



Chin Human Rights Organization

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Briefing:

Forced labour in Chin State and Sagaing Region, 2011 - 2012

27 August 2012: Overview

Human rights documentation in Chin State

Chin State is a very remote, isolated part of western Burma. Conducting human rights documentation work in the area is very challenging. Infrastructure in Chin State is very poor, with no fully paved roads, making access difficult. There is no road at all connecting the north and southwest of Chin State. Many villages in Chin State are only accessible on foot, via a network of small tracks.

In the nine main towns, the government-supplied metered electricity is limited to just a few hours a week and is relatively expensive. Both landline and mobile phone access is limited. Although the number of publicly accessible internet cafes in major towns in Chin State has increased in the past two years, internet access remains difficult, particularly in southern Chin State. This poor basic infrastructure in Chin State makes it extremely difficult to collect timely information. As a result, most human rights violations are documented days or weeks after the fact, if at all.

Analysis

From January 2011 to date, CHRO has documented 20 separate incidents of forced labour, some involving orders to multiple villages. 50 percent of the incidents involved orders from the Burma Army (typically portering), and the other half were orders from the local authorities (typically road construction, planting jatropha, and other forms of manual labour).

In May 2011, the International Labour Organization (ILO) held an official awareness-raising workshop in Hakha, the capital of Chin State, involving more than 160 officials, including administrators, judges, police and Burma Army personnel. This was the first official workshop of its kind held in Chin State and an important step towards tackling the issue of forced labour in the area. At the time of writing CHRO has documented 12 separate incidents of forced

labour since the workshop took place, 50 percent portering exacted by Burma Army soldiers and the other half by civilian authorities, including the Chief Minister of Chin State.

At the time of writing, CHRO has not documented any incidents of portering or other forms of forced labour exacted by the military in Chin State in 2012. However, as noted above, the poor infrastructure in Chin State makes it very challenging to collect timely information and much of rural Chin State is very remote and difficult to access; it is therefore very possible that portering or other forms of forced labour exacted by the military has taken place which CHRO has been unable to document. The lack of documentation of forced labour exacted by the military in 2012 should not be interpreted as evidence of systemic change in the behaviour of the military in Chin State. However, CHRO recognizes that it may be an early indication of efforts on the part of the military - under significant pressure from the ILO - to eradicate the practice of portering and other forms of forced labour. As yet, such efforts are not irreversible and pressure must be sustained to ensure systemic changes in the behaviour of the military.

Incidents of forced labour (in reverse chronological order; most recent first)

2012

School Headmaster Exacts Forced Labour from School Pupils

29 May 2012: Kya Layhlen village is in Area 4 of Mindat township, which includes 6 village tracts (SW of Mindat town). One of the village tracts is named after Kya Layhlen village. In Area 4, there is only one middle school, which is in Kya Layhlen village. Lots of children from surrounding villages also attend the school.

On 29 May 2012, the witness observed middle-school students aged between 7-14 or 15 (grade 2 to grade 8) having to do forced labour, apparently on the order of the school headmaster and other teachers. The witness testified that this kind of forced labour has been going on for 4 or 5 years, on an irregular basis. The most recent time the witness saw the forced labour was on 29 May 2012. On that day the students were being received for admission for the new academic year). He described the students being forced to do various manual labour tasks, such as clearing bushes and weeds; digging for and carrying potatoes; and carrying planks of wood. The children have been forced to do the labour both after school hours, and also at weekends. They have not been paid for the work. The witness reported that many children have become demoralised and have dropped out of school, as they have been repeatedly subjected to the forced labour.

Source: interview MI17, 12 June 2012, on file with CHRO.

Village Administration Head Issued a Threatening Order

20 May 2012: Village Administration Head in Falam Township in Northern Chin State issued every household to construct a toilet each and anyone who fails to implement the order would be fined, reported a member of block administration council on condition of anonymity to Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO).

On 20 May 2012, village tract head U Run Hlei Thang issued an order to have a toilet per house in 6 villages in Zawngte Village Tract in Lairal Hills.

