, Yebyu Township	Aug-03		10,000 per household		Support for military school
10	LIB 282	Alaskan Yebyu Township	Aug-03		2,000- 4,000 per household		Support for military school
11	LIB 282	Kyauk Kadin, Yebyu Township	31-Aug-03				Porter fee
12	LIB 282	Natkyizin, Kaleinaung, Yebyu Township	6-Nov-03		2,000-4,000		Support for military school
13	LIB 586	Kyone Kanya & other villages in Ye Township	Dec-03	6	800,000		
14	LIB 101	Magyi, Ye Township	9-Dec-03		2,000- 4,000		Support for military school
15	IB 31	Khaw Zar, Ye Township	10-Dec-03	7	500,000		
16	IB 31	Khaw Zar, Ye Township	13-Dec-03	3	100,000 per head		
17	IB 61	Khaw Zar, Ye Township	16-Dec-03		6,000 per day for a month		
18	LIB 586	Khaw Zar, Ye Township	19-Dec-03		100,000 – 150,000 per head		Suspicion of rebel support
19	LIB 586	Khaw Zar, Ye Township	19-Dec-03	7	200,000 per head		

20	LIB 586	Villages in southern part of Ye township	3-Jan-04		2000	building materials such as 0.5 tons of wooden lumbers, 30 sheets of roofing thatches and others	Support for a new police outpost
21	LIB 586	Kyone Kanya, Ye Township	26-Jan-04				
22	LIB 586	Kabya, Ye Township	2-Feb-04		100,000 – 300,000 per head		Release fee after arrest on suspicion of rebel support
23	LIB 586	Kabya & other villages in Ye Township	4-Feb-04	5	300,000		
24	LIB 282	Singu, Pying Gyi & other villages in Yebyu Township	Jun-04	4	2,000 -8,000 per head		
25	LIB 586	Sonnatha, Arutaung, Kundu, Ye Township	Sep-04		10,000,000		Suspicious of rebel support
26	LIB 273	Puckpinkwin and Phaungtaw villages, Yebyu Township	2-Jan-05		200,000		Permission to hold a Buddhist traditional festival

27	LIB 62	Mon State and Tenasserim Division	25-Jan-05	7	2000 per month		Pipeline security fee
28	LIB 586	Ye Township	Mar-05		30,000 per month		Tax for permission to harvest rubber from seized land
29	IB 61	Ye Township	30-May-05	8	2200	Two "baskets" (about 66 kilograms) of paddy per acre	Military ration support
30	LIB 586	N. Ye Township	20-Oct-05		400,000 to 1 million for 1 year	Auction selling right to harvest from seized rubber plantations	
31	IB 62	Kayintaung, Kawthar, Kyonekakat, Thanbyuzayat Township	Jan-06		500 per family every month		Monthly Tax for village militia force, village security and fire prevention
32	LIB 587	Taungpyin, Lamine, northern Ye Township	Jan-06			Two baskets of paddy per household	Military ration support
33	IB 61	Duya, Asin, Abaw, Andin, Hlihnu, Ye Township	Jan-06		180,000	Timber	
34	IB 61	Duya, Asin, Abaw, Andin, Hlihnu, Ye Township	May-06		700- 1000 per month		Support for local battalion
35	IB 61	Ye, Yebyu Townships	3-May-06	4	700-1000 per month		Porter fee

