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Trafficking Narcotic Smuggling on Thai-Burma Border Town

Asohn Vi / Kaowao; May 19, 2008

Increasing and more arresting the narcotic smuggling on the Thai-Burma border town also had been using with higher numbers among the youths from the area, according to the Thai authorities and Burmese minority ceasefire group.

Narcotics and drugs are spreading and trafficking among the people of border towns and on average one trader was found and arrested daily for smuggling it in border checkpoint or in Sanghklaburi where they usually used for temporary place on the way into Thailand, an officer from police station of that town told Kaowao. All the arrested smugglers were between 14 - 35 years old mean as young including Thai, Burmese as well as Karen and Mon, he added.
"Now also the young men and women with school uniforms sadly found and seized with drugs in their motorbikes or under their wears on the checkpoint", said the Thai officer.

One of the Burmese ceasefire groups, the New Mon State Party seized a narcotic smuggler who tried to enter to Thailand with over 3000 amphetamine tablets at their checkpoint of control area near Three Pagoda Pass (TPP) border town, 18 km from Thai-Mon village of Sangkhlaburi at Thai side.

According to the arrested narcotic dealer, Moe Win (38), the tablets was from Bago division and typed WY+R with dark pink color. He was arrested with over 16 packets in which 200 pills each under his jacket on the way to Thailand with motorbike on late Friday' evening, 16 May. The Karen ethnic minority trader was suspected that was linking with the ethnic ceasefire groups who active and have own control area at the border town.

As near double price of per pill of amphetamine among at the TPP town in Burma costs THB 90 and over 150 THB at Sangkhlaburi town in Thai side forced to be more drugs dealer carry it into Thailand and also costs over THB 200 inside Thailand such as Mahachai, one biggest Burmese migrant workers' town at Samut Sakhon province near Bangkok, the capital town of Thailand.

"They (Burmese authorities of TPP) didn't give any actions when they arrested a drugs dealer with lower amount or if they got money from the dealer. That's why they can't control this drugs dealer' increasing problem" a resident who closed with the TPP town' authority told Kaowao.

The Burmese ethnic minority logging town, Three Pagodas Pass had many unofficial and illegal border checkpoints link to Thailand controlled by the Burmese military regime as well as by the ceasefire groups, the New Mon State Party, Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) and Karen Peace Force (KPF) which based on town over ten years. The main border checkpoint of Thai-Burma in that area still remains closing over 14 months since March 2007.

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On Nargis Cyclone Disaster in Burma

British minister says aid plan for Myanmar must work quickly, no options off the table

By DAVID STRINGER,

AP: 2008-05-19

LONDON (AP) - British Foreign Office minister Lord Malloch-Brown warned on Monday that a task force set up by southeast Asia's regional bloc to distribute foreign aid in Myanmar must quickly prove it can speed the flow of humanitarian relief.

"We need to be ready if this doesn't work. We are not going to take any options off the table until we have seen that the needs are met," he said.
Speaking in London after weekend talks in Myanmar, Malloch-Brown said Western nations will support efforts by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to lead the aid effort in the wake of Cyclone Nargis.

An emergency meeting of foreign ministers from the 10 ASEAN countries agreed Monday to facilitate the distribution of relief and to work with the United Nations to hold an aid donors conference on May 25.

Malloch-Brown said Myanmar, which has been suspicious of allowing Western aid workers into the country, appeared likely to be more trusting of its neighbors.

"We really do hope that we can get the ASEAN ambition quickly up to the scale of the problem," Malloch-Brown said. "The meeting is good news, but it is the beginning of a process and they have got lots of challenges on the road ahead."

He said Britain and others must remain ready to change approach if the tactic doesn't work quickly, or if there is any outbreak of disease among survivors in Myanmar, also known as Burma.

The West "can't afford for this to get snagged up and snared up in Burmese delays or anything else. It has got to deliver quickly, given the crisis needs of the people involved."

The minister said there was an air of unreality within the Myanmar regime over the scale of the humanitarian crisis. "One of the most striking issues I found in Burma at the weekend is the completely contrarian views of the size of the crisis between the international community and the Burmese themselves," Malloch-Brown said.

He said Myanmar ministers insisted the country needs help only with its recovery, requesting plows, pumps to desalinate paddy fields and boats to resume fishing.

Aid agencies estimate the cyclone has left an estimated 130,000 people dead or missing and up to 2.5 million survivors faced with hunger and disease.