“The full texts of the order mentions that digging for the toilet must be completed in May 2012 and it will be inspected in the first week of June 2012 along with two Burmese soldiers based at Tibual and anyone fails to do so would be fined Kyats 5000. Anyone who cannot pay the amount has to surrender belongings equivalent to Kyats 10,000 and they must swap it with Kyats 5000 within a fixed date,” he continued.

The local people are currently busy with digging for the toilet due to the village tract order that they have little time to spare for their farms.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, May - June 2012, CHRO, available online at <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/80-rhododendron-2012.html>

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Village Headman Exacts Forced Labour

11 April 2012: A cross on top of a clock tower (a structure more than 33 feet high) in Mualbem village in Tedim township was destroyed when it was razed to the ground by bulldozer, apparently to make way for a new road connecting Zawngcong village with Mualbem.

The order was given by village headman Pa Hau Khan Nang, a Tedim-based USDP party organizer, without any consultation with the villagers. Local people faced extortion to pay for the road construction, led by the village headman. Together with policemen brought from Tedim town, Pa Hau Khan Nang collected financial ‘contributions’ (no fixed amount reported) and gallons of diesel from local people. In addition, the local authorities confiscated land from some villagers for the road construction, without paying any compensation.

After the clock tower and cross were destroyed, the village headman exacted forced labour from the villagers to clear the rubble. Villagers from Tuikhuk quarter were ordered to do the forced labour, or else face a fine of 2,000 kyats per day.

Sources: [Christian Cross Destroyed by USDP Members in Tedim Township](#), Chinland Guardian, 19 April 2012 and interview TE7, 13 June 2012, on file with CHRO.

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Villagers Forced to Plant Jatropha in Matupi Township

28 March 2012: The government Administration Officer issued an order to local villagers of Valangte in Matupi Township, Chin State to plant jatropha, threatening to take action against those failing to do, according to a Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO)'s source.

A Chin local, who remains anonymous, said the villagers were forced to grow 200 plants in the compound of the Valangte Baptist Church and 50 in each individual's compound, with the implementation stipulated during summer 2012.

"The government forced us to grow but we are not provided any plants. We have to find them on our own. We have no such seeds or plants in our village and some travel to other villages to buy the seedlings and use horses for conveyance," added the local.

Many villagers are now facing difficulties in looking for the plants as even some families who have the seedlings refuse to sell in fear that they would also have problems if and when the government issues an order to do the plantation in the future.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, March - April 2012, CHRO, available online at <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/80-rhododendron-2012.html>

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Locals Forced to Contribute Labour for School Construction

24 March 2012: About 25 local villagers were forced to work in the construction of Government Middle School in Thanphu village of Kalaymyo in Sagaing Region, a local reported to the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO).

The government administration officer ordered the villagers to freely contribute labour for one whole day in the second week of February 2012.

The local said the carpenters working at the school construction were incompetent, according to the administration officer.

“The villagers have to contribute labour in a clockwise rotation basis in the village and this is Area No. 4’s turn. One member from each household has to provide one-day labour without any compensation,” added the local.

There are 980 households in Thanphu Village, which is divided into four Wards such as Area 1, 2, 3, and 4. The school has been constructed under the supervision of four carpenters since 2011, according to sources.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, March - April 2012, CHRO, available online at <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/80-rhododendron-2012.html>

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2011

Six Villages Forced to Grow Three Acres of Jatropha

30 November 2011: Six villages in Falam Township, Chin State were forced to grow at least three acres of jatropha in each village, a local informed the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO).

The higher authority issued an order to Haimual villagers and forced to buy the seeds at the municipal department with 3,000 kyats for seven cups. Some of the villages were forcibly told to purchase at least 14 cups of seeds while others had to get up to 28 cups.

The villages that were forced to grow the plant involved Haimual, Zawngte, Hnahthial (A), Hnahthial (B), Thipcang and Ngailan.

“The planting began at Haimual village with 14 local laborers on 22 June 2011, Zawngte with 30 people on 21 June 2011, Hnahthial (A) with 30 on 16 June 2011, Hnahthial (B) with 16 on 26 June 2011, Thipcang with 18 on 16 June 2011 and Ngailan with 7 on 16 June 2011,” added the local.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, November - December 2011, CHRO, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/78-rhododendron-2011.html>

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Chin Villagers Forced as Porters by Army Soldiers

18 November 2011: Despite reforms and political changes voiced by the new government of Burma, villagers in Chin State are still facing forced labour, extortion and rights violations committed by soldiers on patrol.

