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"Let's send the butchers of Kyatpyay to the International Criminal Court fast!"

With regard to SPDC junta's plan to frame up and prosecute national leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the eve of her release from six-year long house arrest, East Timorese President Mr. Hose Ramose Horta commented on May 15 that he would personally call for the abominable war criminal SPDC generals to be tried at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and punished severely.

On May 8, more than sixty British parliamentarians demanded in a signed letter to investigate and take action on SPDC's crimes against humanity. England-based Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) also issued a statement on May 7 demanding international governments to establish a commission to start investigating SPDC military junta's crimes against humanity.

It is found that crimes committed by the butchers of Kyatpyay are increasing in number day by day. Among the crimes carried out by the butchers, many cases of mass murders and genocide are found.

Out of those massacres personally committed by present SPDC military dictator generals, two cases that happened on Christie Island, Tenasserim Division, in 1998 was revealed through the Burmese section of VOA by a former army officer who had witnessed the murders. Former Military Intelligence Officer Maj. Aung Linn Htut who is now taking refuge in the United States disclosed the seaside murders and corpse disposals of fifty-nine innocent civilians and twenty-two fishermen from a Thai fishing boat under unconditional orders from SPDC generals.

In 1998 March, a joint operation force of Army, Navy and Air Force led by Chief-of-Staff (Navy) Commodore Kyi Min (who was promoted to Navy Commander-in-Chief and after some time forced to resign), Chief-of-Staff (Air) Brig. Myint Swe (who was promoted to Air Force Commander-in-Chief and purged in association with the case of U Ne Win's grand sons) and Commander of Bokepyin-based Military Operations Command (MOC) 13 Brigadier Thura Myint Aung (now Adjutant-General of Armed Forces) was conducting war exercises at Tenasserim offshore area basing in Zardetkyee Island. As part of war games, Tactical Commander Col. Zaw Min (now Electric Power-1 Minister) from Kawthaung-based Tactical Command under the control of MOC 13 led infantry troops to board and clear up all islands in Burmese waters from their base on Christie Island near Thai-Burma border.

During clearing-off operations, SPDC troops caught fifty-nine civilians who were earning their living on the islands by means of logging, bamboo-cutting, fishing and bird nest-picking, and temporarily held them on the Christie Island. One night in April, Brigadier of the General Staff Brig. Myint Swe from Rangoon War Office (now BSO-5 Chief Lt. Gen. Myint Swe) sent a telegram to combined operations commander Brig. Kyi Min ordering him to execute all detained people. Since the time of telegram arrival was a time when Vice-Commander-in-Chief Vice Senior Gen. Maung Aye, who mostly commanded operations directly from War Office, was usually in a drunken state, Brig. Kyi Min was worried for some mishap. Therefore, before executing the order, he called a meeting of general staff to brief them about it. At the meeting, MOC 13 Commander Brig. Thura Myint Aung demanded immediate implementation of the order.

Next morning, Brig. Kyi Min got on the radio to ask Brig. G.S. Brig. Myint Swe and found out that the order for execution came down not from Vice Senior Gen. Maung Aye but from Senior Gen. Than Shwe himself. Thus Kyi Min inevitably had to relay the order to Tactical Commander Col. Zaw Min of Kawthaung-based Tactical Command then based temporarily on Christie Island. And so under the order from Senior Gen. Than Shwe, Zaw Min's men lined up and murdered fifty-nine civilians including one three-year old girl and one recently-delivered mother by gunfire in cold blood on the shore of Christie Island and disposed of the bodies by burying in mass graves. In another subsequent massacre, junta troops likewise lined up and killed twenty-two fishermen from a Thai fishing boat in custody on Christie Island under the order of Senior Gen. Than Shwe and disposed of both the boat and bodies.