36	LIB 343	Kaloh, Tamoh Karaing, Hangan, Kyauk Kadin, Ye and Yebyu Townships	3-May-06	4	2,000 per household		Government development project
37	LIB 282	Alaesaken, Yebyu Township	3-May-06		800,000		Porter fee
38	LIB 343	Tumyaung, Arutaung, Abaw, Ye Township	09-May-06		2000 per house		Government development project
39	LIB 586	Mihtawhlalay, Mihtawhlagyi and Kyone Kanya, Ye Township	12-May-06		150 per day and 700 per night		Travel fee
40	IB 61	Tumyaung Kyonepaw, Pophtaw, Waeu, Khapitaw and Kwan toe, Ye, Yebyu, Mudon Township	22-May-06		300-500 per day		Travel fee
41	LIB 299	Kaloh, Ye Township	28-May-06		700-1000 per month		Porter fee
42	LIB 591	Kyone Kanya, Ye Township	28-May-06		200		Travel fee
43	LIB 586	Sonnatha, Arutaung, Kundu, Ye Township	28-May-06		200 per day		Travel fee
44	LIB 586 & LIB 408	Kyauktayan, Yebyu Township	12-Jun-06		1000 for 3 days		Travel fee
45	LIB 587	Singu, Ye Township	19-Jun-06		300 for one day and night		Travel fee
46	LIB 408	Kyauk Kadin, Yebyu Township	20-Jun-06		1000		Travel fee

47	LIB 591	Kyaungywa, Ye/Thanbyuzayat Township	28-Jun-06		500 kyat per day		Travel fee
48	LIB 282	Kyauk Kadin, Yebyu Township	Sep-06		10,000 - 25,000		Militia fee
49	LIB 586	Asin, Ye Township	Oct-06		3,000		Militia fee
50	IB 61	Yindein, Yinye, Ye Township	Oct-06		2,000		Militia fee
51	LIB 586	Sonnatha, Ye Township	Dec-06			25% of rubber harvest	Tax for permission to harvest rubber from seized land
52	AR 315	Waekali, Thanbyuzayat Township	28-Feb-07		1,000 per plant a year		Tax for permission to harvest rubber from seized land
53	LIB 209	Kamarwet village tract, Mudon Township	28-Apr-07			10,000 bricks per producer	Support for new military buildings
54	LIB 586	Ye Township	Jul-07		950 per tree		Tax for permission to harvest rubber from seized land
55	LIB 586	Kaloh and other villages near Ye Town	31-Jul-07		900 per plant		Tax for permission to harvest rubber from seized land
56	LIB 586	Kaloh, Ye Township	2-Aug-07		180,000		Tax for permission to harvest rubber from seized land

57	LIB 299	Hangan, Yinye, Ye Township	27-Aug-07			3 motorbikes and 3 gallons gasoline per day	
58	IB 61	Naing Hlone, Lattet, Kamawet, Paikama, Nyaung Gone, Mudon Township	5-Jan-08	1500 per basket		Support for local battalion	
59	IB 31	Toe Thet Ywa Thit, Khaw Zar, Yinye, Yinlein, Ye Township	Feb-08	1,000 per head		Travel fee	
60	IB 31	Khaw Zar, Kabaya Gyi, Ye Township	2-Feb-08	50000 per family		Permit fee	
61	AR 315	Hneepadaw, Yaung Daung, Doe Mar, Kwanhla, Settwe, Abit, Waekali, Kyaikpun, Waethunkyaung, Mudon/Thanbyuzay at Townships	Jul-08	300-500		Checkpoint fee	
62	AR 318	Waekali, Kyaikpun, Waethunkyaung, Thanbyuzayat Township	Jul-08	200 per rubber tree for a year		Tax for permission to harvest rubber from seized land	
63	LIB 209	Nyaung Gone, Waetae, Mudon Township	Jul-08	30,000 per month		Tax on phone owners	

64	LIB 62	Thaung Phalu, Wagaru, Thanbyuzayat Township	Sep-08		2000K per month		Monthly fee for support of militia and local battalion
65	LIB 406	Thabyay Chaung, Yebyu Township	Sep-08		50 per viss		Betel nut tax
66	LIB 282	Kyauktalin, Yebyu Township	Sep-08		500 betel nuts per plantation owner		Betel nut tax
67	LIB 407	Khaw Zar, Ye Township	Oct-08		800- 1000		Porter fee
68	LIB 31	Khaw Zar, Ye Township	Oct-08		100,000 - 150,000		Travel fee
69	LIB 285	Thabyay Chaung, Yebyu Township	9-Oct-08		270,000		Suspicion of rebel support
70	LIB 62	Waekami, Sot Palaung, Waewinkara, Waethunkyaung, Thanbyuzayat Township	Nov-08		4,000 per household		Pipeline security fee
71	LIB 31	Kyone Kanya, Ye Township	Nov-08		166 per rubber plant		Contract fee
72	LIB 31	Khaw Zar, Kabya Gyi, Ye Township	Nov-08		1,000		