However, Malloch-Brown acknowledged the Myanmar regime is in a better position to assess the impact of the cyclone, which struck two weeks ago.

He said a detailed field study listing exactly what help is needed must be carried out before an aid donor conference in Yangon next Monday.

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Statement on SPDC's Handling of the Nargis Cyclone Disaster in Burma

May 18, 2008

The Nargis cyclone, the worst natural disaster in Burma, resulted in more than 100,000 of death or missing and hundreds of thousand of more people homeless.

Despite the death, suffering, and dying of hundreds of thousands of people, and the demands by the UN and international community to postpone the referendum so that focus can be made on urgent rescue and relief works, SPDC still went ahead with its
sham referendum. Governments in other countries would declare days of national mourning for the victims and would postpone all other important events.

The cold-blooded and heartless military government in Burma disregards the death and the suffering of its people, and was completely overwhelmed with its sham referendum merely to secure its power and legalize its military rule. Even when the Indian meteorological department gave credible information about the cyclone 48 hours before the disaster, the military government was eager with its campaign on referendum and deliberately neglected the warning. As a result, hundreds of thousands of people have to face with the unnecessary and avoidable death. If disaster preventive measures and policies are in place like in many other countries, people could be evacuated in time and hundreds of thousands of lives could be saved. The military government's selfishness, cruelty and its thirst for power at the expense of the death and the suffering of hundreds of thousands of its own people is unspeakable.

After the death of hundreds of thousands of people, the military government has again failed to take effective remedial and relief measures for the victims. Though international humanitarian aid is on hand, eagerly waiting to help the victims of the cyclone, the military government deliberately hinders the process worrying that those international aid agencies and media could witness the referendum which was single-handedly held by the military regime on the 10th of May. Now, even though some limited aid is allowed to flow into the country, the international relief workers and disasters experts are still denied visa. It is outrageous to see that the military regime focuses only on its attempt to cling on power despite the death, the suffering and the dying of its citizens. We strongly condemn both its handling of the disaster and its attempt to cling on power by hook or by crook with its referendum.

At the same time, in order to save the innocent lives in Burma, we urgently urge the international community to take coercive intervention under the "responsibility to protect" principle unanimously endorsed by 150 heads of state and government at the 2005 UN World Summit. The Concept of "Responsibility to Protect" states that where there are overwhelming natural or environmental catastrophes, and the state concerned is either unwilling or unable to cope, or call for assistance, and significant loss of life is occurring or threatened, the use of coercive intervention and the application of military force can be justified. Therefore, we strongly believe that the inhumane act of Burmese military regime after the Cyclone Nagis disaster is a proper case for coercive intervention under the "responsibility to protect", R2P, principle, and it should be applied as a matter of urgency in order to save hundreds of thousands of lives in Burma.

The statement is jointly issued by

1. Australia Mon Association (AMA)
2. Euro Mon Community
3. Mon Canadian Society
4. Monland Restoration Council (USA)
Cyclone Nargis; News from Inside

Emily Dalton / Kaowao; May 12th, 2008

With the estimated death toll now rising above 100,000 and with thousands more missing and feared dead, Kaowao has received some contact from people inside. To date communication is still minimal; although calls may be made within cities, ie Rangoon to Rangoon, Moulmein to Moulmein, wider communication is still heavily reliant on physical transportation of news across the border or occasional use of satellite phones.

Burma's former capital Rangoon was torn apart by Cyclone Nargis, with one local estimating over 90% of trees were flattened in Rangoon and surrounding areas. With little in the way of clean-up organized by Burma's military government, Kaowao has been told the situation is becoming increasingly chaotic. A simple journey that once took an hour two days ago took our reporter six hours; a morning bath is made near-impossible with a communal bathhouse now filled with putrid water; drinking water has doubled in price while the price of eggs has tripled.

Billboards, in recent times plastered with 'Vote Yes' referendum propaganda, lie flattened alongside trees and houses, while monsoonal rains and tidal surges mean roads now run like rivers, with bodies rushing through the torrent next to trees and debris. Rice stores are now filled with rapidly toxifying rice, rendered useless even as stock feed.

For the 1.5 million survivors the outlook is grim. With the Junta creating obstacles for outside aid workers, international aid to the area has been so far kept from the people on the ground. Many countries are now withholding further aid until the initial shipments are distributed and used effectively.

