

Incident ReportJanuary 22nd, 2020 / KHRG # 19-69-I1**Hpa-an Incident Report: *Land confiscation by the KNU/KNLA-PC in T'Nay Hsah Township, August 2019***

In August 2019, KHRG documented that the KNU/KNLA-Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC)¹ had confiscated one acre of land belonging to a local villager in Y--- village, Htoh Kaw Koh village tract, T'Nay Hsah (Nabu) Township, Hpa-An District to build a school playground. The victim did not receive any compensation for the loss of her land, and her attempts to report the case to the local authorities were unsuccessful. She feels powerless and is now worried that more of her lands will be confiscated in the future.²

Part 1 – Incident Details

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|---|--|
| Type of Incident | Land confiscation |
| Date of Incident(s) | August 2019 |
| Incident Location (Village, Township and District) | Y--- village, Htoh Kaw Koh village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District |

| Victim Information | |
|--------------------|---|
| Name | Naw ³ U--- |
| Age | 59 years old |
| Sex | Female |
| Nationality | Karen |
| Family | Married |
| Occupation | Farmer |
| Religion | Buddhist |
| Village | Y--- village, Htoh Kaw Koh village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township |

¹ The KNU/KNLA PC is an armed group based in the Htoh Kaw Koh village tract area, Hpa-an District. It split from the Karen National Union (KNU) and signed a ceasefire agreement with the Myanmar government in 2007, but refused to transform into a Border Guard Force (BGF) in 2010. It signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in October 2015.

² The present document is based on information received in August 2019. It was provided by a community member in Hpa-an District who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions on the ground. The names of the victims, their photos and the exact locations are censored for security reasons. The parts in square brackets are explanations added by KHRG staff.

³ Naw is a S'gaw Karen female honorific title used before a person's name.

| Perpetrator Information | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|------|--|------------------|
| Name(s) | Rank | Unit | Base | Commander's Name |
| Unknown | General | - | Htoh Kaw Koh village, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District | Saw Htay Maung |

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

On August 13th 2019, a local villager from Y--- told me that there was a sign on her land saying that it was going to be confiscated. On the same day, I interviewed her and took pictures of the sign. On August 24th 2019, I went to check the situation by myself.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

The source experienced this situation first hand.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the incident(s) in complete detail:

On August 13rd 2019, KHRG was informed that the KNU/KNLA-PC had confiscated one acre of land belonging to a local villager in Y--- village, Htoh Kaw Koh village tract, T'Nay Hsah (Nabu) Township, Hpa-An District. The victim is a villager named Naw U---. She lives with five other family members, including four children. KHRG was not able to obtain information about the Battalion involved or the exact date of the land confiscation.

The KNU/KNLA-PC confiscated this land located beside her farm to build a playground for their school. They did not let the land owner know about it, and put a sign that says "*Do not trespass*" on her land. After that they levelled the ground and cut the trees. Three acres of her lands had already been confiscated in 2007 when the KNU/KNLA-PC established their headquarters in Htoh Kaw Koh village.

Naw U--- has a Karen National Union (KNU)⁴ land ownership certificate. She showed it to the KNU/KNLA-PC, without result. She used to pay land taxes to the KNU but, two years ago, the local village head said she did not need to pay taxes anymore because her lands had been confiscated by the KNU/KNLA-PC already.

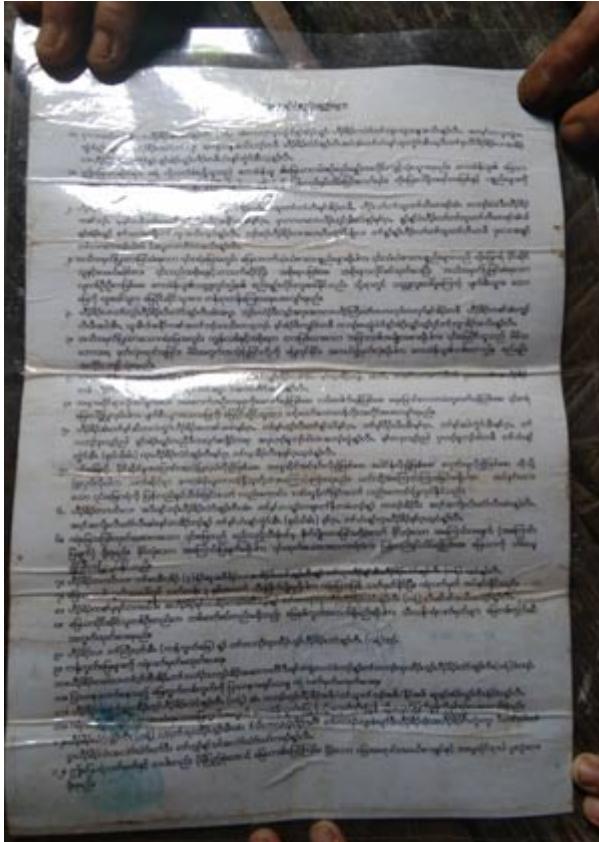
As a villager, she felt powerless to take any action and she dared not do anything. She reported the most recent case of land confiscation to the village head and Township authorities, but they could not help her. Naw U--- did not receive any compensation for the loss of her lands. She is now worried that more of her farmland will be confiscated in the future.

⁴ The Karen National Union is the main Karen group opposing the government.

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

Did the victim(s) provide permission to use this information? Explain how that permission was provided.

The victim allowed KHRG to use this information.



This photo was taken on August 13th 2019 in Y--- village, Htoh Kaw Koe village tract, Ta Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District. It shows the KNU land title of the victim.
[Photo: KHRG]



This photo was taken on August 13th 2019 in Y--- village, Htoh Kaw Koe village tract, Ta Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District. It shows the sign put by the KNU/KNLA-PC on the confiscated land beside the victim's farm.
[Photo: KHRG]

Further background reading on the issue of land confiscation by the KNU/KNLA-PC in Southeast Myanmar can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- ["Hpa-an Situation Update: Land confiscation by the KNU/KNLA-PC in TNay Hsah Township and resettled refugees facing difficulties in Lu Pleh Township, February 7th to May 18th 2019"](#), (November 2019)
- ["Hpapun Incident Report: Land confiscation by armed actors impede refugee return in Bu Tho Township, February 2018"](#), (December 2018)
- ["Hpa-an Incident Report: KNU/KNLA Peace Council Officers confiscate land in Nabu Township, March 2018"](#), (November 2018)

About KHRG

Founded in 1992, the Karen Human Rights Group is an independent local organisation committed to improving the human rights situation in Southeast Myanmar. KHRG trains local people to document and gather evidence of human rights abuses, and publishes this information to project the voices, experiences and perspectives of local communities. More examples of our work can be seen online at www.khrg.org.