Burma Army soldiers from Light Infantry Battalion No. 274 based in Darkhai village forcibly ordered Chin locals from 10 villages of six village tracts in Tedim and Tonzang townships on 20-22 October, according to the Chin World Media.

One of the Lalta villagers in Tedim Township was quoted by the Chin World Media as saying each village was ordered to hire six horses to carry military materials and a total of 60 horses were used.

"Each horse cost 6,000 kyats and the villagers had to pay for all the hiring fees, without any compensation from the authorities or army soldiers," added the Chin local.

However, it was later claimed that locals from Thuitang village in Tonzang Township received 5,00 kyats for each horse from the soldiers.

In some villages, children and women including school teachers were also involved as forced porters in carrying and accompanying the horses for at least six miles between Zampi and Darkhai villages in Tonzang Township.

Early this month, the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) reported that Captain Zarni Htun and four soldiers from Light Infantry Battalion No. 274 forced Chin locals from Bukphir in Tedim Township to carry an electric generator and military rucksacks up to Darkhai village in Tonzang Township.

There are more than 50 military camps with 12 battalions of Burma Army soldiers stationed and on patrol across Chin State after 1988 when only two battalions were being deployed.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, November - December 2011, CHRO, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/78-rhododendron-2011.html>

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People Forced to Repair Road in Preparation of Minister for Transportation's Visit

29 October 2011: Local people were forced to repair road in preparation of Minister for Transportation visit to the area, reported XXX from Hai Mual Village to Chin Human Rights Organization.

Thantlang Township administration officer ordered villagers to repair the road connecting Falam, Chin State to Vai Phai village, Mizoram in India. The road was constructed for many years with donation from every household without getting any assistance from the government.

U Tawk Ling, the secretary of Thantlang Township Administration Department sent a letter addressed to the administration head in Tlangkhua Village in Thantlang Township on 7 October 2011. On 8 October 2011 the village head sent two villagers from his village on bike to pass the order orally to villagers up to Leilet Village, in Falam Township, situated on Indo-Burma border.

“According to the direction of U Tawk Ling, the secretary of Thantlang Administration Office Department, Transportation Minister of Chin State is inspecting the road that all the villagers along the road from Vai Phai in Mizoram to Falam in Chin State have to repair the road and bridges within their village area. The order was implemented through the village head from Tlangkhua Village,” he added.

“For the Minister’s visit, we the villagers from Lai Ral Villages tract have patched up the road and bridges,” said a villager.

“In our village Hai Mual, one person from each household repaired the road two days on 15-16 October 2011 bringing our own rations. We get nothing for our labor. The minister has not come yet and I have no idea what is happening” added the villager.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, September - October 2011, CHRO, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/78-rhododendron-2011.html>

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Burmese Army from Light Infantry Battalion No. 274 Forced Villagers to Porter

25 October 2011: Captain Zarni Htun and four soldiers from Light Infantry Battalion No. 274 ordered four villagers from Bukphir, Tedim Township forced to carry their military rucksacks up

to Darkhai village in Tonzang Township, reported XXXX, one of the forced porters to Chin Human Rights Organization.

“The captain and four soldiers forced four villagers to carry a generator and their rucksacks from Buk Phir to Dar Khai village for about 12 miles on 13 October 2011. Two villagers carried the generator and the other two carried their rucksacks”, he added.

The names of the four forced porters were,
Khai Hau Suan (aged 30) from Buk Phir Village
Nang Za Thawn (aged 20) from Buk Phir Village
Thang Sian Muang (aged 25) from Buk Phir Village
Cin Khan Khup (aged 21) from Buk Phir Village

“Two of us carried a generator to play Chinese made DVD and it was carried by Darkhai village for Captain Zarni Htun when he was in Buk Phir village. We don’t really know what are inside the rucksacks carried by the other two. We have spent two days for to and fro. We got nothing for our labor and lost two days’ wages and we have to stay and eat at our relatives in Dar Khai Village,” he lamented.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, September - October 2011, CHRO, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/78-rhododendron-2011.html>

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Burma’s Chief Minister of Chin State Orders Forced Labour

7 September 2011: The Chief Minister of Burma’s Chin State has ordered forced labour in the capital Hakha, the Chin Human Rights Organization has learned.