No.	Battalion No.	Location	Date	Type of abuse	No. of victims	Reason
1	IB 32	Kaw Zar, Ye Township	25-Dec-00	Torture	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
2	LIB 587	Taungpyin, Ye Township	1-Jan-02	Killing	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
3	LIB 343	Sonnatha, Township	15-Apr-02	Killing	2	Suspicion of being Mon rebel group members
4	LIB 409	Tachaung, Taung, Yebyu Township	1-Jun-02	Detention & Killing	5	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
5	IB 31	Kaw Zar, Ye Township	22-Jul-02	Torture	7	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
6	LIB 588	Mawkanin, Ye Township	25-Oct-02	Killing	1	Suspicion of being Mon rebel group members
7	IB 61	Mon villages in Ye Township	12-Jan-03	Arbitrary arrests, detention, torture & killing	28	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
8	IB 31	Mihtaahlalay, Mihtaahlagyi, Ye Township	1-Dec-03	Torture	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
9	IB 61	Hangan, Kaw Zar, Ye Township	1-Dec-03	Killing	6	Suspicion of being Mon rebel group members
10	IB 61	Khaw Zar, Mihtaahlalay, Kyone Kanya, Ye Township	1-Dec-03	Torture	3	Suspicion of Mon rebel support

11	IB 31	Kaw Zar, Ye Township	10-Dec-03	Torture	11	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
12	IB 61	Kaw Zar, Ye Township	10-Dec-03	Torture	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
13	LIB 273	Kyone Kanya, Ye Township	13-Dec-03	Torture (left outside in sun for 6 hrs+)	200	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
14	LIB 586	Kyone Kanya, Ye Township	14-Dec-03	Torture	7	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
15	LIB 586	Kyone Kanya, Ye Township	14-Dec-03	Detention & torture	5	Information gathering
16	LIB 586	Toe Thet Ywa Thit, Ye Township	17-Dec-03	Detention & torture	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
17	LIB 586	Toe Thet Ywa Thit, Ye Township	17-Dec-03	Torture	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
18	IB 31	Hangan, Ye Township	18-Dec-03	Killing	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
19	LIB 586	Khaw Zar, Chaungwa village, Ye Township	25-Dec-03	Killing	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
20	LIB 586	Khaw Zar, Chaungwa village, Ye Township	25-Dec-03	Killing	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
21	LIB 586	Toe Thet Ywa Thit, Ye Township	25-Dec-03	Torture	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
22	LIB 586	Toe Thet Ywa Thit, Ye Township	26-Dec-03	Torture (left outside in sun for 6 hrs+)	100	Suspicion of Mon rebel support

23	IB 31	Toe Thet Ywa Thit, Khaw Zar, Ye Township	27-Dec-03	Torture	3	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
24	LIB 586	Kyone Kanya, Ye Township	26-Jan-04	Torture	5	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
25	LIB 586	Kabya, Ye Township	2-Feb-04	Detention & torture	14	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
26	LIB 586	Kyone Kanya, Ye Township	4-Feb-04	Torture	7	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
27	IB 61	Khaw Zar, Day bound, Kyone Kanya, Ye Township	1-Mar-04	Torture (monks)	3	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
28	LIB106	Hangan, Ye Township	2-Jun-04	Killing	3	Unable to purchase release from detention
29	LIB 273	Mihtawhlagyi, Ye Township	1-Jul-04	Killing	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
30	LIB 273	Magyi, Ye Township	1-Jul-04	Killing	15	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
31	LIB 273	Yebyu Township	11-Jul-04	Killing	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
32	LIB 273	Magyi, Ye Township	11-Jul-04	Torture	2	Suspicion of Mon rebel support