The people's requests are not major. Having lived under a military dictatorship for too long, these people are strong and resilient; prior to Nargis, 70% of the population of Burma survived on less than $US1 a day, below the international poverty line benchmark. Now tens of thousands are people are surviving on coconuts and filthy water.
They need clean drinking water, shelter and basic medicine. They need their fundamental human rights adhered to.

One Kaowao source reported that in Rangoon - Burma's largest city - after one week, only minimal drinking water and electricity had returned. The health of survivors lies in the hands of a dictator known to rely on astrological guidance that has so far seen him spend ten times as much on military as healthcare. With weather conditions poor and set to get worse (heavy and unceasing rains are predicted in the coming weeks), experts are now warning of epidemics in diarrhea, malaria, cholera, and tetanus. Heavy rains may also hinder the weak relief efforts currently under way by locals attempting to help themselves; clearing trees, cleaning streets, rebuilding houses. Even when aid groups are allowed in it may be that heavy rains prevent transportation of much-needed aid to outlying areas.

Each day water supplies become more lethal, as broken pipes allow sewage and toxins to flow freely through bodies of water already heavy with corpses. This is coupled with large areas of stagnant water which, in Burma's tropical conditions, provide the perfect breeding ground for bacteria and mosquitoes. After observing survivors surrounded by contaminated water, one source told Kaowao that many people were quite obviously either prone to suffer from, or already suffering from water-borne illness. "The children and elderly are the worst affected, with so many already ill a disaster like this seems enough to tip them over the edge." He went on to say that clean drinking water was non-existent in outlying areas, and although it could be found inside Rangoon, high prices excluded most people from buying it. Although water purification tablets are ready to be sent, in coastal areas they are useless, as salt-water has flooded drinking water catchments.

Even in the less affected areas, damage is significant. A reporter recently returned from Mon State in Eastern Burma told Kaowao the damage was obvious. "Many rubber trees had fallen; I cannot imagine the impact this will have on farmers who rely on rubber for their livelihood. Based on my observations I would say every garden had sustained damage, with 50%-100% of trees down." He added that high winds and heavy rained continued yesterday.

UN must take decision action to protect the dying

Dear Secretary General Ban Ki Moon,

I urge you to pass a United Nations resolution to enter Burma to save the sick and dying. As we all know, children and the old, the most vulnerable, are now dying rapidly of cholera and dysentery in the cyclone affected area of Burma, they will not survive for very much longer. In fact, many children have most likely succumbed to exposure and disease because aid is not forthcoming. The Burmese junta have no sense of helping the poor, the sick, the dying. They should be held accountable for crimes against humanity and be brought before the international courts.
It is time for you as a Korean national to stand up against one of Asia's worst regimes and save the good people of Burma who suffer so much and who have asked repeatedly for assistance from the UN and other countries for so many years now while the world looks on with pity.

Now is the time to act; dialoge and constructive engagement is not working and press releases on how you are disappointed with them is no doubt scorned by them and laughed at, this government does not care for its people, does not care what you think, or what the international community thinks. They do not govern for the good of the people, but control to benefit themselves, this government is pathologically sick and the world is sick of them.

Yours truly,

Lita Davidson

On SPDC's Referendum

Southern Ye Voting Centers Threatened

Asohn Vi / Kaowao; May 12, 2008

On the day of the national referendum, May 10th, a polling station in a Southern Ye Township village was threatened by heavily armed military personnel, and a single villager Nai Show was arrested. According to local sources, it is not known why he was arrested, although authorities stated he was a suspected guerilla fighter involved in the explosion outside of village during the vote.

One villager who wished to remain anonymous told Kaowao, "Nai Show was in the referendum's voting centre with the rest of us when we heard a loud 'boom' from outside of the village. When the authorities came in they arrested Nai Show, but not before forcing him to the ground and beating him from head to toe. We were all shouting for them to stop beating him, telling him Nai Show was with us when the explosion went off. But they didn't listen, just kept on beating him and eventually took him away."

Even the head of the Yin Dein village apologized to authorities on Nai Show's behalf, stating that he was not involved in the explosion and was just a regular villager. But the authorities ignored all pleas and dragged Nai Show away. As of late yesterday he remained imprisoned.

Meanwhile also on the 10th of May at approximately 11pm in neighboring Kaw Hlaing Village, armed soldiers led by Warrant Officer Myint Than from Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) Number 31 entered the polling station situated at the Basic Education Middle School. Many villagers reported Myint Than had been drinking heavily and appeared drunk as he waved his firearm around.