For the past month civil servants in Hakha have been forced to perform manual labour to clear various areas around the town, including the site of a Union Government guesthouse which is being rebuilt, and the roadside that leads up to the Burma Army base of Light Infantry Battalion 266 on top of Rungtlang or Mount Rung.

A civil servant, who cannot be named for security reasons, told CHRO that Chief Minister Hung Ngai has threatened the civil servants with a salary cut if they fail to perform the labour every Saturday morning. The civil servant added, “It rained very heavily the last two Saturdays, but we still had to do the work. Some people even got sick as a result.”

In late July, Hung Ngai also ordered more than 100 ordinary residents living around the State Parliament building in Hakha to clear the compound of the Union Government guesthouse. The residents were threatened with a monetary fine of 3,000 kyats if they failed to show up for work. A local man forced to participate told CHRO, "They called us for forced labor when we should be working for our own survival. I had to miss out on work for my livelihood that day because of the forced labour."

Source: CHRO press release, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/media/press-releases/79-2011.html>

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Soldiers Forced Locals including Women to Carry Military Rations

30 August 2011: A total of 24 Chin locals from Kuhchah village in Thantlang Township, Chin State were forcibly used as porters for carrying military rations by Burma Army soldiers on 10 April 2011.

A sergeant and his soldiers from Light Infantry Battalion No. 266 based in Hakha Town coerced 8 men and 15 women into portering to Congthia village while patrolling in the area toward Hlampei village in Thantlang Township, according to one of the victims.

One of the village headmen told Chin Human Rights Organisation that the soldiers forcibly used the locals to carry their rations after the car broke down on the way.

"The soldiers didn't threaten or swear at us. But all of us were tired as we, men, were carrying bags of rice and women bags of lentils for more than 15 miles," added one of the porters.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, July - August 2011, CHRO, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/78-rhododendron-2011.html>

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LIB 266 Soldiers Used High School Students as Porters

15 August 2011: Soldiers from Hakha-based Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) No. 266 conscripted three male high school students from Congthia Village to porter army goods while patrolling in Thantlang Township, the victims testified to Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO).

The students, who are studying 10th grade in a high school in Thantlang, testified that on 8 August 2011, they were conscripted as porters by a patrol army unit from LIB 226 led by Second Lieutenant Lay Aung Thein and Corporal Kyaw Kyaw. The students were on their way to

Thantlang Town from Congthia Village where they visited their families to get money and supplies for their schooling when they met the soldiers on patrol, who were also heading to Thantlang Town. They were immediately asked to carry army rucksacks.

One of the porters, whose name is kept anonymous, said, "About four miles into our journey from Congthia we caught up with an army unit that was also on their way to Thantlang Town. Upon seeing us they asked us to carry their rucksacks saying that their loads were too heavy for them. We already had our own things to carry that were heavy enough. We were unable to carry the double load, and had to leave our own stuff midway at Kuhchah village."

The students said they didn't know what was inside the rucksacks, but judging from the weight they believed that it was ammunition.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, July - August 2011, CHRO, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/78-rhododendron-2011.html>

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Villagers Forced to Carry Rice Bags for Military Rations

08 July 2011: Four locals from Haimual village in Falam Township were coerced as porters to carry bags of rice for Burma Army soldiers from Tibual-based Light Infantry Battalion No. 269, one of the forced porters said.

The villagers, Lal San Dam, 16, Lal Khum Luai, 22, Lian Ting Thang, 67, and Lal Thawm Thang, 42, were forced under the direct order of Burma Army Company Captain Kyaw Kyaw Thu of the military personal number 22438 on 22 June 2011.

With four bags of rice on their backs, they were ordered to travel for two days without any payment from Haimual to Leilet village, which is about 14 miles away, and to Thipchang where the Captain was temporarily based, according to the porter.