33	LIB 273	Magyi and Mitawhla, Southern part of Ye Township	2-Aug-04	Killing	8	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
34	LIB 406	Kwethonyima, Yebyu Township	12-Aug-04	Torture	2	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
35	LIB 273	Kyauk Kadin, Alaesakhan, Yebyu Township	27-Aug-04	Killing	5	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
36	LIB 273	Mihtawhlalay, Ye Township	27-Aug-04	Killing	8	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
37	LIB 273	Puaukpinkwin, Yebyu Township	27-Aug-04	Killing	1	Suspicion of being Mon rebel group members
38	LIB 586	Mihtawhlalay, Ye Township	29-Aug-04	Torture	13	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
39	IB 61	Hangan, Ye Township	1-Dec-04	Killing	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
40	IB 31	Hangan, Kaw Zar, Ye Township	20-Dec-04	Killing	2	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
41	IB 62	Kwanhla, Thanbyuzayat Township	5-Mar-06	Detention	10	Suspicion of involvement in gas pipeline attack
42	LIB 299	Paukpinkwin, Yebyu Township	2-Apr-06	Torture	7	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
43	LIB 586	Toe Thet Ywa Thit, Ye Township	1-Jan-07	Detention & torture	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support

44	LIB 583	DikeKrok between Singu and Toe Thet Ywa Thit village, Ye Township	3-Jul-07	Torture & killing	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
45	LIB 591	Kwanhla, Thanbyuzayat Township	1-Aug-07	Torture	2	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
46	LIB 586	Yindein, Ye Township	23-Aug-07	Torture	2	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
47	LIB 586	Toe Thet Ywa Thit, Ye Township	24-Aug-07	Detention & torture	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
48	LIB 299	Bayoun Ngae village, Khaw Zar, Ye Township	1-Jan-08	Torture (beaten with sticks)	50	Suspicion of Mon rebel support & passing information to media organizations
49	LIB 273	Amae, Yebyu Township	Mar-08	Killed	1	Suspicion of being Mon rebel group members
50	IB 31	Yinye, Ye Township	31-Mar-08	Killed	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel soldiers
51	IB 31	Yinye, Ye Township	29-May-08	Torture (beaten)	3	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
52	LIB 273	Yindein, Yinye, Ye Township	1-Jun-08	Torture	6	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
53	LIB 273	Danni Gyi, Ye Township	Jun-08	Killed	4	Unknown

54	IB 31	Khaw Zar, Ye Township	Jul-08	Torture (beaten)	4 (young boys)	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
55	LIB 282	Kyauk Kadin, Yebyu Township	8-Jul-08	Torture	3	Suspicion of Mo rebel support
56	LIB 282	Alaesakhan, Yebyu Township	Aug-08	Torture (beaten)	8	Suspicion of insurgent support
57	LIB 282	Alaesakhan, Yebyu Township	16-Aug-08	Torture (beaten)	8	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
58	LIB 285	Kami, Aaung Say Chaung, Thabyut Chaung, Nyaung Tone, Mintha Sub-township, Tavoy district	8-Oct-08	Torture (beaten)	4	Suspicion of Karen rebels support
59	LIB 285	Thanbyut Chaung, Tavoy District	9-Oct-08	Torture (beaten)	5	Suspected of having contact with the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA)
60	AR 15	Pawakwinshay, Tenasserim Township	31-Oct-08	Torture (beaten)	9	Suspicion of rebel support
61	LIB 107	Amae village, Yebyu Township	Jan-09	Torture & killed	1	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
62	MOMC 19	Kanine Ka Moke, Lamine Sub-township, Ye Township	2-Jan-09	Torture	11	Suspicion of Karen rebels support

63	LIB 107	Amae, Yebyu Township	3-Jan-09	Torture & killed	3	Defied military orders and returned to the village
64	LIB 282	Alaesakhan, Yebyu Township	4-Mar-09	Killed	2	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
65	LIB107	Amae, Yebyu Township	Apr-09	Killed	1	Suspicion Mon rebel support
67	LIB 107	Paukpinkwin, Yebyu Township	3-Apr-09	Killed	2	Suspicion of Mon rebel support
68	LIB 107	Paukpinkwin, Yebyu Township	09-Apr-09	Arrested and torture	2	Suspicion Mon rebel support
Total incidents of torture			39			
Total incidents of killing			29			
Total victims tortured			524			
Total victims killed			107			
Total incidents			68			
Total victims			631			

