



Jinghpaw Wunpawng Amyu Sha Hpung Kachin National Organization

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URGENT PRESS RELEASE

16th April 2014

Kachin National Organization condemn Burma Army committing sexual violence and still using rape as a weapon of war

We strongly condemn Burma Army continues committing sexual violence and still using rape as a weapon of war in Kachin State.

On 10th April 2014, a 17-year-old schoolgirl from Kagam village of Dawhpum Yang county in Kachin State was allegedly gang-raped by two Burmese soldiers belonged to Light Infantry Battalions (LIB) 320 around 13:30 local time. The incident occurred where the girl was on her way back from farm with a motorcycle after she dropped her mother who was there to herd their cattle. She has lodged an official complaint to the local Police Station but no further action has been taken so far. There is no victim support in the local area and we are very concern that she would be taken by the Burma Army to keep her mouth shut. She has high potential for the future since she has taken a matriculation exam for academic year 2013-2014 and waiting for her exam result.

We are gravely concerned at the fate of this young girl, and of other civilians in this area, who are being systematically and deliberately targeted during new Burma military campaign against the Kachin Independence Army (KIA).

The Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT) has repeatedly documented the systematic use of sexual violence by the Burma Army. Appalling cases occurred even just after the new Burmese government, when fighting between the Kachin Independence Army and Burma Army started in June 2011 after a 17-year-old ceasefire broke down, Burma troops openly commit rape. This is a clear sign that the Burmese Army is committing war crimes.

We urge Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General(SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict and 122 signatory countries that have endorsed historic 'Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict' to stop legitimizing the Burma Army's crimes, should immediately stop them to continued systematic sexual violence.

Central Committee
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