Captain Kyaw Kyaw Thu and his six soldiers are known to have been in the areas near Thipchang village since February this year, extorting money from local traders travelling to and from Mizoram State of India, and forcibly taking rations such as rice and chicken from villagers.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, July - August 2011, CHRO, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/78-rhododendron-2011.html>

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Three Locals Ordered Daily to be on Standby for Portering

18 April 2011: Falam-based Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Saw Htoo of Burma Army Light Infantry Battalion No. 269 stationed in Lungler village of Thantlang Township ordered three villagers to get ready on a daily basis for porterage if needed for two weeks from the second week of March 2011.

Lieut. Col Saw Htoo, since his temporary posting to the village, forcibly placed the locals on standby to carry military equipment and rations for a section patrolling between Lungler and Tibual military camps, according to a local, whose name is not revealed.

A local from Tlanglo village told Chin Human Rights Organisation: "We are not sure why they travel back and forth between Lungler and Tibual villages. Porters from Lungler have to go up to Hnathial village of Falam Township and those from Tibual have to go up to Tlangpi village of Thantlang Township."

Up to date, Burma Army soldiers patrolling in Chin State along the Indian-Burma border not only force locals as porters but also commandeered motorbikes owned by the villagers.

"The military authorities forcibly ask members of Village Peace and Development Council (VPDC) to pay for the motorbike fuel they use," said one of the local villagers.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, March - April 2011, CHRO, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/78-rhododendron-2011.html>

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Burma Army Forced Villagers to Porter in Chin State

08 April 2011: Burma Army Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) No. 140 patrolling in Matupi Township of Chin State forcibly ordered 16 locals including a 16-year-old boy from Khuangan village to carry their military equipment on 25 March 2011.

The locals were forced to travel on foot from Khuangan to Tingsi village, carrying heavy loads on their backs while the Battalion Major rode on a motorbike hired by the village authorities, according to one of the local porters.

"Our village headman made an announcement saying that any family with no government employees had to make a contribution. Some who heard the arrival of Burmese soldiers ran away and hid somewhere," said the local porter from Khuangan village. "But others didn't run

away because they knew that the village headman and leaders could be beaten up or fined if there were not enough people from the village to carry their stuff," added the porter.

It was known that the 16-year-old boy was eventually included in the list in order to make the numbers of porters demanded by the soldiers.

"We were told that we might have to keep on travelling as they couldn't get enough people in Tingsi village for portering," said the local porter.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, March - April 2011, CHRO, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/78-rhododendron-2011.html>

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Civilians Forced to Take Militia Training in Chin State

07 April 2011: Burma's military authorities have forcibly ordered local people including government employees to participate in the militia training in Hakha and Thantlang towns in Chin State since late last month, a source from Chin Human Rights Organisation said.

About 50 people, who were reportedly selected by the authorities for the over-two-week programme, took part in the inauguration ceremony held at Town Hall in Thantlang on 30 March 2011, according to a Thantlang local, who asks not to be named.

In Hakha town, the training was conducted from 22 to 31 March. However, unlike Thantlang, the trainees were recruited from among people who had previously participated in the 'volunteer firemen' training back in October 2009 and 2010 respectively. The trainees were asked to pay 3,000 Kyats each for their uniforms.

"The training ran until the end of March. They didn't teach us much. Just like last year, we were asked to practice a 'left-right' marching, and taught how to make and break up a line like soldiers. The only difference [from the previous training] was that we had to pay for our uniforms," said one of the training participants from Hakha.

Participants said that they were threatened with 'monetary fine or other penalty' if they failed to attend the training and that some locals were travelling to the nearby villages in order to avoid it.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, March - April 2011, CHRO, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/78-rhododendron-2011.html>

Locals Forced to Work on Road Construction in Matupi Township

03 April 2011: The local military authorities have ordered Calthawng villagers including women and children in Matupi Township to work on the Matupi- Hakha road construction under the supervision of Mindat District Construction Department, Chin Human Rights Organisation's (CHRO) source revealed.

The village headman was given responsibilities to get the local people to make what the military authorities have named 'voluntary contributions' for the state-run road construction, according to a Calthawng local, who took part in the road works.