No.	Battalion No.	No. of soldiers	Location	Date	End date	Type of abuse	No. of victims	Age of victims	Penalty
1	LIB 273	Major Khin -Soe	Sinswe, Yebyu Township	1-Jun-00		Rape	1	29	No
2	Lib 282	Sgt San- win	Kyauktalin, Yebyu Township	23-Sep-00		Rape	1	28	No
3	IB 61	Sgt Kyaw-Myint	Sonnatha, Ye Township	23-Jul-01		Rape	1	30	No
4	LIB 343	Sgt -----	Palingmoh, Yebyu Township	3-Jan-02		Attempted rape	1	20	No
5	LIB 587	Group of soldiers	Kundu, Ye Township	22-Jul-02		Gang-rape	1	18	No
6	IB 62	Soldier Thein-Naing	Kaleinpadaw, Thanbyuzayat Township	22-Jul-02		Rape and killed	1	16	No
7	LIB 587	Sgt Than Hlaing	Kyauktan, Ye Township	26-Feb-03		Rape	1	17	Cash compensation
8	LIB 586	Capt. Khaing and his troops	Kawhlaing, Ye Township	3-Dec-03		Gang-rape	1	20	No
9	LIB 299	Officer	Toe Thet Ywa Thit, Ye Township	1-Dec-03		Rape	1	23	No
10	LIB 586	Lt Ngwe Soe and troop	Kyone Kanya, Ye Township	3-Jan-04		Gang-rape	1	38	No
11	LIB 586	Capt. Hla Khaing and his troops	Sonnatha, Ye Township	15-Jan-04		Gang-rape	2		No
12	IB 61	Lt Thi Min Hteike	Palingkee, Ye Township	17-Jan-04		Rape	1	27	No
13	LIB 586	Capt. Hla Khaing	Yinyae, Ye Township	19-Jan-04		Rape	1	20	No

14	LIB 586	Capt. Hla Khaing	Sonnatha, Ye Township	14-Feb-04		Rape	1	25	No
15	LIB 586	Capt. Nyi Nyi Lwin	Tumyaung, Ye Township	11-May-04		Rape	2	20, 22	No
16	LIB 282		Kyauk Kadin, Yebyu, Township	1-Sep-04		Rape	2	18, 24	No
17	LIB 406	Sgt Tin Oo	Kyauktalin, Yebyu Township	10-Aug-04		Rape	1	18	No
18	LIB 401		Naytkyzin, Yebyu Township	15-Sep-04		Rape	1	14	No
19	IB 61		Yindein, Ye Township	23-Oct-04	2-Nov-04	Gang-rape	4	16, 18, 18, 22	No
20	LIB 586	Capt. Nyi Nyi Lwin	Arutaung, Ye Township	11-May-04		Rape	2	20, 22	No
Total victims							27		

No.	Battalion No.	Perpetrator details	Location	Date	Type of abuse	No. of victims	Age of victim(s)	Penalty
1	TS 4	Corporal Naing Naing	Kyonekadat, Thanbyuzayat	3-Jan-04	Rape	1	17	None, father was forced to rescind his complaint
2	IB 31		Khaw Zar, Toe Thet Ywa Thit, Yinye, Yindein, Kabyawa, Ye Township	4-Jan-04	Fashion and Beauty Show	7	15-22	No