The manager of voting commission personnel present at the polling booth requested Myint Than remove his soldiers promptly, as his staff and voters felt threatened. One
anonymous villager told Kaowao, "The manager then sustained a heavy beating in front of his staff and voters, with soldiers using gun butts to his head and back. It is still not known if he is able to walk." The manager was held in high regard by the villagers, who saw him as a good leader determined to stand up for their rights.

It is believed that Myint Than and his soldiers entered the polling booth with an intent to destroy the contents, as a high 'No' vote had reportedly been recorded at the site.

In the week prior to the referendum villagers in this area were threatened authorities from LIB 31 along with head villagers who supported the constitution. They told villagers if they voted 'No' they would face three years in prison and/or a 2 million Kyat fine.

A villager from Taung Bon village told Kaowao that their head villager, Nai Myoe Aung, withdrew his assistance to villagers, based on the order he had received. "He told us that if we wanted to vote 'No' we could but that we must do so with the knowledge that if we vote 'No' he would not help us when the head authorities came to interrogate us or lock us away. He said he had orders from the higher authorities and if we didn't follow them we would be on our own."

Villagers told our reporters that although they wanted to vote 'No' they were afraid to, and felt forced to vote 'Yes' once they had seen the registration form which included space for their name, address and ID number. Older villagers disagreed however, welcoming the chance to have their say regardless of the consequences. These villagers were determined to vote 'No'.

Referendum Unchanged

Emily Dalton / Kaowao; May 11, 2008

The referendum went ahead in most areas yesterday, with the constitutional vote postponed until May 24th in only the very badly affected areas. This came as no surprise to many people inside and outside Burma who view the referendum and planned 2010 election as a shameful attempt by the military to legitimize its 46-year grip on power.

Despite the devastating effects of Cyclone Nargis, over the past week state-run television station MRTV continued to screen the 'Vote Yes' advertisements as normal and teashops across the country were littered with pro-constitution pamphlets and posters.

As previously reported the voting ticket was recently revealed to Kaowao; on one side the boxes marked 'Yes' and 'No', and on the other side space for the voter's name, address and ID number.
**Survey on the Burmese Referendum**

BNI; 7th May 2008

Bangkok, Thailand -- Despite the challenging political environment, 10 independent Burmese media organizations have completed face-to-face opinion surveys with more than 2,000 Burmese voters in the upcoming Constitutional Referendum.

Burma News International, representing the 10 media organizations, undertook this survey, the most comprehensive and statistically representative poll of eligible voters to date.

The survey gauges voting preferences and levels of awareness of the constitution among eligible voters – including farmers, students, day workers, business owners, housewives and USDA members – from 7 States and 6 Divisions across the country. It reveals that:

- 83% of the surveyed population plans to cast a vote, 10% plans not to vote, while the rest remain undecided.

- If the referendum were held today, 66.4% would vote "No", leaving a significant minority of 23% undecided.

- The survey also revealed that a significant 69% of respondents have no awareness of the details of the proposed Constitution.

- Most respondents will vote out of "conscience" (75.9%) rather than "coercion" (17.4%). Farmers and traders are amongst those who indicated they are "forced into" voting a certain way, or given something in return.

Mu Hlaing Theint, Secretary of Burma News International, who organized and conducted the survey with media partners during late April 2008, pointed out that the "majority of surveyed respondents were farmers (31.2%). Business people or merchants (16%) and students (11.1%) also featured prominently amongst our survey sample".

"This survey takes the pulse of ordinary voters from all over Burma, but particularly from ethnic nationality areas where there has been limited surveys to date," she said.

She went on to say that, "Amid the utter devastation caused by Cyclone Nargis, the regime's commitment to pursuing the vote at any cost, may result in an even bigger 'No' result."

Sein Win, Editor-in-Chief of Mizzima News, a BNI partner, stated that "decades of poverty and mismanagement and a lack of faith in the military as an institution is behind the strong 'No' vote result… If people are told to go and vote, as they have been, they will go ahead and vote. But public sentiment is against the regime, and its constitution, especially as they drag their feet to organize an urgently needed humanitarian response in cyclone-affected communities."
"Burmese people have always found ways to passively resist the military regime, and we expect that a large number of the population intend to vote 'No'. Whether they will be allowed to cast their vote freely and fairly remains to be seen."