Also on July 13, 2005, under orders from above, a column of LIR 267 mass murdered thirteen Burmese fishermen arrested on two poaching Thai fishing boats near Ja-lunn Island in Bokepyin Township. On June 14, Mergui-based IB 265 arrested twenty-three civilians earning their living by logging on Lambert Island, split seventeen of them into two groups which were lined up and shot them to death on Lambert Island and Makyunkalit Island separately. As the killing soldiers were heavily drunk, Ko Tayzar Min and another logger fortunately escaped but the fifteen remaining people were killed off. Among the killed on Lambert Island were Phyo Phyo and Saw Htwe from Mergui Township, Nga Tek from Rangoon, Soe Win Naing from Bokepyin Township, Kyaw Oo and two unknown men from Tavoy Township. Among those murdered on Makyunkalit Island were Ko Soe, San Win, Than Soe and three unknown men from Tavoy Township.

On July 11, 2005, Column 1 led by Regiment CO Lt. Col. Zaw Min of Frontline LIR 410 under the command of MOC 8 carried out a territorial clear-out operation along Tenasserim River near Thai-Burma border east of Pulaw Township, Tenasserim Division. When they found two Karen hiding villages in the ravines near Kasayhtar village ruins, the troops surrounded them and opened fire, killing two innocent Karen villagers and gravely wounding two girls and one boy under twelve. Junta troops caught and took away altogether 27 villagers that included five girls and eleven boys under 12 that included one infant, and seven girls and four boys over 12.

Allegedly under MOC 8 Commander Brig. Htein Win's instructions, twenty-three captured villagers including three wounded children viz. Ma San Aye (aged 10), Ma Win May (aged 11) and Maung Win Tun (aged 9) were to be sent to Aung Tha Wara village where Frontline MOC 8 was located but on the way, Lt. Col. Zaw Min finished them off en masse. Another four boys over 12 were forced to porter for the army column and eventually silenced forever. Coastal Region Command (CRC) Chief Maj. Gen. Ohn Myint (now BSO 6 Chief) instructed

all officers and other ranks of LIR 410 on July 19 to conceal the news of this massacre of twenty-seven innocent Karen villagers.

Similarly on July 16, Column 1 of LIB 560 under the command of MOC 13 raided a hidden village of twenty houses in the jungle north-east of Mergui District Lei-nyar sub-Township. Junta forces killed two men and two women of that village and torched twenty huts and granaries. On the same day, a column led by Maj. Kyaw Thu of IB 103 assaulted Mergui/Tavoyan villagers hiding at Sarawa stream's origin in Tenasserim Township. Three children and their mother were shot death and seventeen huts and granaries burned down. Nine villagers are still missing but two villagers with injuries managed to escape to the border.

The troops which committed mass murders in Tenasserim Division are forces under the command of CRC and regiments under the command of MOCs 5, 8, 9, 13, 15 and 20 all of which are based in Tenasserim Division. According to data collected by an independent Karen human rights group, troops under the command of MOC 9 had killed 105 innocent Karen villagers and wounded more than 200 in Tenasserim Division in the period from 1998 to 1999.

There have also been many incidents of massacring surrendered ethnic groups, members of ceasefire groups or those who turned up to talk peace. On September 16, 1997, a column of IB 262 led by Maj. Kyaw Swe tricked and apprehended twenty-five members of Mergui-Tavoy United Front that included district committee members, security guards and village militia led by U Tin Htun who were waiting in Yebu village, Taung Pyauk village tract, Thayetchaung Township, Tenasserim Division, to meet with SLORC leaders for peace talks under an official invitation by the junta. Under orders from Tavoy Garrison Town in-charge Brig. Zaw Tun (who later became Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Ministry and then sacked for openly criticizing SPDC's economic condition) and Tavoy-based Military Intelligence Unit No. 9 CO Maj. Thura Myint Oo, U Tin Htun and 23 were brutally massacred in that evening at the entrance to Yebu village and the remaining 2 killed next day.