3	LIB 299	More than 1	Kaw Zar, Ye Township	12-Jan-04	Rape	1	23	None
4	LIB 586		Kwanhla, Ye Township	May-04	Rape	1	21	No
5	LIB 273		Yebyu Township	Jul-04	Rape	3	16-18	None
6	LIB 273	Sergeant Min Oo	Mintawhlalay, Ye Township	Aug-04	Rape	1	23	No
7	7LIB 406	Sergeant Tin Oo	Kwethonyima, Yebyu	10-Aug-04	Rape	1	18	Arrested by villagers
8	LIB 406	Commander Ba Khine	Kwethonyima, Yebyu	10-Aug-04	Rape	1	18	No
9	LIB 273	Sergeant Min Oo	Mintawhlalay, Ye Township	31-Aug-04	Rape	1	23	None
10	LIB 282	A low ranking officer	Kyauk Kadin, Yebyu	1-Sep-04	Rape	2	18, 24	None
11	LIB 282	Myo Win	Kyauk Kadin, Yebyu	Sep-04	Rape	1	34	No
12	LIB 282		Paukpinkwin, Yebyu Township	14-Sep-04	Rape	1	24	No
13	LIB 401	2	Toe Thet Ywa Thit, Ye Township	15-Sep-04	Rape	1	14	None
14	IB 61	A group of officers and soldiers	Bayoun, Ye Township	23-Oct-04	Rape	4	16, 18, 18, 22	None

15	IB 31		Southern Ye Township	2-Jun-05	Made to cook, massage and entertain soldiers. Raped repeatedly.	3	17, 20, 23	None
16	LIB 587	Sergeant Myint Maung	Ye Township	5-Jun-05	Rape	1	13	Trial promised, unconfirmed
17	AR 318	Captain Lin Oo	Zehnapin, Thanbyuzayat	2-Jul-05	Raped after husband arrested	1	Mother of 3	Unconfirmed
18	LIB 586		Kwanhla village, Southern Ye Township	5-Feb-07	Rape	1	20	None
19	LIB 282	25	Yebyu Township	13-Aug-08	Rape	1	50	None
20	LIB 107		Amae, Yebyu Township	11-Nov-08	Rape	1	17	None
21	LIB 586	1, retired soldier	Hangan, Ye Township	14-Dec-08	Rape	1	10	Arrested after escaping initial arrest with aid of unknown accomplice(s)
Total victims							35	

Appendix 6: MLRD data on land seizures for the pipeline route

No.	Township	Type	No. of acres	
1	Ye	Farm land	400	
2	Ye	Wild land	60	
3	Ye	Rubber	200	
4	Ye	Rambutan, betel nut and palm	300	
5	Ye	Households	20	
6	Thanbyuzayat	Farm land	200	
7	Thanbyuzayat	Wild land	80	
8	Thanbyuzayat	Rubber	250	
9	Thanbyuzayat	Rambutan, betel nut and palm	150	
10	Thanbyuzayat	Household	80	
11	Mudon	Farm land	350	
12	Mudon	Wild land	20	
13	Mudon	Rubber	120	
14	Mudon	Rambutan, betel nut and palm	20	
15	Mudon	Household	20	
16	Moulmein	Farm land	240	
17	Moulmein	Wild land	25	
18	Moulmein	Rubber		
19	Moulmein	Rambutan, betel nut and palm	25	
20	Moulmein	Households	10	
		Total farm land	1,190	
		Total wild land	185	
		Total plantations and orchards	1065	
		Total combined acres	2,440	
		Total household units	130	

Appendix 6: MLRD data on land seizures for the pipeline route

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The commander of IB No. 32... told me to not use this three acres of land because it is a gas pipeline restricted area... I felt it was unfair, but I have to be quiet.

- Nai Pai, 60, Kwanhla village, Mudon Township.

One young man from the village asked the captain, 'if you do this, where will we go to live?'... [H]e grabbed the young man and hit him in the head with the butt of his rifle. Once the young man had fallen down, the captain hit the young man's leg and it broke.

- Nai Chit Noy, Amae village, Yebyu Township.

Villagers were sentries for the pipeline... If the sentry fell asleep, they had to be punished... Some had to give money and some were kicked and punched in their faces. In 2006, two sentry men were killed.

- Kyin Kyi, 57, Nyatkyizin village, Yebyu Township

The villagers worry too much about the gas exploding again because they have had very bad experiences... Because wherever there is an explosion, the abuses occur.

- Nai Nyan Ong, 60, Kwanhla village, Mudon Township.