Sai Khuensai, director of the Shan Herald Agency for News, another BNI member which participated in the survey, said that the large number of 'undecided' respondents correlated to voter wariness of publicly identifying oneself as a 'No' voter. He explained, that "the influence and pressure exerted on civil servants and USDA members who we polled, in many cases had led to their reluctance to reveal how they were going to vote".

Survey data has been independently analyzed by an international expert based in Singapore.


Note:: For more information, Please contact BNI Secretary, Mu Hlaing Theint secretary.bni@gmail.com. This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it.

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http://www.bnionline.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4048&Itemid=49

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Villagers Forced to Guard Pipeline as Referendum Approaches

Lawi Weng; May 6, 2008

Villagers in Thanbyuzhayat Township, Mon State, are being forced to guard a section of the Kal Bauk to Myine Kalay gas pipeline in response to rumors that ethnic rebels will bomb the pipeline during the national referendum, scheduled for May 10th.

Recent rains have destroyed fences and removed soil, exposing previously protected sections of the pipeline. Burmese Army Infantry Battalion No. 6 has ordered shifts of three villagers to guard sections of the pipeline, day and night. The civilian guards are not paid, must provide their own food and water and have also been ordered to repair fences along the pipeline.

This is not the first time villagers have been ordered to guard the pipeline as the practice of using villagers as an unpaid security force is common throughout Mon State. Villagers must assume full responsibility for security, and have good reason to fear reprisals if the pipeline is successfully attacked under their watch; last year in Mudon Township, a village headman was arrested and tortured after a nearby pipeline was attacked.
"We have to wait because the army ordered us to. We do not know whether the rumor that rebel groups will bomb the pipeline is true," said a man from Wai Kamai Village, through which the pipeline passes. In the past, the regime has accused the Karen National Union (KNU) of bombing the pipeline. KNU officials, however, counter that the allegations are not supported with evidence, and argue that past explosions have been caused by leaks at poorly crafted joints in the pipeline.

The Kal Bauk to Myine Kalay pipeline brings gas from the Yadana Gas fields off the shores of Tenasserim Division to a cement factory in Myaingkalay. The Yadana Gas Project has been condemned by international human rights groups and its owner, Chevron, has recently been sued in a United States court for ignoring a variety of serious human rights abuses, including rape, murder and forced labor.

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Three Pagoda Pass: Rice Prices Rise 25%

Lawi Weng; May 6, 2008

Rice prices have risen twenty-five percent in Three Pagoda Pass on the Thai-Burma border. Two weeks ago a 60 kilogram bag cost 820 baht. Today, the price is 1030 baht. While much of South East Asia is facing a rice shortage, unseasonably early rains have made the roads along which new supplies of rice must travel to Three Pagoda Pass impassable. The early rains caught some traders by surprise, and they have not had sufficient stocks to handle the supply disruption.

The rice shortage has been worsened by the fact that over three hundred bags of rice a day have been crossing the border into Thailand, reports a source in Three Pagoda Pass. Officially, the border crossing has been closed for more than a year, but three weeks ago the Irrawaddy reported the burgeoning illegal trade. Last week, however, Township authorities held a meeting with rice traders to announce a ban on rice sales to Thai agents. Non-commercial buyers of rice are also facing restrictions, and sources in Three Pagoda Pass say that they must provide officials with an excuse if they wish to purchase more than three bags. Similar restrictions have been put in place elsewhere, both in South East Asia and in the United States.

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Migrant Watch

Mon Woman, Working in Samut Sakorn, Raped by Six Men

WCRP; April 30, 2008

A sixteen-year-old Mon woman was raped and left for dead by a gang of six men in Maharchai, Samut Sakorn Province, Southern Thailand, reported her uncle. Speaking with a Mon human rights worker on the Thai-Burma border, he stated that in the early hours of March 29th four men grabbed his niece outside a shop and threw her into a car. They bound her with rope and beat her until she lost consciousness. Then, together with
two friends who were waiting outside of town, they raped her repeatedly and dumped her in some bushes, assuming she had died. She awoke at ten that morning and, with the help of a trash collector working in the area, contacted her uncle who took her to a nearby hospital.

The incident is not an isolated one, reports an activist who works for labor rights in the province, "Burmese migrant women workers are raped by gang groups like this very often in Maharchai." A further two cases were rumored to have happened in that same week alone, but could not be confirmed.