In the Mong-kuo incident of MDA ceasefire group which occurred in November, 2000, troops led by MOC 16 Commander Brig. Myint Hlaing (now Chief Officer of Air Defense) acting under orders of Commander-in-Chief (Army) office and NEC Commander Maj. Gen. Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo (now SPDC Secretary-1 Gen. Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo) arrested and slaughtered ninety-seven ceasefire group soldiers of Wa and Kokang origin led by Li Nimin and other villagers totaling more than 150.

Likewise, under orders of Eastern Command CO Maj. Gen. Maung Bo (whose death was reported on May 15), LIR 512 controlled by MOC 2 launched a surprise assault on the headquarters of breakaway SSNA ceasefire group led by Maj. Agga in Naung Lai, Laicha Township, on July 7, 2001. In the ensuing battle, seven ceasefire members including Capt. Kham Hla died and eleven men including a Tha Nge were captured alive. However, in accordance with Maj. Gen. Maung Bo's directive "to take no prisoners," Lt. Naing Win's company tied up all living detainees behind their backs, lined them up in a gully near Naung Lai camp and shot them to death. Also in May of the same year, SPDC troops slaughtered more than 80 innocent civilians en masse in Kunheng Township, Shan State, under orders of Regional Commander Maj. Gen. Maung Bo.

In the SLORC's "Operation Storm" waged in twenty-six townships of Irrawaddy Division in 1991 October, more than 1000 innocent Karen people were ruthlessly murdered and many given heavy prison sentences. Hundreds of Karen villages were torched. This military operation was carried out under the direct supervision of Commander-in-Chief (Army) office with field supervision by South-West Command Commander Maj. Gen. Myint Aung (SLORC member and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigations, passed away on November 15, 1998). IBs 18, 27, 36, 38, 51, 63, 92, 98 and LIRs 308, 108 together with troops under the command of Division 11's Tactical Command 111 as well as Air Force, Navy and Artillery units annihilated all Karen villages in a scorched-earth policy.

According to SLORC's official statement, there had been 13 major battles, 78 small skirmishes and 45 unearthing of arms and men, resulting in death of 275 Karen partisans, capture of 13 and surrender of 3, in the period from 1991 October 2 to end of November, but actually, nearly 1000 innocent Karen civilians were killed in Bogalay Township's Htawpaing region alone.

On April 28, 2002, the SPDC executed 12 villagers including 3 children in Karen State. It is certain that there are many more massacres committed unknown to the public by SLORC/SPDC troops in other regions under orders of military despots. The military dictators not only committed massacres in remote jungles but also in cities repeatedly. Beginning with the Rangoon University massacre of 1962 July 7, and up to 2003 May 30 Depayin massacre and 2007 September monks' demonstrations, the junta has slaughtered tens of thousands of Burmese people including students, youths, workers and monks.

It is natural for combatants to be killed in battles from each other's gunfire but international law prohibits killing of innocent civilians, women, children and prisoners-of-war even in world wars. However, the bunch of tyrant generals is dead sure to exterminate all who threaten their power whether they be armed or not, in accordance with their catchphrase policy of "not leaving behind even a quarter pound (i.e. fetus inside an expecting mother)."

At the SPDC's second tri-annual operations coordination meeting for 2005 held on October 10, 2005, junta boss Senior Gen. Than Shwe clearly and blatantly instructed all regional commanders and divisional COs to compile lists of NLD hard-core members and to finish them off in their respective command territories in the event of foreign aggression.

As described in AAPP (B)'s report *Silent Killing Fields* issued on May 11, the SPDC is systematically planning now to torture and kill off Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Min Ko Naing and democracy activist political prisoners in prisons by inhuman techniques. Hence, the National League for Democracy should end its dream to shake hands with these war criminals whose hands are heavily bloodied, and resolutely lead the people to resist the military dictators. We also urge the people to work along their respective duties and roles to collectively strive for prompt prosecution of the butchers of Kyatpyay at the International Criminal Court.

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