"We are told to work in groups from each block and the work has started since last week. At least one person from each family in the block has to voluntarily contribute and any family that fails to follow the order would be penalised," the local told CHRO on 25 March 2011.

It is claimed that the authorities provide a can of fish paste and less than half a bottle of oil per family for the voluntary contributions.

"Some villagers do not want to take the provisions out of their frustration. We heard that the road construction will go on until our village area is finished," said the local, whose asks not to be named.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, March - April 2011, CHRO, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/78-rhododendron-2011.html>

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Local Forced to Participate in Golf Road Construction

15 March 2011: More than 40 locals in Hakha Town were forced to construct road leading to No. 3 Golf Course as part of the Town Circular Road programme, Chin Human Rights Organisation's source disclosed.

"We are told that we must work on the road in front of our own house to make it wide enough for a truck to go and that it must be completed before the end of this month. They said it is a voluntary service but it is in reality an order because we have no choice but to do what is asked for," said a local, whose name is kept unrevealed.

It is claimed that twelve special groups led by New Bazaar Block Chairman Pu Hrang Kep were formed for the road construction project, which was known to be sponsored by the government.

"Even though it is a government-financed project, we are ordered to work on the road as volunteers. We heard that there is an understanding between the groups and the local authorities. And still, we are given a deadline," added the local, participating in the road construction.

Chairman Pu Hrang Kep is claimed to have been given an official contract of the road construction project. In October 2010, Pu Hrang Kep was accused of using the budget granted for repairing the road ditches in the New Bazaar block for his own benefit and of forcing the locals to actually work on the required renovation.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, March - April 2011, CHRO, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/78-rhododendron-2011.html>

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Villages Forced to Work as Night Sentry Guards

10 March 2011: A CAPTAIN of Light Infantry Battalion No. 55 based in Sinletwa village of Paletwa Township, Chin State forced locals from a total of 13 villages to work as Night Sentry Guards in each village from 18 February 2011.

The order, which required four to five locals to guard the village throughout the night, was issued one day after a clash between the Burma Army soldiers and Chin National Army (CNA) on 17 February 2011 near Sinletwa village.

A local person forced to participate said, "While we are performing night sentry duty we are given strict instructions to make an immediate report to the nearest army camp if we see any rebel persons coming into the village. At the same time, we are warned that our whole village will be punished if we fail to give the information to the Burmese soldiers."

The villages forced to guard as night security included Sinletwa, Khungwa, Shweletwa, Shin-oo, Kinwa, Leite, Bilawng, Pawngmu, Wayung, Saikel, Yaritawng, Karamaik and Kungpying.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, March - April 2011, CHRO, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/78-rhododendron-2011.html>

Locals Forced to Search for Two Soldier Deserters

21 January 2011: Sergeant Aung Ngwe of Burma Army Light Infantry Battalion No. 266 stationed in Fartlang village of Tedim Township issued an order, forcing locals to search for two young soldiers who left the military training camp mid this month.

Locals from Fartlang village were ordered to keep guard of all the surrounding roads leading to Ngur village of Mizoram State, with 10 people on the Fartlang- Ngur route, 4 on the Ngente- Ngur route, and another 4 on the Fartlang-Zote route the whole night on 15 and the whole day on 16 January 2011.

Maung Pyi Sung Oo, 18, of ID No. Tah: 436979 and Maung Khup Hlei Mang, 19, both from Burma Army Light Infantry Battalion No. 266, ran away from the military camp around 7pm on 15 January 2011.

In addition, Chairman of Fartlang Village Peace and Development Council and motorbike owner Pu Liana went to Champhai and Ngur villages in Mizoram State on 16 January 2011 as ordered by Sergeant Aung Ngwe in search of the two deserters.

"We were ordered to keep guard of the roads and to travel to Mizoram State but we didn't get anything from the authorities, even for the motorbike petrol used for a trip to Mizoram State. Everything was carried out on our own expenses," revealed one of the locals.

Source: *Rhododendron News*, January - February 2011, CHRO, available online at: <http://www.chro.ca/publications/rhododendron/78-rhododendron-2011.html>