Rape victims and their families are often reluctant to speak out or publicize the incidents, due to feelings of shame and cultural misunderstanding. The situation can be especially difficult for migrant workers, who are more likely to be deported than helped by Thai authorities.

In many cases, victims or their families are forced to pay money to the abductors, or be sold into slavery as prostitutes. In this case, however, the men thought the victim had died and therefore did not attempt to sell her or hold anyone to ransom. The woman, from Du Yar Village Ye Township, had been working as an illegal factory night worker for six months. Like many without a work permit, she had difficulty finding work and had to settle for night work, with shifts from six pm until three am. During the day she hid in her uncle's home.

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Amphetamine Assaults in Sanghklaburi

Emily Dalton / Kaowao; April 28, 2008.

An influx of amphetamines in the small town of Sanghklaburi has been blamed for a recent increase in violent attacks in the area. Local sources have confirmed with Kaowao that there have been at least three separate incidents resulting in the death of two people in the last five days. All three attacks were perpetrated by a group of men.

The first attack occurred against a Mon man between the hours of 4 and 6am on Tuesday the 22nd of April, close to the Golden Pagoda. Left by his attackers by the side of the road, he is believed to have died as a result of injuries to his head. The victim sustained such a severe beating his face was reportedly unrecognizable, and the base of his skull had collapsed.

Although not linked by police investigators a further two attacks occurred on Thursday and Friday night. In the first case a young Mon women thought to have been meeting her boyfriend in an isolated area, but was instead confronted by a gang of men, thought to be aged between 17 and 24. Later found dead in the area, the victim had been raped several times by multiple men. Witnesses say the attack appeared to have been vicious and frenzied; it is not known whether the female victim was killed prior to being raped or if she died as a result of injuries incurred during the multiple attacks.
The following night a female migrant worker was attacked near the wooden bridge as she walked home after her shift. Her screams for help were loud enough to raise the alarm, with nearby villagers coming to her aid. The two attackers fled the scene on foot and as yet have not been found.

Further to the two documented cases, in the greater Sanghklaburi region over the last week at least three women are known to have disappeared.

As Kaowao reported recently, Sanghklaburi police average one arrest daily for trafficking amphetamine across the border. Those that are not caught may then travel freely through Thailand, with their first major stop the Thai-Mon village of Sanghklaburi. Here, one pill of amphetamine may be purchased at a local price of approximately THB 150 (US$3). With price no longer a barrier local youths are able to acquire the drugs easily.

Amphetamines can induce feelings of euphoria, invincibility and superiority. Couple these effects with a gang mentality and unfettered testosterone fuelled by cheap and easily accessible alcohol, the results are potentially catastrophic. The consequences are all the more dire in a small town like Sanghklaburi, especially when there is a significant dearth of consequences for the perpetrators when the victim is Mon.

Senior figures in the community have condemned these recent attacks, and are calling for vigilance throughout the community. Although taking care not to fear-monger, programs across the town are responding in their own way to last week's deaths.

A spokesperson from Sanghklaburi's Women and Child Rights Program (WCRP) stated their message has shifted since the events of last week. "We teach empowerment to women, to not be afraid. These recent attacks however change all that. If a drug-fueled gang approach you in the dark and you are on your own, we face a very scary predicament, and one we are unlikely to escape from unharmed." She said their message has changed from one of strength to one of caution.

A local reporter agreed, telling Kaowao, "I feel like the level of hostility has risen between everyone in this town. I used to walk freely around my neighborhood without fear, which was always part of the benefit of this tight-knit community where everyone looked out for each other. Once there is a gang though that balance changes, especially when drugs are involved too, because the violence and harassment is so thoughtless. I wouldn't dare to venture out alone now."

Although police investigations continue, there has been some suggestion of a lack of priority in cases where the victim is Mon. Investigations are further hindered by a lack of reporting of sex crimes against females. One local told Kaowao that the number of rapes in Sanghklaburi is most likely much higher than reported, due to the shame associated with being raped; many female victims will not report rape for....
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ABOUT US

Kaowao Newsgroup is committed to social justice, peace, and democracy in Burma. We hope to be able to provide more of an in-depth analysis that will help to promote lasting peace and change within Burma. Editors, reporters, writers, and overseas volunteers are dedicated members of the Mon activist community based in Thailand.

Our motto is working together for change and lasting peace.